

man sitting behind a microphone in his mansion out in Palm Beach, Florida.

When a talk show host calls a decent American woman a slut and a prostitute, that's sad and wrong. But when Mitt Romney, the Republican Party's frontrunner for President, is asked about it and all he can say is "it's not the language I would have used," then it's a leadership crisis. I guess Mitt Romney would have said she was a "lady of the night." What he should have said was, "Rush Limbaugh, you're dead wrong. Stop it."

It's time for all Americans to say enough is enough. And it's time for anyone who wants to be a leader—even Republicans who are terrified of Rush Limbaugh—to stand up for treating every woman with decency and respect.

COMMEMORATING MR. LOUIS MICHOT, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LANDRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANDRY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today as Louisiana mourns the loss of another member of the Greatest Generation. Yesterday evening, Mr. Louis Michot, Jr., passed away, and he passed away at the ripe old age of 89. As I visited with his son this morning on the telephone, he had a nice remark of saying, you know, my dad would constantly say that if he knew he was going to live that long, he would have taken better care of himself. Imagine that.

Mr. Michot was born in 1922 in south central Louisiana. At the age of 24, he bravely served our country during World War II in the Marine Corps. After serving his country, he came back and began living the American Dream. He became an entrepreneur. He started his own businesses. In 1958, he bought a restaurant franchise which he expanded all across south Louisiana. He ventured into other businesses, from cattle ranching to real estate to oil and gas.

Later, in 1960, Mr. Michot sought to serve his community and his State. He was elected to the State House of Representatives, where he served for 4 years before making a run for Governor. He reentered the political arena in 1968, when he won a seat on the Louisiana State Board of Education, and went on to serve the State as the State superintendent from 1972 to 1976.

Outside the political sphere, Mr. Michot was an admirable community leader, a faithful husband, a loyal friend, and a proud father of 10 beautiful children. He passed on his belief of civic responsibility and serving his community to his children; three of them served in public office, one continuing to serve as a district judge, another as a State senator, and another on the parish council. He was a long-time member of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, and he received the esteemed Lafayette Civic Cup for his many community service efforts in 1994.

As Mr. Michot is laid to rest, it is my hope that we reflect upon his life and learn from the shining examples of selfless service and civic duty that he set forth. Though I'm sure he will be missed by many, I'm confident that his legacy of hard work and determination will live on for many generations through his children and their children.

RECOGNIZING THE COURAGE OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the 47th anniversary of Bloody Sunday to recognize the courage of our colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and the many forgotten heroes of the civil rights movement.

Nearly 50 years ago in Selma, Alabama, some 600 demonstrators marched for equal voting rights for African Americans. They got only as far as the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where State and local lawmen attacked them with clubs and tear gas and drove them back into Selma. Journalists captured the brutality of these attacks, sparking the public outrage that eventually led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

This Sunday, Congressman LEWIS returned to that very bridge that changed history. Again, he was met by a large group of police—but this time they served as his congressional escort.

Mr. Speaker, we've come a long way in the last 50 years, but we still have a long way to go in order to ensure equality and justice for all, and I ask that my colleagues join with me in that work.

□ 1030

JOBS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CANSECO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to our economy, one thing is abundantly clear: President Obama's policies have failed.

We are experiencing the worst stretch of unemployment since the Great Depression, despite a trillion-dollar stimulus plan that the Obama administration said would hold unemployment below 8 percent and despite record low interest rates.

The unemployment rate has remained above 8 percent for 36 straight months, and the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the jobless rate will remain above 8 percent through 2014. Almost 13 million Americans are out of work, and the share of unemployed people looking for work for more than 6 months, or the long-term unemployment, topped 40 percent in December 2009 for the first time since 1948 and has remained above that level ever since.

Because his policies have failed, President Obama has turned to the politics of envy and division. The only solutions he can come up with involve more spending, more taxes, and more government. These are the policies that failed in the first place.

House Republicans have a plan for America's job creators. It's time for the President and Democrats in the Senate to stop blocking our jobs bills.

This week, the House will consider the JOBS Act, a legislative package designed to jump-start our economy and restore opportunities for America's primary job creators. These are our small businesses, the start-ups, and the entrepreneurs.

In his State of the Union Address, President Obama asked Congress to send him a bill that helps small businesses and entrepreneurs succeed, and the JOBS Act does exactly that.

CUTS TO AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the proposed fiscal year 2013 cuts to the Air National Guard.

Let me preface my remarks by acknowledging that this country does have a serious debt problem that requires that everybody tighten their belt. It requires, in my view, that we have more revenues so that we can have a sustainable budget where everybody does their share, from taxpayers to every Department in the government. The Air Force has to be included.

But under the Budget Control Act, the proposal that the Air Force has made to address the cuts that would be required there is to single out and focus its knife on the Air National Guard. Now, that would affect 5,100 guardsmen who would lose their position. It would also demobilize scores of aircraft.

Now, as I mentioned, the Air Guard is not by any means entitled to be exempt from the challenge of coming in compliance with the Budget Control Act. Here's the issue: when any Agency—whether it's the Air Force, the Army, whether it is the Department of Education—makes its recommendations to comply with the Budget Control Act, it should be doing so on the basis of what makes most sense to strengthen that Agency, not to weaken it.

The studies that have been done with respect to the Air Force demonstrate that the Air Guard is extraordinarily cost effective. The Air Guard is getting the job done for less money than any other part of that Guard. Obviously, the full Air Force is extremely important. But why in the world would you focus on the Guard when the Guard is doing the job in a highly professional and successful way—widely acknowledged by all studies that have been done—and is doing it for less money?

So, number one, when studies have shown that guardsmen and reservists cost far less than Active Duty members and you're trying to meet budget constraints, don't demobilize the efficient and effective.

Number two, as our force shrinks as a whole, the Air Guard is key to the military term called "reversibility," that is, they can serve as a critical operational and strategic reserve should a larger force be needed in the future to meet unforeseen circumstances. That is an essential requirement of military readiness.

Third, the Air Guard can deliver—the Air Guard has delivered. Their record in Afghanistan and Iraq has proven that the force can mobilize quickly and accomplish the mission with great professionalism.

Mr. Speaker, I don't doubt that these are very difficult and challenging choices for the Air Force command to make, and cutting the defense budget always involves very difficult choices. But these cuts that focus as significantly as they do on the Air Guard, which has proven to be efficient and effective, in my view are unwise.

I look forward to working with the House Armed Services Committee and the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee to address my concerns.

JOBS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the House and to address the Nation today.

As a small business owner, I know the importance of fostering and creating an environment that promotes job creation, economic security and opportunity, and allows especially small businesses to grow.

I also know that Americans and Michiganders and those in the Second District in my home State of Michigan and across the country are looking for real solutions that will grow jobs now. That's why I support the JOBS Act. It will jump-start our economy and restore opportunities for America's primary job creators: our small businesses, start-ups, and entrepreneurs.

Now, I've been around long enough in my first year here, Mr. Speaker, to unfortunately see that sometimes you have to repackaging ideas and put a different colored bow on it for people to accept it because what we're going to be passing has been passed. I sit on the Financial Services Committee. We've passed a number of these bills—and all of these bills, I believe. That's part of the America's Job Creators Plan that the House Republicans have put forward. But what we're doing today is we are going to be putting this JOBS Act; it's compromised of six bills that have been approved by the committee. Very quickly, those six bills are:

One, Reopening the American Capital Markets to Emerging Growth Compa-

nies Act. What that's going to do is it's going to allow temporary relief from some of the onerous SEC, or Securities and Exchange Commission, regulations that are on those small businesses.

Number two, the Access to Capital for Job Creators Act is going to allow small companies to raise capital by, again, removing some of those regulatory bans that are in there and that say that a small business can't use advertisements to go try to get and attract investors. Well, in an age of Internet and those kinds of things, that has a huge impact. It also brings along a concept that's been out there called crowdfunding.

That's the third bill, Entrepreneur Access to Credit Act. It is also going to ease the requirements that allow things like crowdfunding, people being able to go and spread this out on Facebook and Twitter and Internet and to their friends, to pull in those small-dollar investors that are going to be able to give them the capital that they need to launch that innovative idea.

Well, the fourth is the Small Company Capital Formation Act. It allows small businesses to go public by elevating the threshold that companies are exempt from \$5 million to \$50 million. That is going to be able to really, truly impact those small entrepreneurs and small business owners who are looking to take their business to the next step.

The fifth one is the Private Company Flexibility and Growth Act. That's expected to give small companies more room to grow before having to go public. Currently, there's a regulation that says you can have no more than 500 investors in your small company. This doubles that. This says you can have up to 1,000. We believe that that is also going to be able to allow those small businesses who are in transition, who are in that acquisition mode, who are in that growth mode, to be able to go up there and be successful.

Finally, number six, the Capital Expansion Act would increase the number of shareholders allowed to invest in a community bank from 500 to 2,000. Why would we include this part? Well, community banks really are the backbone of many of those small investors. They're the ones that they go to church with and shop at the grocery store with. They know their businesses. They may know that it's been a long-term relationship with that local community bank. By being able to expand the footprint of those community banks, we're going to be able to expand their lending power as well to those small businesses.

Well, it's interesting that here we actually have a bipartisan package of bills. This isn't just something that's the Republicans' ideas. In fact, in the Financial Services Committee, we had this as bipartisan votes. And really, it truly is going to help create a healthier environment for small businesses to hire and expand.

□ 1040

In fact, President Obama's administration released what's called a Statement of Administration Policy yesterday supporting this very act. We welcome his support and recognition of this bill's innovative solutions to ensure that small businesses can access capital needed to expand, hire, and invest. And again, that's because you, the American people, we here in the House of Representatives are looking for those real honest solutions.

Well, it's far time that we get government out of the way of small businesses as well, the engine of our economy. We need to focus on the real economy, and our priority has to be that focus.

According to the Kauffman Foundation, start-up companies created nearly 40 million jobs, 40 million jobs since 1980, and the Small Business Administration shows small businesses generate over 60 percent of all the new jobs created here in the U.S. Sixty percent of all those jobs that we are hoping to have in this country are created by these small businesses.

In fact, even the World Bank has a report. It's called "Doing Business," and it showed that the United States has fallen to 13th for the "ease of starting a business."

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this as a key to lasting, honest economic recovery. And we need—America needs—these real jobs, real solutions, and real results right now.

STOP MILITARY RAPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise again this morning to highlight the epidemic of rape and sexual assault in the military. I'm here to decry a code of dishonor that protects rapists and punishes victims. I'm here to call out an entrenched chain of command that squashes reports of sexual assault because they bring unwanted attention to the unit.

I stand here today, as I have 15 previous times, to tell the story of a U.S. servicemember who was raped by a fellow servicemember and then robbed of justice by an unfair system that puts too much power in the hands of a single commander.

The current system of injustice is shamefully unfair. The story I'm about to tell is of Airman First Class Jessica Nicole Hines of the United States Air Force, whose attempt for justice was snatched away by a single commander who was only on the job for 4 days and reversed a decision to move forward with a court-martial.

The Department of Defense estimates that more than 19,000 servicemembers were raped or sexually assaulted in 2010, yet only 13 percent of them actually reported the rape; and of those 13 percent, only 8 percent of the perpetrators were prosecuted and an even smaller number were convicted.