

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SOUTHERLAND led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches from each side.

PROTECT OUR POSTERITY

(Mr. SOUTHERLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Speaker, I hold in my hand today the Constitution of the United States. It begins by saying: "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

I have a very, very short time here today, but I will say that irresponsible spending of the Federal Government does not form a more perfect Union. As a matter of fact, it forms a more imperfect Union. It establishes injustice. It ensures domestic chaos. It provides for the uncommon defense. It destroys the general welfare, and it endangers the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

Based on this very Constitution that I hold in my hand, the direction that we are heading violates the will of the people. It is time for us to stop arguing and get on with the work of the people and protect our posterity for generations to come.

FUNDING CUTS THREATEN HEAD START

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my Republican colleagues: Which child pictured here would you deny an early education? Why would I ask that question? I'll tell you why. As it stands now, the Republican budget proposal would kick 218,000 children out of Head Start and prevent them from receiving an edu-

cation, some of these children right here on this poster.

It will close 16,000 Head Start classrooms, classrooms in which these children learn. It will fire 55,000 Head Start teachers, teachers who teach these kids here.

A budget document, my friends, is not just about dollars and cents. It reflects our priorities as a Nation. Our children are our future and must be our top priority. Head Start is a key investment in improving their educational outcomes.

But if the Republican majority has their way, Head Start programs in my home State of Rhode Island will have to cut three kids from each classroom right now.

So I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: Which of these children would you deny an early education to?

ILLEGALS SHOULD NOT RECEIVE WELFARE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, according to a Center of Immigration Studies report cited in the Houston Chronicle, 70 percent of Texas' illegal immigrant families with at least one anchor baby collect welfare from Uncle Sam. People illegally in the United States should not receive welfare. American citizens shouldn't pay for the welfare of people who violate the law to enter this country.

Illegals are also draining our health care system. Sixty percent of the births over the last 4 years at a public hospital in Houston, Texas, were by women living here illegally.

I was recently in Cochise County, Arizona, where they have been forced to shut down almost all of their maternity wards because they can't financially support all of the illegals coming into the country.

Mr. Speaker, illegal immigration is breaking the bank. Let's take care of our citizens and legal immigrants first. Are you in, Mr. President?

And that's just the way it is.

DON'T DISMANTLE MEDICARE

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, today the Republicans want to shut down government. Tomorrow they want to dismantle Medicare. If the shutdown weren't enough, the Republican Party just released next year's road-to-ruin budget. And, unbelievably, the people they have chosen to target are America's seniors.

This budget ends the Medicare guarantee as we know it. It turns Medicare into a voucher system where you would have to put your fate back into the hands of private insurance companies. It results in seniors paying more for

Medicare. This plan shifts costs onto seniors and cuts Medicare at a time when seniors need health care the most.

We must take the target off the backs of our seniors and off of Medicare, a guarantee that seniors have earned through a lifetime of hard work.

ARMED FORCES FUNDING

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, every day courageous young men and women from all over America volunteer to serve our country in the military. They prove themselves as leaders and role models. But what is the response they receive from congressional liberals and even their Commander in Chief? A callous disregard. To further their own political aims, some of our colleagues would deny them their pay if there is a shutdown of the government this week-end. This is outrageous.

Our troops, especially those in combat zones, already have plenty to worry about without Democratic intransigence adding personal debt to those worries.

In February, Republicans offered H.R. 1 and yesterday H.R. 1363, which would ensure that every member of the Armed Forces would receive his or her full salary for the rest of the year. Republicans support the troops and want them to succeed in their mission. It appears that most of the Democrats in Congress feel differently.

Our troops are sacrificing to keep us free and are exhibiting leadership. Democrats should follow their example and honor our commitments to the men and women of the military and their families.

□ 1210

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN: EFFECT AND CAUSE

(Ms. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, there have been a lot of quotes on this floor, so this one goes out to our young people and our seniors and our service-members and Federal workers who stand to be affected by a government shutdown. It's a lesson for my Republican colleagues courtesy of the White Stripes, a little "Effect and Cause":

"I guess you have to have a problem
If you want to invent a contraption
First you cause a train wreck
Then you put me in traction.
Well, first came an action
And then a reaction
But you can't switch around
For your own satisfaction.
You burnt my house down, then got mad

At my reaction?
It's that you just can't take the effect

And make it the cause.”

So for my Republican colleagues who want to shut the government down for the effect you caused, you learn this White Stripes lesson first:

“If you’re headin’ to the grave

You don’t blame the hearse.

You built a house of cards

And got shocked when you saw them fall.

You seem to forget

Just how this song started.

You just can’t take the effect and make it the cause.”

TELLING THE TRUTH

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this morning we pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States. What a privilege and an honor. I think it conveys upon this body to tell the truth.

And so this morning I raise a question of my friend’s comments about holding the troops hostage. We’re not holding them hostage. We were able to provide them with their paychecks, but we wanted to be concerned about their grandmothers and wives and children that were being abandoned by the Republican budget.

And, yes, can you imagine holding up the paying of the bills of the United States because you’re against women’s health care and family planning and you want to condemn and take away resources to family planning and to Planned Parenthood?

Can you imagine reciting the pledge to the flag and yet not telling the truth? Telling the truth about the fact that we had a provision that would allow our troops to be paid. But in actuality what we’re standing against is eliminating of early childhood education, nutrition programs, housing programs, teacher compensation.

Yes, there has to be a moral standard for the budget. We’re standing on high moral ground. You can pay our troops and you can have family planning.

Let’s do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.J. Res. 37 which disapproves the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) with respect to regulating the Internet and broadband industry practices.

As a Senior Member of the House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition and the Internet we have held hearings to examine the importance of so-called “Net Neutrality”; the principal that everyone should have equal access to the Internet and its lawful content. It gives me great pause whenever I see legislation that frankly looks like an attempt to restrict access to information and limit the right to free speech guaranteed by the 1st amendment of the Constitution. In practical terms, this bill affects the rights of the people to provide and receive information in the form of Internet content as regulated by the FCC.

Make no mistake, access to information contained on the Internet and through

broadband connectivity provides vital resources for individuals, families and businesses in the 18th congressional district of Texas, in remote and underserved locations, and all across this great nation every day. Through an open Internet, families, large businesses, small businesses, minority and women owned businesses can access the critical personal, health, medical, news, public safety, educational, financial and business information they need to lead more productive lives and contribute to the continued growth of our national economy. We cannot stifle the innovation that emanates from Internet based activity and drives greater equality in participating in our nation’s economic growth!

Census information indicates that small businesses and minority owned businesses are some of the most significant contributors to job growth in America. Minority-owned and small businesses heavily depend on access to information on the Internet as a cost effective means of allowing them to compete. These minority-owned businesses and small businesses would be particularly hard hit and devastated by prohibiting the free flow of information and certain applications over their networks. We cannot allow this to happen; we must oppose this bill.

Open access to the Internet and its content has become an important part of our everyday lives. I must express reservations about efforts to enact legislation that seeks to limit open access to the informational content on the Internet. This legislation seeks to divest the FCC of its power to regulate the Internet and broadband to ensure equal access for all Americans. While there is so much talk in this Chamber about shutting down the federal government for reasons that have nothing to do with fiscally responsibility, what we should be doing is shutting down attempts like these to limit our access to information. So as for this bill is concerned, “Shut it down!”

This bill would disapprove the rule adopted by the FCC on December 21, 2010, that is intended to preserve the Internet as an open network. Report and Order FCC 10–201 establishes rules that would bar broadband providers from blocking lawful content and discriminating in transmitting lawful traffic on the network. The rule also would require broadband providers to disclose to the public information about network management practices, performance, and terms of service. H.J. Res. 37 would invoke a legislative process established by the Congressional Review Act “CRA” (Public Law 104–121) to disapprove the open Internet rule. If H.J. Res. 37 is enacted, the published rule would have no force or effect. This is unacceptable in an open, democratic society with freedom of expression!

The Obama administration strongly opposes House passage of H.J. Res. 37, which would undermine a fundamental part of the Nation’s Internet and innovation strategy—an enforceable and effective policy for keeping the Internet free and open. Since the development of the Internet, Federal policy has ensured that this medium is kept open and facilitates innovation and investment, protects consumer choice, and enables free speech. The rule at issue resulted from a process that brought together parties on all sides of this issue—from consumer groups to technology companies to broadband providers—to enable their voices to be heard.

Notably, the Federal Communications Commission’s rule reflected a constructive effort to build a consensus around what safeguards and protections were reasonable and necessary to ensure that the Internet continues to attract investment and to spur innovation. Disapproval of the rule would threaten those values and raise questions as to whether innovation on the Internet will be allowed to flourish, consumers will be protected from abuses, and the democratic spirit of the Internet will remain intact.

If the President is presented with a Resolution of Disapproval that would not safeguard the free and open Internet, his senior advisers would recommend that he veto the resolution.

In short, H.J. Res. 37 is impermissibly harmful:

This Bill uses A Rigid “Congressional Review Act” Disapproval Process to Address FCC Open Internet Rule.

By Overturning FCC Open Internet Rule, Republicans Undermine Job Creation and Stifle Innovation.

By Overturning FCC Open Internet Rule, Republicans Hurt Small Business (20,000 small businesses operate on the Internet and over 600,000 Americans have part- or full-time businesses on eBay alone. Small businesses were responsible for nearly 65 percent of new jobs over the last 15 years).

Bringing Up a CRA Disapproval Resolution Imposes a Straitjacket on Congress, Preventing Amendments.

This Straitjacket CRA Disapproval Resolution, Which Prevents Amendments, Overturns Even Consensus Provisions of the FCC Open Internet Rule.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me and the cross-section of the great many voices of forward thinking people and organizations all across America, and oppose H.J. Res. 37.

HOLDING THE GOVERNMENT HOSTAGE

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to believe, but in less than 12 hours, the government will shut down unless Congress acts.

The Republican leadership should bring a clean CR to this floor free of all their controversial riders so that we can keep the government running for another few days so that the negotiators can continue their talks and get a deal. But it is outrageous that today we are not doing that. We’re bringing a net neutrality bill to the floor which has nothing to do with anything, and we should be spending our time talking about instead how we should save the jobs of hundreds of thousands of people that are in the balance if this government shuts down, how we should save the social safety net, because it’s gone if this government shuts down.

The Republicans should stop holding this government hostage and stop using these controversial social riders as ransom. We need to keep this government going. We need to get a deal.