

same in her country. The Chancellor refused. Now, as a result of her good judgment, Germany's economy has recovered. German unemployment levels are reduced while over 14 million Americans do not have jobs.

The President should learn a lesson from the "German miracle." The solution is not for big government to keep borrowing and spending. Tax increases destroy jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. Our sympathy to the people of Norway in the religious extremist mass murderers.

A COMPREHENSIVE, BALANCED SOLUTION TO SAVE THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Last night, Speaker BOEHNER addressed the American people and said that if the President would just simply sign his debt ceiling bill, the crisis, in his words, would disappear.

Actually, the opposite is true. An hour or two before his speech, the Standard & Poor's rating agency issued a report, saying that, if the Boehner plan passed, the American bonds would be downgraded from its AAA status. A downgrade is as bad as a default in terms of driving up lending costs and damaging a fragile economy that today needs all of us to work together to strengthen job creation to solve our problems. The Boehner plan calls for three separate votes over the next 15 months for a debt ceiling increase, exactly the kind of political instability that rating agencies are not looking for.

It is time for a comprehensive, balanced solution, which the President has said he will work with the Congress to pass in order to get this economy moving again and to create jobs.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF BORDER PATROL AGENT MICHAEL GALLAGHER

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, tonight, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS' office is organizing a Special Order to recognize Border Patrol agents who were killed in the line of duty last year.

I want to thank her and her staff for working to acknowledge these dedicated servants who died serving our Nation. While I won't be able to speak tonight, I wanted to take a moment to honor Agent Michael Gallagher, who grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

On September 2 of last year, Agent Gallagher was on patrol near Casa Grande, Arizona. A drunk driver ran a stop sign, colliding into the patrol car

and ejecting Michael from the vehicle. He served in the Border Patrol for 2 years, and also served our Nation in Iraq, risking his life to protect our freedom.

He is dearly missed by his wife and his two sons.

Even though he moved away, I understand that he remained a dedicated Pennsylvania sports fan. We cannot thank him and his family enough for his service. We can only honor him for dedicating his life to keeping Americans safe here at home and abroad.

THE CLOCK IS TICKING ON AMERICA'S DEBT LIMIT

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking, and we must act now on increasing our debt limit. The American people must understand that increasing the debt limit will enable us to meet obligations that have been incurred by Democratic and Republican Congresses in years past. Defaulting on these obligations will not only wreak havoc on the American people; it will weaken our overall economy.

The Republicans have been given opportunity after opportunity to help craft an acceptable, long-term debt reduction plan that would include a debt limit increase, but Republicans have slow-walked us to the brink of collapse.

The Republican plan is to imperil Medicare and Medicaid. Republicans want to balance the budget by forcing the government away from government-sponsored Medicare and provide vouchers so seniors can purchase coverage from private insurance companies. Republicans want to shift the Medicaid responsibility to States that are already struggling to balance their budgets. Republican budget cuts will force doctors, hospitals and other health care providers to leave the Medicaid program entirely.

The Republican strategy has been evolving for a long time, and now it is revealed. Shame on you. Shame on the Republican majority.

□ 1210

RAISING THE DEBT LIMIT: THE HYPOCRISY COULD NOT BE MORE CLEAR

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

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask the American people to listen closely to these words:

"The fact that we are here today to debate raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. It is a sign that the U.S. Government cannot pay its own bills. It is a sign that we now depend on ongoing financial assistance from foreign countries to finance our government's reckless fiscal policies.

"Increasing America's debt weakens us domestically and internationally. Leadership means that 'the buck stops here.' Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and our grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better."

These were remarks by Senator Barack Obama, March 2006. Mr. Speaker, the President's hypocrisy could not be more clear.

God bless America.

WE NEED TO COMPROMISE

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, the Republicans in Congress campaigned on, Where are the jobs? Not spending cuts or living within our means, but where are the jobs. The Blue Dogs were the ones calling for responsible fiscal responsibility.

Then at the end of Congress last year, President Obama compromised with the Republicans, extended the Bush tax cuts in order to try to create jobs. This gamble did not create jobs. All it's done is extended the tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires.

We cannot play chicken and cause our Nation to default. We must lower the deficit with cuts to wasteful spending. But we can't balance the budget on the backs of seniors, the poor, by cutting Social Security and Medicare while continuing to give tax breaks to the ultra-rich and oil companies and those who make over \$250,000 a year.

No taxes, no jobs. We must compromise. It can't be "my way or the highway."

THE SMALL ARMS TREATY

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

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, over the past 1½ years, we've seen this President take away a lot of our freedoms with big spending and a big health care plan. I want to talk about another risk to American freedom today, and that is the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty, also known as the Small Arms Treaty.

I'm profoundly disappointed, but, frankly, not surprised, that this administration is joining the United Nations in crafting this dangerous treaty designed to curtail our Second Amendment rights.

Parties in the negotiations about the treaty are talking about banning civilian possession of firearms, decreasing the ability for trade in firearms, and heavily restricting the rights of Americans to carry their firearms. Each one of these directives, if implemented, would clearly violate individual rights as enshrined in our Constitution.

The Senate should not ratify this treaty. We must never turn our national sovereignty over to anyone, most especially the United Nations.

As a former soldier who dearly loves his M250 caliber machine gun and loves his firearms as a civilian as well, I know that we have that right. We've got to stand up and protect it, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate not to ratify this treaty.

RECOGNIZING FINALISTS OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three employers in Rhode Island that are honoring and supporting the brave men and women serving our great country in the armed services.

These include Amica Mutual Insurance of Lincoln, Rhode Island; Banneker Industries of North Smithfield; and the Woonsocket Middle School. These Rhode Island employers have received national recognition as finalists and semifinalists for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award and were selected for this honor from a pool of 4,000 nominations.

This award is the Department of Defense's highest recognition of employers for the extraordinary support they provide to our National Guard and Reserve members and their families. The Freedom Award is especially significant because nearly half of our Nation's military is currently comprised of Guard members and Reservists.

These men and women have put their lives on the line because our country asked them to. Because of their service, we're able to enjoy the freedoms that we have here at home. We owe those serving our country, our veterans, and their families our utmost gratitude and respect for their great sacrifices on our behalf.

I commend our Rhode Island businesses who recognize the sacrifices of our servicemen and -women and their families.

WHERE IS THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN TO BALANCE THE BUDGET?

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

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Obama gave a speech to the Nation about the debt ceiling. He said, I won't bore you with the details of every plan or proposal. Mr. Speaker, I say please bore us with the details.

The House passed the Cut, Cap, and Balance plan that prevents a national bankruptcy by modestly cutting spending, capping the size of government, and advocating a balanced budget amendment to force Congress to act responsibly. In contrast, the President gives fine speeches, yet fails to submit a single written plan to balance the budget that can be evaluated by the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I say bore us with the details. Washington's spending binge has put America \$14 trillion in debt.

America's future is at risk. Congress welcomes written detailed solutions to Washington's spending binge from the President.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate, please bore us with the details. America has a right to hear them. President Obama has a duty to deliver them.

JUVENILE DIABETES

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of efforts to find a cure for type 1 diabetes.

Recently, I visited with 11-year-old Madeline Tallman from my home State of Delaware. She was here to tell her story of what it's like to live with type 1 diabetes. Madeline is faced with the life-long challenge of checking her blood sugar levels, managing her diet, and injecting herself with insulin every single day.

While research to find a cure for type 1 diabetes is progressing, people like Madeline are looking for better ways to manage their diabetes right now.

An artificial pancreas has the potential to transform the lives of those with type 1 diabetes. This device automatically controls blood sugar levels around the clock allowing patients to remain healthy until a cure is found. But before this technology can be made available to patients, the FDA must approve the next steps in the regulatory process for artificial pancreas trials.

I commend the FDA for committing to publish draft guidance by December 1. I urge the FDA to stick with that guideline. Children like Madeline have waited long enough.

THE DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, we voted last week on a plan put forward by my Republican colleagues that I strongly opposed and was rejected by the Senate because it would have ended Medicare as we know it while preserving giveaways to Big Oil and corporations shipping jobs overseas.

Now Speaker BOEHNER has introduced a new plan which he says follows the spirit of the last plan. Rating agencies say Mr. BOEHNER's plan won't work. It won't prevent a ratings downgrade, it will destroy hundreds of thousands of jobs, weaken the American dollar, and raise interest rates on loans to keep families in their homes and students in school. It is a plan that experts tell us up front won't work, is not worth voting on, let alone passing.

Instead of retreating to our partisan quarters and refusing to cooperate, when the going gets tough we expect

leaders to get to work. This default crisis is a test of leadership and those willing to drive our country over the economic cliff fail that test and need to get serious.

□ 1220

PLEASE DON'T TOUCH MEDICARE, MEDICAID, OR SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, in the past few weeks, the phones in my office have been ringing off the hook. The message from my constituents is clear: Please don't touch Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security. Some are angry, and some are tearful. All are sick with worry over the threat of losing benefits they have earned and depend on. Sadly, these effective programs have become targets for those who would balance the Federal budget on the backs of seniors and the middle class rather than restoring tax rates for millionaires. It's unthinkable, and it's unfair. I plan to do everything I can to protect these critical programs because they work.

When Medicare started 45 years ago, a third of our seniors lived in poverty; half had no health care coverage. Today the poverty rate for seniors has been slashed, and nearly all of our seniors have access to quality care. And thanks to the Affordable Care Act, seniors won't have to worry about paying for preventative care or falling into the prescription drug doughnut hole. After working hard their entire lives, seniors should be able to feel confident that the system they faithfully paid into will be there for them when they need it most.

DO THE RIGHT THING

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I'll never forget the day that we voted for the Clinton tax rates. We were told by all of the Republicans that this was going to cause massive job losses, an unbalanced budget, and drive us into recession. And not one Republican voted with us. Well, we know exactly what happened: More than 20 million new jobs were created; we had the lowest level of poverty, the highest expansion of the middle class, three straight budget surpluses, and the people at the highest tax rates took home more after-tax income than at any time in American history. It worked. And we had over \$5.6 trillion in surplus projected over the now past decade.

Then when the Republicans took power again, what happened? Immediately they cut taxes—but not across the board—in a way designed primarily to benefit the wealthy. That's why the top 1 percent have 42 percent of this