

ROSA PARKS DAY

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the State of Ohio as the first State to pass legislation designating December 1 as Rosa Parks Day. House Bill 421, introduced in 2005 by then State Representative Joyce Beatty, who is with us today, honors the life and legacy of the mother of the Civil Rights Movement.

Ohio continues to honor Rosa Parks with an annual statewide tribute on December 1, and it is entitled "The Power of One." This tribute, which is a partnership between the Ohio State University, the Ohio Historical Society, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission and the Central Ohio Transit Authority, celebrates the day when Rosa Parks took a stand by staying seated. It includes a children's assembly that welcomes 800 school children to learn and be inspired by her legacy.

I am proud to recognize the great State of Ohio for commemorating Rosa Parks' legacy of inspiration and courage, and our State's ongoing commitment to educating young people about civil rights.

PASS THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam Speaker, in my district, we disagree a lot about football, but we strongly agree that the Federal Government must balance this budget. As a freshman, I've seen firsthand this body will only make the hard decisions when they have to make the hard decisions.

Though we don't agree that we need to balance the budget every time and every place, we do understand that, as a Federal budget over the course of a year, we must balance our budget. We don't do that because the Constitution doesn't require it. It's time to change that reality.

In 1995 this body overwhelmingly approved a simple balanced budget amendment, and it required that we would balance our budget each year. It failed in the Senate by one vote, passed overwhelmingly in the House. If it had passed both bodies and been ratified by the States, within 10 years we would have balanced the budget by 2005. Our total debt in 2005 was \$7.5 trillion. It is now \$15 trillion.

In just 6 years we doubled our debt. Now we stand here again debating if this is the best language or the best option for a balanced budget amendment. If we fail to pass it this year, 10 years from now some freshman congressman will stand at this microphone and berate the 2011 Congress for delaying again the decision and passing on to their generation an even bigger debt.

Let's build the wall around the Federal checkbook, and let's pass this simple budget amendment.

REBUILDING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the great need to update our Nation's infrastructure and, in particular, bridges. Bridges play a vital role in moving people and goods, and far too many of our bridges are falling into a state of disrepair.

Our Nation has a total of 600,000 bridges, with over 65,000 being deemed deficient. That means 11½ percent of our Nation's bridges are considered deficient and require significant maintenance, rehabilitation or replacement. In the New Jersey portion of New York City metropolitan area, over 8 million vehicles cross a deficient bridge every day.

The infrastructure in the United States is crumbling, and the backlog of deficient bridges is growing. Congress has not been able to pass a long-term transportation funding bill for 2 years. We are still working on a fiscal year 2012 budget that will provide States with important transportation funding.

This year the construction industry has been suffering from unemployment rates of up to 20 percent. Investing in bridges will create jobs today, keep Americans safe, and ensure economic development for the future.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass legislation to strengthen our transportation infrastructure and put people back to work.

THE MURDER OF AYMAN LABIB

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, while we have watched courageous democracy, human rights, and leaders of minorities stand up to thugs and extremists and demand a free and peaceful Egypt, deeply disturbing cases are occurring where the spotlight is not shining.

Reports indicate that on October 16, Ayman Labib was in his Arabic class when his teacher told him to get rid of the cross tattooed on his wrist. When Ayman said it was a tattoo, the teacher asked the other students, what are we going to do about this, and incited the students in the class to attack Ayman. He tried to flee, but ultimately the students, with the support of their teachers, murdered this young man.

Egyptian media, controlled by the military government, has tried to deny the sectarian reasons for this brutal murder. After the new anti-discrimination law put into place after October 9, when Egyptian security forces ran over Copts with bulldozers, will those teach-

ers, adults and students be brought to justice for this brutal murder?

The Egyptian military must bring the perpetrators to justice. Otherwise, their tacit approval of this act will only bring further violence and bloodshed.

APEC

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, my home State of Hawaii just hosted an APEC, and I'd like to thank the people of the State for their patience and understanding.

There were 21 Asian Pacific countries represented at this event. Our President was there, as was the Presidents of China, Russia and the Prime Minister of Japan, to name a few. It's important to note that what was dominating the conversations was the rising dominance of China.

The President, our President asked China to end the policies of keeping the yuan artificially low, and it is artificially low at 28 to 30 percent. Think about what it would mean to us, our economy, if they would just reevaluate. It would support 1.6 billion jobs. It would increase our GDP by \$285 billion in just 18 months, and our deficit would be reduced between 670 to \$800 billion in just 10 years.

Madam Speaker, why haven't we taken up the issue of the reevaluation of the yuan? Our Senate passed it in October, the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Act. It is time for us to act. The United States must maintain its dominance and its position.

Please, bring that bill up to our floor.

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RHETORIC AND REALITY

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

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, there is a difference between President Obama's rhetoric and the reality for the American people.

He says we can't wait for more U.S. manufacturing and construction jobs. He says we can't wait for more American middle class jobs. He says we can't wait to wean ourselves off of Middle Eastern oil. He says we can't wait to reduce our foreign trade deficits. He says we can't wait to reduce our Federal budget deficit. These are the things he says, but they aren't the things he's doing.

By delaying the Keystone XL Pipeline project, he's putting the American people in continued jeopardy by doing the following: He is killing U.S. manufacturing construction job opportunities. He is keeping us hooked on Middle Eastern oil and sending billions of dollars each week to terrorist-friendly countries, hurting our security and our

international trade deficit. He is eliminating one of the tools to reduce the Federal deficit.

Instead, he keeps wasting billions of dollars of our children's and grandchildren's futures on failed Washington programs like Solyndra, Beacon, and building cars in Finland.

If the President is serious about creating good, shovel-ready, American middle class jobs based on Main Street solutions and not Washington solutions, he would move forward with the Keystone XL project right now. We can't wait for Main Street job solutions.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, last night I held a telephone town hall meeting, and I spoke with hundreds of my constituents about the pressing issues facing America today.

Many people on the call spoke about the need for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, and an overwhelming majority replied in a survey that there should be a balanced budget amendment. I was pleased to report to them that the House will be voting this week on a balanced budget amendment that will help Washington get its fiscal house in order. And it will reverse the dangerous practices of saddling our future generations with insurmountable debt.

A balanced budget amendment, Madam Speaker, is not a radical idea. It is a normal expectation for hard-working taxpayers, families, and businesses, as well as State governments. Why not the Federal Government, Madam Speaker?

THE GOP'S JOB PROPOSALS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, the average American household has lost \$8,000 of income over the last few years. If we want to put a number on the economic crisis facing our country right now, that should be it.

If you ask the average person how to get \$8,000 back into the pockets of American families, you'd get some pretty good answers. But if you ask the average congressional Republican, you'd get an answer that's so out of touch with reality you'd think they were creating policy by playing Mad Libs. Mad Libs, the children's game where you provide random words to complete a story you haven't seen. That seems like the only conceivable explanation for the Republicans' so-called jobs proposals.

Think about how they fill in this blank: The best way to get Americans back to work is—poison our air and water, get rid of consumer protections,

end Medicare. It's like they haven't read the question. It's no surprise Americans find the GOP's Mad Libs economics maddening. It's time to stop playing games and start getting to work on building an economy that works for all Americans.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. YODER. Madam Speaker, both parties in this Congress have espoused support for job creation. In fact in this House daily, both Republicans and Democrats have said the economy and jobs should be our top priority. The President has stated in recent months that he would pivot his time and energy to a focus on jobs.

Yet, last week this administration pivoted away from jobs again when it effectively delayed until 2013 the construction of the Canadian Keystone XL pipeline, and along with this delay, killing the potential to create 20,000 jobs. This \$7 billion pipeline would bring oil from Canada to refineries in the United States, and it is expected to add billions of dollars of investment in the American economy.

With the economy continuing to struggle, we can't wait to create these new jobs.

The American people are tired of seeing their government say one thing and do another. It's time for the rhetoric to meet the road, and I urge this administration to reconsider its decision, to reconsider this delay, and to unify this country back to a focus on jobs.

JOBS AND FINANCE REFORM

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

Ms. LEE of California. I rise to call on Republicans to wake up to the needs of Americans, millions of Americans, mind you, and to create jobs.

The Republican-led Congress has led almost an entire year without enacting a single piece of jobs legislation. Madam Speaker, America cannot wait.

Republicans continue to ignore the crisis of unemployment and poverty in America and instead keep bringing more bills to bail out the wealthy. Let's stop bailing out Wall Street and bring some real relief to Main Street. Let's stop wasting time pretending that markets can regulate themselves. We need strong oversight so that we have no more Bernie Madoffs and bank bailouts. Let's stop wasting time pretending that tax cuts for the wealthy pay for themselves. We need corporations and the wealthy to pay their fair share.

Last week, Madam Speaker, I held a jobs fair. Thousands showed up. People want to work. This is a national emergency. Let's reignite the American dream by passing the American Jobs Act now.

IRAQ MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the troops in Iraq will be home by Christmas. Also coming back to America is a large amount of military equipment. Why not send some of that taxpayer-funded equipment to secure our southern border? Our border sheriffs say they are outmanned, outgunned, and out-financed by the drug cartels.

Today, I've introduced legislation which mandates that 10 percent of certain military equipment coming back from Iraq will go to our southern border. If there's an urgent need, the equipment could be kept by the Department of Defense. This equipment includes Humvees, night-vision equipment, and surveillance UAVs.

This is not a new idea. The Department of Defense already has a program for distribution of surplus equipment. My legislation will simply utilize this already-existing program, expand it, and allocate resources to our southern border.

Americans have paid for this equipment to bring safety and security to the people of Iraq. It's time we use this equipment to protect our own citizens from the invasion of the drug cartels.

And that's just the way it is.

FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION

(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. Madam Speaker, failure is not an option. Let none of us forget that we work for the American people, and they expect us to do our job. World markets are watching, balance is demanded; \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction is the minimal target we must meet.

Current Federal spending is 25 percent of the GDP. It's too high. But revenue is only 14 to 15 percent of the GDP. It's too low. It is the height of irresponsibility to ignore either one of those two data points.

It might be easy, but it's not rocket science. It requires both parties to do what a clear majority of Americans want us to do: break out of our respective straitjacket orthodoxies.

I was proud to join a hundred bipartisan Members of this body urging the supercommittee to go big—find \$4 trillion in deficit reduction. Such efforts would reduce the debt to a more manageable percentage of GDP, reassure markets, preserve our Nation's triple A bond rating and provide the stability to get America's economy growing again.

I urge my colleagues on the supercommittee to join us and go big for America.