

complete amazement at their lack of ability to remember history accurately.

Thanks to the efforts of Speaker BOEHNER, this House, this Republican leadership, has consistently led. We did what the 111th Congress did not do: We passed a budget to fund the government through the end of the fiscal year.

H.R. 1 was passed under an open rule, with open debate, and truly reflects the will of this House and the people that sent us here with their votes last November. Again, open debate, and it truly reflects the will of the people.

Their message was, and is, get serious about cutting spending and change the culture in Washington so we can get our Nation back on a stable fiscal path. Remove many of the uncertainties facing our families and businesses, both large and small, and we can create an environment for job growth.

Unlike my colleagues across the aisle, we here in government cannot create jobs. The private sector creates jobs.

It has been 48 days since the House Republicans passed this bill, but we have yet to see a bill passed in the Senate to fund the government for the remainder of the year.

Yesterday, House Republicans listened to the will of the constituents who thought it shameful that our Nation's bravest women and men, volunteering to put their lives on the line for our freedom, should have to face prospects of not getting paid during this government shutdown.

With the passage of H.R. 1363, we fund the troops for the remainder of the year, regardless of any prospect of a shutdown, so those men and women fighting in the three theaters now and their families will not have to face the worry about whether they will get paid.

Yet to hear Senator REID's refusal to consider this bill in the Senate, and to hear President Obama threaten to veto this bill is nothing less than shameful. To choose to put politics before our soldiers and their families, to me, is appalling.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the President and the Senate majority leader to end this political game and work with us to ensure and provide for the Nation's military families to continue to fund our government.

The fact is discretionary spending has increased over 83 percent under the current administration, and the Senate majority leader and the President are choosing to shut down the government over a less than 2 percent cut in spending.

SHUTTING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT FOR IDEOLOGICAL PURPOSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take a few moments and put

some of this in perspective. I've been here 18 years now, and I've seen a lot going on in government, and I've had the experience in the State legislature and also in local government before getting here.

This is nothing but a ploy to shut down the government for ideological purposes. It has nothing to do with running the greatest Nation on earth and trying to be a responsible government, trying to teach democracy to countries around the world, that if you copy our system you may have a freer and more open system. This is about shutting down the entire United States Government over use of birth control.

It's also the party that has a history of shutting down government. The last time government was shut down it was shut down by the Republicans. And after they shut it down, what we did, before that, is we enacted taxes to pay off the debt under President Clinton. And guess what? That was a tough vote. Not a single Republican cast a vote for that. That was probably one of the greatest economic votes ever cast in modern Congress because it put the country back on foot. We didn't have a deficit. We removed it because we earmarked those taxes to pay off the debt.

Along came President Bush. The first thing he did was repeal all those taxes. The question was, well, how are you going to pay for this? Oh, no, no. We don't have to pay for this. Well, Mr. President, you are about to go into a war. How are you going to pay for that? We don't have to pay for it, we'll just put it on the credit card.

They came up with a great plan to give senior citizens Medicare drug reimbursements but instead of using the Medicare program, no, they invented another one. They gave the money to the pharmaceutical companies and said, you take care of the poor, charity work. And guess what, it won't cost you anything. Well, it cost us a lot of money. And when asked, how are you going to pay for it? We'll put it on the credit card.

The fact is this huge deficit we got into was driven through by the party now that wants to shut down government, the party that has shut down government in the past, the party that keeps not wanting government to work.

You took an oath of office when you came here, an oath to uphold the Constitution. That Constitution is based on, if you look around this room, the lawgivers, people of history who've done incredibly bold things.

Our Constitution is incredibly bold. There's nothing in that Constitution that says that your job in Congress is to make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

□ 1140

And that's exactly what their budget is doing, their strategy is doing, and now the shutdown of government. They're gleeful about it. And it's a very, very sorry state that we have to,

in these modern times, think that the greatest country in the world has to deal with shutting down government. That's the last thing we ever came here to do. It's a sorry state.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) for 3 minutes.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, sitting here listening to comments on the other side can be quite instructive; although I might warn my colleagues on the other side that they ought to be careful about the metaphors they use. One of those on the other side got up to criticize Republicans for trying to stop funding of abortions, which means saving babies, and used the unfortunate expression of "don't throw out the baby with the bathwater." It shows how almost obtuse they are with respect to what we're actually talking about.

The distinguished leader on the other side from Maryland quoted Henry Clay. I'd like to quote an outstanding American, his name is STENY HOYER, who said just a couple of years ago here on this floor that if you can't budget, you can't govern. That's why we're in the problem that we're in today, because when they had control of both sides of Capitol Hill and the Presidency, they, for the first time since the Budget Act was passed, intentionally did not pass a budget because they were embarrassed about the numbers.

And what did that lead to? That led to the fact that we didn't pass any of the 13 appropriations bills, which led to the fact that we have to deal with a CR. That's why we're in the mess we are today, because they did not budget. And now they have the effrontery to come out and criticize PAUL RYAN, the Republican leader of the Budget Committee's suggestion that we be serious about budgeting around here and that we understand that we're driving our children into the ground and our grandchildren with debt that cannot be paid, and because we have the courage to bring forth a serious adult proposal on the budget, we are accused of trying to put children on the street and to not allow seniors to be able to eat.

Come on. The American people are smarter than that. They want this House, this Senate, and this President to be adults. And to come here to this floor and to suggest that we're trying to kill Medicare—we're not trying to kill Medicare; we're trying to save Medicare. Every objective review has said it's going broke within 9 years.

But maybe collective amnesia is the way to leadership. I hope not. I hope not, not for me, but for my children and my grandchildren. They deserve better. This country deserves better. We should be required to do better.

FAIR TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for 3 minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, you've heard it a lot of different ways this morning. Our challenge is not that we tax too little. Our challenge is that we spend too much, and we're taking steps to make that happen. But we do tax incorrectly. We do tax in a way that challenges the patience, the tolerance and the intellect of millions of Americans every year. We're coming up on that.

One week from today is Tax Day, April 15, that day that folks dread year after year after year after year. One of the things that makes Tax Day so complicated is the exceptions, the exemptions, the loopholes and those special favors that get written into the Code year after year after year after year.

I want to associate myself with the comments from the previous speaker, the gentleman from California. And we've talked about the very serious—the very serious—discussion of the budget that's been going on in the Budget Committee. I'm pleased to be a member of the Budget Committee.

Bloomberg came out with a report this morning, \$2.9 trillion in special tax breaks, loopholes and exemptions erased in that budget. Not that taxes go up for Americans, but that taxes get simpler for Americans and fairer for Americans by taking away \$2.9 trillion in special favors and special exemptions.

There's a proposal that goes even further, and I want to mention it now a week out from Tax Day, and that's H.R. 25, the Fair Tax. It's a bill that started with only two cosponsors, one Democrat and one Republican. It grew to two Democrats and two Republicans, and then it grew to four Democrats and four Republicans. Now there are 60 cosponsors in the House, five in the United States Senate, the most widely cosponsored fundamental tax reform bill in this Congress.

And it does this: It abolishes income taxes and replaces them with consumption taxes, because the power to tax is the power to destroy. And what we destroy in this country is productivity. We're the only OECD country on the planet that doesn't have a consumption tax, the only one that punishes our producers instead of taxing our consumers. And it eliminates not \$2.9 trillion in loopholes as the budget does, but 100 percent of every corporate loophole.

We've heard it on this floor again and again: Loopholes for oil companies, loopholes for this company. It eliminates every single corporate tax break in existence today. And it eliminates them for individuals as well in favor of a simple, low-rate personal consumption tax.

On Tax Day, we talk about the income tax. The largest tax 80 percent of American families pay is the payroll tax. Everybody in here who's got a job

has seen that FICA line. You may not add it up, but it is the largest tax that 80 percent of Americans pay. And there is not a single bill on this floor that deals with that except the Fair Tax, which abolishes that tax so you get to keep what you earn so that nobody touches your paycheck before you do.

As you finalize your tax forms over the next 7 days on your way to April 15, I want you to think about what could be different. I want you to think about how, with the passage of H.R. 25, April 15 could just be another spring day.

CUT SPENDING AND GROW THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK) for 3 minutes.

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, I have said, like most in this Chamber, that I oppose a government shutdown. Last November, Nevadans spoke. The American people spoke. They said cut the spending so the economy can grow.

My primary goal is not a government shutdown. It is to do the job that the people elected me to do: cut the spending and grow the economy.

Quite simply, our country is broke, all because there are checks in the checkbook doesn't mean there's money in the checking account. And we're paying the overdraft fees with money that we're borrowing from China.

Some people ask: What's the difference between a billion here and a billion there? Well, that's just \$1 billion that we don't have. There is an old saying: Take care of your pennies, and your dollars will take care of themselves. For those who question the importance of a billion dollars, I would say, take care of your billions, and your trillions will take care of themselves.

DEMOCRATS FAILED TO PASS A BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY) for 3 minutes.

Mr. DUFFY. First of all, I think many of us here in this House want to see the government to continue to be funded. But let's review what has happened here.

Last year, the Democrats failed to pass a budget. They failed to propose a budget. So this Congress, we're here doing the work of last year's House and Senate.

We proposed a bill to fund the government, and in that bill, we cut \$61 billion. That is under the backstop of the fact that we're going to borrow \$1.6 trillion this year alone. Our national debt is \$14 trillion. The Democrats in the Senate say they don't like our proposal.

That's okay. If you don't like it, pass your own proposal. Give us a counterproposal, and we will consider it. But the bottom line is the Senate has failed to act. They haven't sent us a counterproposal.

So what we've done is we've passed two extensions to fund the government, and again yesterday we passed a third. The Senate isn't going to take it up.

Again, if you don't like our proposal, give us your own. We can't negotiate with ourselves. We're willing to sit down and talk, but we can't continue to put out our proposals and our ideas and have you fail to give us a response.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Your Word, Lord God, calls us to reform and spiritual renewal. "Where your heart is, there is your treasure." The transformation You ask of us is not a change only of our manners or way of doing things. It is not a call for a change of language, the bottom line or even our thinking.

Rather, You Lord, who are hidden from our sight, know the hidden secrets of the heart. So You continually seek conversion of heart until, at last, our hearts rest only in You.

In such a changing world, unless we are willing to change our deepest desires according to Your Spirit of life and love, we will instead be changed by forces around us. Send forth Your powerful Spirit that You may have Your way with us both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.