

the 600,000 residents of the District of Columbia.

Congress ceded its power to run the District of Columbia in 1973 when it passed the Home Rule Act. It still approves the D.C. budget, but it does not change that budget.

Members of Congress, unaccountable to the electorate of the District of Columbia, have no right to use the budget process to direct spending away from matters that may be controversial to you but not to our own local jurisdiction. That is tea party doctrine; that is a principle of the Democratic Party.

License was taken to put controversial attachments on the 2011 budget deal and the world watched as the entire executive and legislative branches of the local government here were arrested in an act of civil disobedience.

This time a coalition of national organizations with millions of members are taking preventive action, and I quote from a letter all of you will receive: "Should lawmakers continue to advance attacks on D.C.'s autonomy, we will make certain that our members in every district know how their representatives are spending their time in Washington, meddling in the affairs of D.C. residents rather than focusing on the Nation's true pressing business."

Meddle with D.C.'s local funds, we will pull the covers off in your own districts.

Congress, this year "don't tread on D.C."

DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, this debt ceiling is starting to feel like déjà vu.

If you think back to 1990, President George Herbert Walker Bush agreed to \$2 in spending cuts for every dollar in tax hikes. He agreed to this with the congressional Democrats, but that's not what ended up happening. All of the Democrats' tax hikes went into effect, but the promised spending cuts never materialized. We cannot fall for this trick again, and that's the same trick that we see from the people on the other side, my Democratic colleagues and the President.

Higher taxes do not lead to more government revenue. We have seen proof of this in years past. Instead of raising taxes, let's leave money in the hands of small businesses, the job creators, so that they can create jobs. More jobs means more revenue and less deficit.

Higher taxes means more people out of work and higher debt. In fact, President Obama admitted in 2009 that "the last thing you want to do in the middle of a recession is raise taxes."

And, in the past, liberals in Congress have adamantly spoken out in opposition to debt ceiling increases. Then Senator Obama said in 2006 that a debt limit increase was "a sign of leadership failure."

I could not agree more. It's a time for lawmakers to stop talking out of both sides of their mouths and do what is best for the economy, for our Nation, and the American people.

Over the last 10 years we have raised the debt ceiling 16 times. It hasn't worked, and now we are at the end of that road.

We need to try something new so that we can get started actually paying down our enormous debt. We must get our country on an economically viable course and create jobs in the private sector. That's why I have introduced H.R. 2409, the Debt Ceiling Reduction Act, which would lower the debt ceiling to \$13 trillion, and that would force politicians in Washington to make the cuts to our budget that our economy so desperately needs and start figuring out how to pay off this unsustainable debt that we have created.

Madam Speaker, I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will cosponsor and support this legislation. It's a great way to both create jobs and to create a stronger economy.

RAISING LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to raise concerns this morning that are international and domestic.

I rise today to ask the question, when will Dr. Assad, the President of Syria, begin to act in a manner that respects the human dignity of the people of Syria. It is a tragedy to watch as the Arab Spring continues in many countries that I have visited and to see one country that one had hoped would realize that a civilized government respects the dignity of its people.

Syrian Americans are crying out and reaching out to Members of Congress and leaders across the Nation to attack this horrific violence that is occurring in Syria: The mutilation of a 13-year-old boy; the slaughter of individuals in the street; and, seemingly, the absolute arrogance of the President of this Nation. Many of us have thought that Dr. Assad, the son of the former president, would recognize that the 21st century does not in any way tolerate the kind of abusive and oppressive leadership that has occurred in the past and that it is high time for the leadership to be vested in the people.

Now, we know that there has been a constant tension and brutality as it relates to Israel and the border and Hezbollah, something that has to be addressed, and I have cried out over and over that the dominance of Hezbollah and Syria must cease as well for any entity that does not recognize the existence of any other State, no matter what the State, and in this instance—Israel, it is an absolute abomination.

But now, in American vernacular, they have added insult to injury, kill-

ing their people, blood in the streets, ignoring the international calls. So I am gratified for the stance that we have taken, and I want it to be a stronger stance, a stronger position.

□ 1050

How dare you attack the United States Embassy. How dare you violate international law that allows sovereign nations to exist peacefully among themselves. How dare you confront the United States flag by means of the United States military. How dare you violate the human dignity of your people.

And so I'm calling upon world leaders, the United Nations and all of those who have the responsibility of protecting the human rights of all people to denounce the actions of President Assad, denounce the actions of those violent and abusive people in the streets who are killing their own people, and listen to Syrian Americans who have asked for a peaceful resolution. No, we are not calling for war despite the tragedies in Yemen where the president refuses to step down, the conflicts in Libya where the president refuses to step down, the difficulties in Egypt and on and on and on.

But as for the people of that region, we should take heart in America that they have attempted to create a democratic community and a nation of states. The Arab League needs to speak. And we need to denounce the President of Syria and ask him to step down.

That leads me to America's role, Madam Speaker, in this crisis that has now been made by our Republican friends. To my colleagues, America is not broke. We're not in the same posture as some of our European friends. But we are in a ridiculous posture because there's no way in the world that families who are trying to make ends meet don't also attempt to seek revenues—a new job or a raise or multiple jobs. How many of our families are doing that?

No, we are not raising taxes on the middle class. We are, in fact, trying to establish a quality of life for the middle class in protecting Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare. Don't laugh at those. Those are infrastructures that have allowed senior citizens to live. It has allowed our hospitals to stay open and our doctors to work.

And yet we have, in the other body, an individual who has a ludicrous and absolutely absurd proposal that's not going to give anybody relief—let the President of the United States sign off on the debt ceiling. We haven't even tested whether that is constitutional. In fact, we don't know if the debt ceiling itself is constitutional. And so I'm arguing and begging for leaders of consciousness to sit down and work on behalf of the American people, raise the debt ceiling and stop the foolishness.

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 10 o'clock and 52 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 Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask and will never stop asking that You bless the Members, men and women of the people's House. We remember that in the very first Congress there were problems whose possible solutions seemed to generate division in the Congress. Our national ancestors were able then to overcome their differences to work toward a common goal. Our very existence is proof that such cooperative work can succeed.

Send Your spirit of wisdom upon the Members during these contentious days. Grant them the courage to work together with charity, to join their efforts to accomplish what our Nation needs to live into a prosperous and secure future.

May they understand that they, like their political forebears, make history in the work they do, and continue to build the foundation upon which our Republic rests. Help them to build together an ever stronger foundation.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. QUIGLEY 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 15 1-minute requests.

JOBS

(Mr. RIGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, our friends and neighbors are hurting. Last week the Department of Labor told us that the unemployment rate has climbed to 9.2 percent. That's unacceptable. This number reflects, in part, the policies of an administration that is embracing bureaucracy and red tape more than entrepreneurship and common sense. Let me give you a local example.

A respected developer in my district, he has got a job-creating project that is ready to go and has the full support of the City of Virginia Beach, which has already invested millions of dollars in infrastructure improvements for the project. And unlike so many of the projects that have been talked about, this really is shovel ready. HUD just needs to give it a green light. But all we're seeing is red because HUD is locked into a bureaucratic culture evidenced by a rigid first-in, first-out policy. It's resulted in an expensive 6-month delay. It's putting the entire project in jeopardy.

America can't afford even one more month of these kind of jobs numbers. So to the leadership of HUD, I am asking you, work overtime. Do what you must to turn these applications around in a timely manner and you'll unleash the greatest job-creating engine the world's ever known—the American entrepreneur.

RECOGNIZING DR. PATRICIA FLANAGAN

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Patricia Flanagan, Rhode Island's nationally recognized expert in the area of teenage parenting and adolescent medicine. Dr. Flanagan recently received the 2011 Silver Rattle Award from the Rhode Island Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition for her years of leadership and dedicated service to Rhode Island's teen mothers and children.

Dr. Flanagan is rattling the system with her groundbreaking ideas and service to the Hasbro Children's Hospital community. She serves as the chief of clinical affairs at Hasbro; the president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Rhode Island Chapter; and a professor of pediatrics at Brown University. As director of the Teens with Tots Clinic at Hasbro Children's Hospital, she leads a team in providing social and medical services to nearly 300 teen mothers and their children, following their lives for up to 5 years.

Today I am pleased to congratulate Dr. Patricia Flanagan for her great contributions to the field of maternal and child health as a pediatrician, a researcher, a teacher, and an advocate.

QE3 AND INFLATION

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today the Fed Chairman, Mr. Bernanke, is indicating they are going to increase the money supply again. They call it QE3. What the American people need to know, that means they are going to print more money. And when they print more money, that makes the value of your dollar and your currency worth less. That means milk is going to cost more, bread is going to cost more because the Federal Government's not living within its means and they're going to print more money that's going to make all of our currency worth less.

I want to tell you what's happened in other countries when they've done this. In Hungary in 1946, the price of everything doubled every 16 hours. In Yugoslavia in 1994, the prices doubled every 34 hours. In Germany in 1923, the price of everything doubled every 4 days. In Greece in 1944, it doubled every 4 days. In Zimbabwe in 2008, it doubled every 24 hours.

We need to stop this printing of money. We need to control spending in this body instead of letting the Fed print more money, which is a hidden tax on everybody in this country.

CLAIMING VICTORY AND SURRENDERING

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, our Nation and our world is at an economic crossroads, with the debt ceiling needing to be raised by the 2nd of August. Fortunately, I think some common sense appears to be coming from the Senate from Senator MITCH MCCONNELL: the idea of surrendering but claiming victory, more noble than admitting defeat, and much more noble than putting this Nation and the world on an economic precipice all based upon the resistance of putting tax increases on the millionaires and billionaires in this Nation.

People who have benefited and haven't hurt one iota are being told by the Republicans that they will not agree to a compromise if it causes an increase in taxes for the millionaires and billionaires, those tax breaks from the Bush years that helped cause this debt problem and caused the recession.

So I praise Senator MCCONNELL for claiming victory and surrendering in a noble way and keeping our economy. Hopefully, this project will be successful and save us from having a catastrophic Wall Street and bond market collapse.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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