

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.)

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, after yesterday's action here on the House floor, we have sent not one, but two real solutions to this debt and spending crisis over to the Senate.

The Senate has yet to take action on anything. The President refuses to even submit a plan to solve this problem. All we hear from the President are these divisive class warfare speeches. A speech is not a solution to the problem, especially when you hear of all this foolishness about corporate jet owners and millionaires and billionaires. If the President got his way, if the President confiscated every dollar from corporate jet owners and millionaires and billionaires, he himself knows that wouldn't solve the problem.

And yet what you have is a spending problem in Washington. You don't solve a spending problem by sending even more spending to Washington so that they can blow even more money. What we actually need to do is not a balanced approach, we need a balanced budget amendment to our Constitution, so that you can finally invoke accountability in Washington to solve the spending problem.

Job-killing taxes, more tax increases that only gives Washington more money to spend. Instead of facing the problem, we have got to stop ignoring the problem. The President needs to get his head out of the sand and address the real spending crisis in Washington.

DEBT LIMIT

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, last night the Republican majority in this House, without the support of a single Democrat, did something very dangerous—and I am not talking about the pernicious cuts that would damage the least fortunate in our society. I am not talking about an ill-conceived balanced budget amendment that would surely result in our default. We should debate those things, and people of good will disagree how we do them.

I am talking about the provision of that bill that will bring us back in 6 months to have this discussion again while Americans lose billions of dollars in their retirement accounts, while businesses and our markets face uncertainty. We will do this in 6 more months because of the Republicans.

Now I am a House Democrat. Don't listen to me on this. Listen to the Wall Street Journal editorial page. That Murdochian mouthpiece of malicious malarkey wrote, "Republicans are not looking like adults to whom voters can entrust the government."

Mr. Speaker, according to the Wall Street Journal editorial page, that's just the way it is.

AVOID GOVERNMENT DEFAULT

(Mr. CLARKE of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to offer this House a plan on how Republicans and Democrats can come together, avoid a government default, and do it in a way that really helps the American people. Let's cut the true debt that's crushing Americans today—and it's not the Federal debt.

Americans are underwater on their mortgages, burdened by student loans, maxed out on credit cards. If we help Americans cut their own personal debt, this will free up money where people can responsibly buy things. Businesses will have to hire more people. That's how you create more jobs—by helping Americans become debt-free.

LIFT THE DEBT CEILING

(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 join together to express our commitment to one Nation. Unfortunately, we are in a collapse and a crisis because we are, as my good friend from Michigan said, drawn and strangled by those in the Tea Party who believe that America belongs to only one group.

Well, I stand here today to say that we must not take the Tea Party's words that say "do not surrender." That is a selfish position. You do not play surrender games when you work on behalf of the American people. You wonder why the economy is slow? Because it is strangled by inertia and lack of action in raising the debt ceiling. Let's join together in a bipartisan way to lift the debt ceiling. If not, the President has constitutional authority to lift the debt ceiling and get Members to move forward and on helping this country protect the 401(k)s, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, we are one Nation, not the Tea Party nation. We should represent the people of the United States in creating jobs, we can move the economy, and we can show the world that America is run by adults and we stand for the American people.

I believe I stand for one Nation and to represent all of the people.

LIFE IMITATES ART

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, sometimes art imitates life. Sometimes life imitates art. I think today life is imitating art.

I often reflect on motion pictures and learn from them. When I came up here, it was "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

But currently, watching this, I have been thinking about "Blazing Saddles." Remember Mel Brooks and Rich-

ard Pryor, they did a movie. They had a city called Rock Ridge, an all-white city, lawless, problems. The governor appointed a handsome, sharp, young, black man to be the sheriff, the first black sheriff ever in Rock Ridge.

He went there and he wanted the townsfolk to help him prepare to beat off the thugs and have a better city. They didn't want to join him. He said, "You'd do it for Randolph Scott." They would have done it for Randolph Scott, and realizing that, they helped Cleavon Little, the sheriff.

The Republicans, well, they'd do it for George Bush, and they did it for George Bush a lot. Mr. Speaker, life imitates art.

LET'S GET BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on August 3 the United States will have \$306 billion in obligations and \$173 billion to address those obligations. At that moment, if the debt ceiling is not raised, our Nation for the first time in its history will default on its obligations.

The cost of borrowing for small business, home mortgages, student and auto loans will all increase. This will hit hard every American and could push this economy into another recession. The American people want a serious and balanced approach to avoid disaster and deal with our Nation's debt problem. They want Congress to work in a bipartisan way to create jobs and new business investment.

The House Republicans' short-term bill does nothing to create economic certainty necessary for sustained economic growth. Instead, it will keep the threat of default alive for months as a continuing drag on this economy. We need a real long-term bill to provide economic stability and certainty. We need a balanced bill that protects Social Security and Medicare, and we need a bipartisan bill we can pass quickly to prevent default.

□ 1230

THE BALL IS IN THE SENATE'S COURT

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

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I'm grateful. I hustled over here this morning because I heard there was a question about what kind of options have we provided for the United States Senate and what can we do to get America out of this crisis, and I know the answer.

We've got lots of choices on their desk, Mr. Speaker, and if you talk to them, I hope you'll recommend these. Just look on the desk in front of them; they've got three good choices. You want a long-term solution to this challenge? Ten years. Look at the House