

will become aware that this administration has decided that bombing bridges in other countries is more important than building bridges in America with our present and new foreign adventures.

America, under this administration, chooses war, not jobs and wealth building here in America; bombs, not books; financial instability, not Social Security; austerity, not prosperity.

This isn't about partisan politics. This is about an administration that is demonstrating more of an interest in nation building abroad than a rebuilding of America here at home.

It has time to change, but will it?

THE FOX GUARDING THE OBAMACARE HENHOUSE?

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve to know the truth when it comes to Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan's involvement in crafting a defense of ObamaCare during her tenure as Solicitor General for President Obama. This is why I, along with 48 of my House colleagues, am calling for an investigation into the extent of Justice Kagan's involvement in defending ObamaCare and if it warrants her recusal from any and all ObamaCare cases that may come before the High Court.

It is imperative for Americans to have confidence in the impartiality of the Supreme Court. Americans have a legitimate right to know the truth about Elena Kagan's involvement in ObamaCare.

How can any reasonable person believe that she can be impartial when a case involving ObamaCare comes before the High Court? Furthermore, the U.S. Code, section 455, title 28, says she must recuse herself.

CONTINUING BUDGET IMPASSE IN MINNESOTA

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express the frustration that I feel at the continuing budget impasse in Minnesota. Minnesota faces the biggest budget deficit in its history, and with it comes a responsibility to govern and a cautionary tale for this body.

A government shutdown at any level is not only detrimental to the economy and to the success of small businesses, but it's hazardous to the progress of our society as educational programs and nonprofit organizations are put at risk.

Like many of the citizens of southern Minnesota who have written me about this shutdown, I share a concern for the families harmed by this shutdown, working parents who receive child care

assistance, disabled Minnesotans who rely on State services for their better quality of life, roads remaining unrepainted and simple things like campgrounds being closed where families can't spend time together.

A gentleman approached me in Stewartville at a Fourth of July parade. He asked me if I was working this week. I said yes, I was. And he said he wasn't, but he sure wished he was because he was force furloughed.

When it comes to divided government, we all win when no one political party wins. In Minnesota, that means both the Governor and the legislature need to compromise. We need to put politics aside to put Minnesota first. The same applies to this body.

□ 0910

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR JOB CREATION

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, you can hardly turn on the television or the radio these days without hearing about our Nation's debt crisis. And the reason we find ourselves in this crisis is not because Washington taxes too little. Rather, it is because Washington spends too much. Raising taxes on America's job creators, as some here in Washington suggest, is not the answer. It won't open closed factories. It won't stimulate the economy. And it won't put our friends and neighbors back to work.

What we need, and what the American people are asking us to do, is to see that government lives within its means. Over the past few years, hard-working Americans across this country have tightened their belts and lived within their means and cut back on spending. And there's no reason that their government can't do the same thing. It's often been said that it's not in the Federal Government's nature to shrink. And I think here in Washington our colleagues should work to prove them wrong by ending wasteful Washington spending as a way to address our Nation's budget deficit.

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN: WELCOMING A NEW NATION

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

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw people's attention to one of the great, nice spots of what's happening in the world today. There aren't many. We're going to hear about every one of them this morning. But there's at least one happening right now in Africa. Tomorrow we will welcome the newest nation to the community of nations, South Sudan. This is a country that most of us probably never heard of. I certainly didn't until a few years

ago, and I heard about it because of some of the atrocities that are happening there.

South Sudan is a country that is born out of 20 years of internal civil war—20 years—not from outside forces like this country likes to do in Iraq and Afghanistan. They did it themselves on their own, and I just want to stand up here today and tell them congratulations, to welcome them into the community of nations, and to tell them that I, for one, and I believe this House, will stand with them as they struggle to make sure that their new democracy is successful.

They have a lot of threats on every border. They have a lot of internal issues. They are an incredibly poor country with a lot of challenges. But as the greatest democracy in the history of the world, we have an obligation to stand with them as they build their new democracy.

SOUTH SUDAN: PRAYERS FOR A NEW NATION

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the people of South Sudan have endured two decades of wanton violence, rape, torture and hunger systematically imposed upon them by the Bashir dictatorship in Khartoum. More than 2 million people were killed, 4 million people displaced, and countless families decimated.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005 ended the war and put South Sudan on the path to nationhood. Tomorrow, when the people of South Sudan emerge as the newest nation on Earth, tomorrow, when that dream is realized, Americans will join the people of South Sudan in celebrating this extraordinary hope-filled event.

Yet recently at least 100,000 Sudanese have been displaced from the Abyei area, and tens of thousands of Southerners living in South Kordofan State have been recently forced from their homes, some of them murdered. So there are serious remaining challenges.

Nevertheless, we hope and we pray that the people of South Sudan will finally live in peace and enjoy respect for their basic human rights and freedom.

ISRAEL

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H. Res. 268.

America has not had a more pro-Israel President than President Obama. The President has unwaveringly supported Israel's right to self-defense, fought to ensure Israel's military edge, protected her citizens with the Iron Dome anti-rocket system, and worked

to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran. The President also understands, as we all do, that essential to Israel's security, America's security, and Palestinian security is a negotiated resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict creating a lasting peace.

The President's call for a negotiated resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a pro-Israel position that's absolutely essential to ensuring our ally's future as the democratic homeland of the Jewish people.

We should also take an opportunity to be honest about what the President did and didn't propose. The President did not say that Israel should be forced to return to her 1967 borders. The President did say that the borders of Israel and a Palestinian state should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps, a concept which has been considered a given in all the serious discussions of a two-state solution in the last decade.

While fostering divisions serves the political interests of some, it's not in the long-term interest of Israel, Palestine, or the United States.

TIME TO GET OUR FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, for the last 2½ years, President Obama and his allies in Congress here have been on a spending spree which has led to annual deficits of \$1.4 trillion and a national debt that now exceeds \$14 trillion.

The Republicans have drawn a line in the sand and said enough. We've changed the culture here in Washington from how much more are we going to spend to how much are we going to cut. We've passed a responsible budget which focuses on getting economic growth going and on new jobs, a budget that would put us on the path to prosperity and also to fiscal sanity. And today's anemic job report with unemployment rising again now to 9.2 percent shows that we have so much more to do. And the idea of job-killing tax increases is absolutely a nonstarter.

I'm proud that our Republican negotiators that have been in the negotiations with the President and the Democratic leadership are standing strong over increasing the debt limit with a strong focus on jobs. And I hope that the President and the Democrats will finally join us in getting our fiscal house in order. And for the sake of the American people, Mr. Speaker, let's get the job done.

JUNE JOBS REPORT

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, yes, the June jobs report is not encouraging:

18,000 jobs added. But I cannot ever forget that it was January 2009 when we lost 741,000 jobs, the last month of the Bush Presidency.

Under President Obama, we have added jobs, and, of course, we have not added enough; but they have been adding. But the American people should know that we need about 150,000 jobs a month in order to push the unemployment rate down. Because we added jobs but not enough, the unemployment rate has gone up.

But the most important thing for the American people to know is that the Republican promise to make jobs the first agenda during the election has not been fulfilled. They have yet to introduce or pass through this House one single jobs bill, not one. All they have done is cut jobs, mostly by going after public employees. And this is what the American people need to bear in mind as they think about who is on their side.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1309, FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 340 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 340

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1309) to extend the authorization of the national flood insurance program, to achieve reforms to improve the financial integrity and stability of the program, and to increase the role of private markets in the management of flood insurance risk, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule.

SEC. 2. (a) It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived.

(b) No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution.

(c) Each amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be

subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(d) All points of order against amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Financial Services or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The original proponent of an amendment included in such amendments en bloc may insert a statement in the Congressional Record immediately before the disposition of the amendments en bloc.

SEC. 4. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

□ 0920

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS of New Hampshire). The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my colleague and friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. House Resolution 340 provides for a structured rule designated by the Rules Committee for consideration of H.R. 1309. This rule allows for 25 amendments submitted to the Rules Committee by Democrats and Republicans to be made in order.

I rise today in support of this rule, Mr. Speaker. This legislation was introduced by the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), and this bill has gone through regular order. There were hearings on this issue. H.R. 1309 was marked up in the