

reduce an additional 82,000 jobs every year through 2035 in non-oil and gas-related industries that are still impacted indirectly by this shutdown.

It reduces annual GDP by over \$20 billion a year, a cumulative impact of \$500 billion in the next 25 years, unless we immediately reverse course. It reduces long-term U.S. oil production by 27 percent. Long-term U.S. foreign oil imports are increased by 19 percent. Groppe, Long & Littell estimates—that is a consulting firm—show that over 23 wells per month are needed to maintain current production levels in the shallow water of the Gulf of Mexico. Since the moratorium was lifted on shallow water drilling, the formal moratorium, the administration has only approved permits for new wells at a pace of 1.8 per month—so 23 versus 1.8.

In deep water it is even worse. There has been one deepwater exploratory permit issued since the BP disaster and only one, in 9 months. As a result, six deepwater rigs have departed the gulf: Discovery America's Transocean has been moved to the Black Sea/Mediterranean. Ocean Baroness of Diamond Offshore, a semisubmersible rig, has been moved to Brazil. Ocean Confidence, also with Diamond, has been moved to West Africa. Ocean Endeavor, also with Diamond, has moved to the Black Sea area. Stena Drilling has moved major equipment to Eastern Canada. Transocean has moved some of their equipment to West Africa. According to ODS, another five major rigs are scheduled to leave the U.S. Gulf of Mexico by April 1. So that will put that 6 number up to 11. New well drilling has fallen from 20 in the first quarter of 2009 to 1 in the first quarter of 2010.

Again, I applaud the administration's realization that supply is a big part of the issue; that we need to increase supply in order to stop these skyrocketing prices which are hurting Louisianans and Americans every day. But let's focus on domestic supply. Let's focus on the Gulf of Mexico. Let's focus on things we can directly control—not just begging the Saudi Arabians to increase their production. I want to create jobs here, not just in Saudi Arabia. I want our children to be independent, to control their own future, not to have to beg some Saudi Arabian prince.

With regard to Mr. Daley's suggestion of opening the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, you know the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is just that. It is supposed to be strategic—for crises, for our security, our national security as a country. It is not the Salazar petroleum reserve to open, to cover up the complete ineptitude and foot dragging at the Interior Department in terms of issuing permits for our own drilling. So let's not play politics with the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, let's not treat it as the Salazar petroleum reserve, to cover up the mistakes and ineptitude and foot dragging of the Interior Department.

Let's increase domestic production, let's address the supply side of the

equation that way, aggressively, and create American jobs in the process. Louisianans are depending on that. Americans are depending on that—for jobs and to mitigate prices at the pump so we do not have these ever-increasing prices that could kill a recovery that we are hoping to mount and that could hurt every American's pocketbook, every American family's budget.

I urge all of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to come together on this point and urge the administration to act. Yes, they are right, supply is key. Let's start with domestic action, domestic supply, and mitigate price increases that way.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I am going to proceed on my leader time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator may use his leader time.

THE BUDGET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, first let me commend my friend and colleague from Louisiana on his observations about the need to increase domestic production. I think he certainly agrees with me we will be talking about this a lot more in the coming months as the price of gas at the pump continues to rise, and I thank him for his insight.

Sometime this week, Senators will have an opportunity to take a position on government spending on two bills the majority leader has predicted will fail. One is a serious effort to rein in wasteful Washington spending that has gotten completely and totally out of control. The other, by our Democratic friends, is a proposal so unserious that even its supporters have been forced to exaggerate its impacts—something they have been called out on by the press repeatedly. That proposal comes on the heels of an equally unserious proposal by the White House last week to cut \$6 billion from Federal spending for the entire year at a time when Washington is averaging about \$4 billion in deficit spending every day. Let me say that again. We are running a \$4 billion deficit every single day this year. Apparently Democratic leaders in Congress thought even that was too much to cut, because the bill they are proposing this week shaves it down to only about \$4.7 billion. So you had the administration last week saying they would go along with \$6.5 billion, and the proposal the Democrats in the Senate are going to lay before the Senate this week only reduces spending \$4.7 billion. That is about what we are engaged in spending, deficit spending, every single day. We are averaging about \$4 billion a day in debt this year and Democrats want to cut \$4.7 billion

and call it a day. That is their idea of getting serious.

Washington will add more to the debt this week than they want to cut for the entire year, and that is the farthest their leaders say they are willing to go. Anything more, they say, is Draconian. I will tell you what is Draconian. Draconian is what will happen if Democrats don't get real about our Nation's fiscal crisis.

Yesterday, the independent Congressional Budget Office issued a report that gave us a pretty good sense of the recklessness of Washington spending these days. Last month alone, the Federal Government spent \$223 billion more than it had—last month alone—the highest monthly deficit ever and the 29th straight month Washington has been in the red.

Here is the Democrats' proposal: Let's cut \$4.7 billion and call it a day; \$4.7 billion, even less than the President called for last week. Even that was ridiculed because of the preposterous claim that it met us halfway. It is time our friends on the other side stop trying to see what they can get away with and actually summon the courage to get our fiscal house in order, because here is the hard truth: Even the biggest cuts under discussion this week are puny compared to the fiscal problems we face in the area of entitlements. It is a pitched battle around here over \$4.7 billion when we have a \$14 trillion debt and more than \$50 trillion in entitlement promises that Washington cannot keep.

If Democrats cannot bring themselves to cut \$4.6 billion, how are we going to get a handle on the big stuff? This is just a dress rehearsal. Democrats are going to have to do a lot better than this if we stand a chance of getting our Nation's fiscal house in order.

Frankly, it is embarrassing. The American people deserve better. It is time for Democrats in Washington to face facts and, as I said yesterday, it is time for the President to get off the sidelines and lead because, with each passing day, it becomes clear that Democrats in Congress cannot bring themselves on their own to get serious about the problems we face. They don't even want to admit these problems exist.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I wanted to know, from a parliamentary standpoint, what time remains on the Republican side and when the Democrats' time begins.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 20½ minutes remaining on the Republican side.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, it is my understanding the Republicans have finished their time. I ask unanimous consent we start our hour at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FISCAL PRIORITIES

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I listened very carefully to my Republican colleagues who have come to the floor blaming the Democrats and the President for everything you can imagine, including the high price of gasoline and deficits as far as the eye can see.

I wish to say to Senator MANCHIN, I am going to make some very brief remarks about H.R. 1 and then yield to you for 5 minutes.

I respect the right of any colleague to say whatever he or she wants on the floor. But I also wish to tell the American people who may be following this debate, that in truth, in the last many years, 40 years, the only party to balance the budget was the Democrats. Bill Clinton, in his Presidency, not only took a deficit brought about by Republican Presidents, not only did he balance the budget with us, but we created surpluses. Guess what. Twenty-three million jobs.

Compare that to George W. Bush. He created huge deficits, handed President Obama a tremendous debt and deficits—I will get the exact numbers—and created 1 million jobs, compared to 23 million jobs.

I appreciate the lectures from my Republican friends, but look at any measure: job creation, budget balancing, stock market. Check it out, America. These are facts that are in the history books. So please do not lecture us about how to balance the budget. We know how to do it. The way you do it is cut waste, cut fraud, cut abuse, make sure everything you spend is essentially justifiable by the results, by the benefits, and invest in our people so if they lose a job, we invest in worker training, invest in our people, invest in science and technology, invest in health research, invest in our children.

If you follow that method, we will not only balance the budget, we will create jobs. We know their approach, H.R. 1, which they support, would devastate this economy, barely doing anything about the deficit. Most amazingly, they do not think billionaires should pay even a little bit higher tax rate than people who are earning \$150,000—billionaires, multimillionaires. It does not make any sense.

So with that as an opening, I am very pleased to yield to the Senator from West Virginia, Mr. MANCHIN, for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I rise today to express my deep concerns with the two widely divergent proposals for a continuing resolution that will be presented to us here today.

Now, I may be just a freshman Senator, but I will be blunt—this whole process does not make a lot of sense to me, and, I am afraid it doesn't make sense to a lot of West Virginians or most Americans.

We will likely have votes on two proposals today, and both options are partisan and unrealistic. And neither one will pass.

The first is a Democratic proposal that does not go far enough. This proposal, which calls for \$6.5 billion in new cuts, utterly ignores our fiscal reality. Our Nation is badly in debt and spending at absolutely unsustainable and out-of-control levels. In February alone, the Federal Government outspent revenues by an unacceptable \$223 billion. We must turn our financial ship around, but the Senate proposal continues to sail forward as if there is no storm on the horizon.

On the other hand, we could choose a second even more flawed measure: a House GOP proposal that blindly hacks the budget with no sense of our priorities or of our values as a country. I did not grow up in an America that would carelessly cut Head Start and make the playing field even harder for kids born into poverty. Our America should not cut funding for veterans or for border security or for first responders or especially for our children without at least discussing the alternatives.

The bottom line, however, is this: Democrats and Republicans are being asked to vote on wildly different proposals for reining in spending. Republicans will say Democrats do not go far enough. Democrats will say Republicans go too far. The truth is both are right, and both proposals will fail. Worse still, everyone in Congress knows they will fail.

The more important question is this, Why are we engaging in this political theater?

Why are we voting on partisan proposals that we know will fail, that we all know do not balance our Nation's priorities with the need to get our fiscal house in order?

Why are we doing all this when the most powerful person in these negotiations, our President, has failed to lead this debate or offer a serious proposal for spending and cuts that he would be willing to fight for?

How does that make sense?

The truth is that this debate, as important as it is, will not be decided by House Republicans and Senate Democrats negotiating with each other or past each other. This debate will be decided when the President leads these tough negotiations.

And right now that is not happening.

I know it is not easy. I know that it takes compromise. I know that it will be partisan and difficult. I know that everyone will have to give up something and no one will want to relinquish anything. But that is what the American people are demanding.

Respectfully, I am asking President Obama to take this challenge head on, bring people together and propose a compromise plan for dealing with our Nation's fiscal challenges, both now and for the future.

For me, when I was Governor of the great State of West Virginia, dealing

with our State's problems required bringing together a diverse and strong-willed group of legislators. But I did, because that was my responsibility. By working together, we were able to tackle the tough fiscal problems that our State faced and we did it while setting our priorities and protecting the most vulnerable in our State.

The bottom line is the President is the leader of this great Nation, and when it comes to an issue of significant national importance, the President must lead—not the majority leader or Speaker but the President.

He must sit down with leaders of both parties and help hammer out a real bipartisan compromise that moves our Nation forward and establishes the priorities that represent our values and all hard-working families.

And I truly believe that he can do it. And when we finally do come together and agree to a bipartisan solution, we will not only set a new tone for our Nation but we can start to focus on what the American people sent all of us here to do: start working together to create a more prosperous future for our children and our families, and be the America we all know we can be.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I am going to use leader time. I am wondering how long Senator BOXER is going to take.

Mrs. BOXER. We have a number of people coming for 30 minutes.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I will use leader time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

Mr. REID. Madam President, since the moment Republican Representatives passed their budget, the now infamous H.R. 1—it was their No. 1 issue in the House of Representatives—the country has been waiting to see whether the Senate would repeat the House's mistake in passing it. The House has passed it.

The plan the tea party pushed through the House is an irresponsible plan. It is a reckless plan. It is dangerous for the health of our economy and certainly the citizens of our great country.

In the last few days, I have come to the floor and explained at length the damage this tea party plan would do in the short term and in the long term. Let me now again talk, briefly, about a few of the things I have talked about before—but I will talk about them again. Here are some of the consequences.

H.R. 1 will fire 700,000 Americans, 6,000 Nevadans. Our budget would create jobs, not cost jobs. It will kick 200,000 Head Start students, the poorest of the poor, little boys and girls trying to get started in life, it will kick them off their ability to learn to read and do elementary math. Hundreds in Nevada will suffer from that. This is a very successful early education program. Head Start works.