

with a threat to downgrade U.S. debt, which would cost U.S. taxpayers billions of dollars a year in extra interest payments.

The U.S. is sovereign. Standard & Poor's is not.

When we work to raise the debt ceiling, we should also raise questions about Standard & Poor's. Maybe it's time to downgrade Standard & Poor's to junk status.

HAILING THE HEROISM OF DEAN AND DIANE PETITPREN

(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, I'm going to tell a story that just happened this past week, which I think is just a vivid display of the human spirit and heroism as well.

There is a fellow named Michael Trapp who had a very lucky week. He was flying his Cessna airplane from his home in New York over to Wisconsin and unfortunately had engine problems. The air traffic control tower lost contact with him, and he crashed his airplane in Lake Huron.

I represent a district in Michigan. If you think of a mitten, this fellow fortunately crashed his airplane right off the tip of the thumb here. The Coast Guard was having a full search and rescue. The Marine Division was out looking for him. A day went by. A night went by. They couldn't find this fellow. Some very good friends of mine, Dean and Diane Petitpren, were out boating in their boat, and Diane Petitpren sees a fellow waving his sock in the middle of Lake Huron, and they saved that man's life.

I just think with everything happening in Washington here this week, it's good for us to take a moment and think about the human spirit and the people that have charitable and caring hearts.

REBUILDING THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. CICILLINE. A lot of commentators have been talking about the debt ceiling, the market, the jobs numbers. What we should be talking about is people, families facing tough decisions looking for help from a Congress that doesn't seem interested.

Americans are tired of watching Wall Street speculators, CEOs, and big corporations call all the shots. Working people need a Congress that understands today's tough economic reality and focuses on making their lives better. Unfortunately, because of politics in Washington and extreme ideology, that's not happening.

My Republican colleagues have been very public about their intention to take apart Medicare and Medicaid to

pay for yet another tax cut for the millionaires and billionaires and to preserve subsidies for Big Oil companies. They've decided our current economy is the fault of the American people, and now they're going to empty middle class pockets to pay for it.

The talk in Washington right now is driven by ideology that really has nothing to do with cost savings or preserving the American Dream. What it's really about is who suffers and wins when Congress decides that ideology is more important than job creation and that Social Security and Medicare aren't worth paying for any more.

It's time we reward people for what they contribute, not for what they can get away with taking.

It's time we expand opportunity and protect the middle class.

It's time to focus on the real crisis in America—the jobs crisis.

CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE IS THE BEST FOR THE NATION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, led by the positive leadership of Speaker JOHN BOEHNER, House Republicans passed the best bipartisan solution to the debt ceiling last week, the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act of 2011.

Liberals in the Senate chose to hide and had a tabling vote to cowardly avoid a recorded vote on the issue. I urge liberals to join conservatives and vote for a solution which creates jobs and stop the President who is stuck on tax increases destroying jobs.

The President does not have a plan. He even admits he's bluffing. Sadly, this was further revealed yesterday when the gross domestic product was reported to be stagnant.

Additionally, the front page headline today of The Washington Post proclaims, "Economic growth at near standstill."

The President should change course and work for bipartisan proposals to create jobs and preserve the Nation's credit rating.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

□ 1210

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are advised to refrain from making derogatory comments about the Senate.

STOP FRAGGING THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. There is absolutely no excuse for this reckless, un-

patriotic behavior on the part of the Republicans. The looming default crisis could be resolved in 5 minutes by simply raising the debt ceiling, as was done 7 times under Bush and 18 times under Ronald Reagan. This is the exact opposite of fiscal responsibility. The Republicans, led by their Tea Party radicals, are determined to cripple government and destroy Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security while leaving untouched a hair on the head of millionaires and billionaires or corporations that pay zero in taxes.

I say to the Republicans, stop it. Seniors call sobbing about their Social Security checks. Our soldiers in Afghanistan repeatedly asked Admiral Mullen yesterday, Will we get paid? Will our families get our checks? Shame on the Republicans for making that happen. In battle, when you accidentally shoot your own, it's called "friendly fire." When you deliberately shoot your own, it's called "fragging." Republicans, stop fragging the American economy and the American people.

LET AMERICANS OWN SOME OF AMERICA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. In this time of money crisis, we talk about the fact that we need revenue. Congress seems to be addicted to taxation as a form of revenue. But there's another way to raise revenue. Did you know, Mr. Speaker, that 27 percent of the land owned in the United States is owned by Uncle Sam? Fifty-two percent of it in the West is owned by Uncle Sam. How much is that? That's the size of all of Western Europe. So maybe we ought to think about Uncle Sam selling some of that land to Americans, not the National Parks, not the wetlands, these sensitive areas, but that land owned by the Bureau of Land Management that is not in use now. And then we sell that land, some of it, and then it will be revenue-producing because the people who buy it will pay taxes. Local taxes go to schools and help those schools. Something to think about. In this time of raising revenue, maybe Uncle Sam could do without 27 percent of all of the land in America. Let Americans own part of America, not just the Federal Government.

And that's just the way it is.

LISTEN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as the debate on avoiding a devastating default has progressed over the last several months, we've heard from many House Republicans that "compromise" is a dirty word. But the voices we should be listening to are

those of the American people. What they've said has been loud and clear. According to the NBC/Wall Street Journal poll, 53 percent of Independents and Republicans want Republican leaders to compromise. According to the ABC/Washington Post poll, 77 percent of all Americans think the Republican leadership has not been willing to compromise. According to the Quinnipiac University poll, 67 percent of Americans believe the debt ceiling compromise should be a balance between spending cuts and revenue—yes, revenue. According to the Gallup Poll, 57 percent of Republicans want a compromise plan—that's Republicans. And according to the CBS News poll, 78 percent of Republicans would rather have an agreement that they don't fully support than allow the country to default.

Mr. Speaker, it's long past time we started listening to the American people and reach a compromise to avoid a national default.

COME TOGETHER

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

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, the administration and the Democratic Senate, in their posturing, show what America knows: We are being neither led nor governed. Yet in their policy irresponsibility, they remain united in their party unity.

On the right, take note: It is as unwarranted and injurious for a Republican to call a Tea Partier a hobbit as it is for a Tea Partier to call a Republican a RINO. We cannot unite America if we divide the movement. Consequently, the time has come for the Tea Party to grow up and the Republican Party to wake up and come together to serve and save this great Nation.

ROB PAUL TO PAY PETER

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. The Washington Post: The United States is a lot like a rich businessman who owns two homes, a yacht, millions of dollars in stock, but is in debt because he took out a big loan to buy a private plane.

So here we are. To protect tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires, "the job creators," \$4 trillion over the last 10 years, loopholes for corporate jets, for private jets, for the oil companies, hedge fund billionaires, to continue tax cuts that haven't created a single job, we're going to cut real investment that would create jobs. We're going to reduce investment in transportation infrastructure 35 percent. That's a million jobs. Gone. Last week, you cut off the FAA, 90,000 private-sector jobs and 4,000 government employees. You don't care about the government employees, but what about those private-sector

jobs? A lot of them are small businesses. Small businesses—I thought you liked small businesses?

So we're not only going to cut there, but we're going to cut student loans, we're going to cut school nutrition, unemployment insurance, Social Security, and Medicare all so the billionaires can keep cruising at 40,000 feet in their private tax-subsidized jets, above the turbulence. The view looks good from up there, and maybe you'll get a ride.

THE WORLD WAITS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I taught high school government and history for 4 years. For a bill to become a law, it must pass both Chambers, and then it must be signed by the President. The House has now passed two bills which raise the debt ceiling, cut spending, and address a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. This historical reform for the first time ties a debt increase to a cut in spending.

It is long past time for the Senate to pass something. Their negligence threatens the fiscal health of this Nation. Once they do, we can conference the bills, which is where compromises are then resolved. Or we can pick up their bill. But until then, the world waits.

COMPROMISE FOR A SOLUTION

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last night we heard the Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER, talk about how he stuck his neck out and offered new revenues. Well, if so, then instead of chasing the most extreme few Tea Party members of his caucus to craft an even more unrealistic proposal, why doesn't he work with 193 Democrats to lead Congress to the balanced approach that Americans want? New revenue would allow for basic tax reforms, closing expensive unjustified loopholes and making the tax code more fair and simple. We could then cooperate on sensible reductions in long-term spending where there is already bipartisan agreement for agricultural reform, defense, and health care. If JOHN BOEHNER was Speaker of the House instead of speaker of the Tea Party, we could start down the path of fiscal stability and end this artificial crisis.

HELP RESOLVE THE DEBT CRISIS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for far too long now, previous Con-

gresses have treated increases to America's debt ceiling as temporary problems to be dealt with later on. Well, it's now later on, and we have to deal with this very serious challenge to America's fiscal health. House Republicans have now passed two bills that would end the debt limit crisis while cutting trillions from the deficit.

Today the House will vote down the Reid proposal. The Reid proposal is full of budget gimmicks that the American people are, quite frankly, fed up with. Not only is the Reid plan dead on arrival in the House, but it appears to be dead on departure from the Senate. I urge all of my colleagues to vote against the Reid plan today because it's time for every Member of Congress to join House Republicans in producing not a deal but a solution to this debt crisis, one that makes real spending cuts, one that establishes real spending controls, one that forces the Federal Government to live within its means, and one that doesn't raise taxes on American families and job creators.

□ 1220

DEFAULT CRISIS

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the default crisis, and unfortunately we are still talking about giving America the green light to pay her bills, because the plan this body passed just last night has since failed in the Senate.

Here we are again, my friends. Here we are again wasting another day as the deadline looms even closer. And while the plan passed in this body last night might have been good politics, it's not good government. My constituents are tired of it, I'm tired of it, and, actually, anyone who watched the nightly news for the last 6 months is tired of it.

Washington loves to kick the can down the road. That's how we got here in the first place. This is our moment, but will we seize it? We need a plan, not another Republican manifesto. And there are better plans out there, plans that would create jobs, because the biggest crisis America faces right now is a jobs crisis, plans that will protect Medicare and Social Security and Medicaid, and plans that rely on a fair approach between spending cuts and asking the most fortunate Americans to pay their fair share.

Mr. Speaker, we must compromise and pass that plan. The American people and their economy are counting on us.

REAL SOLUTIONS TO THIS DEBT AND SPENDING CRISIS

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