

in Maryland. President Johnson, as he landed his helicopter on what is now known as Presidential Field, used the dedication to mark the 50th anniversary of the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917, which provided Federal support for vocational schools and helped form separate State boards for vocational education.

President Johnson stated during his dedication, "Once we considered education a public expense. We know now that it is a public investment." I couldn't agree more.

The world we live in has never been more competitive. Other countries are making investments in their infrastructure, space agencies, and tax codes. We must do the same. We must have an education system that prepares our children for success in the 21st century, and we must do this with our community colleges and in conjunction with building and trade unions, beginning at vocational schools like Crossland Vocational Center.

From President Johnson's vision in 1967 to President Obama's commitment today, we have the future in our hands.

THE "REAL" VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, the original Violence Against Women Act was championed by then-Senator JOE BIDEN, who understood that all women must be protected from domestic abuse and violence. He understood that many women are afraid to come forward to report abuse. The Violence Against Women Act gave women a better chance to live their lives without that fear.

Again, the Senate has taken the lead. They already reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act and did it in a way that protects all women. It does not discriminate. It promises that America will stand by women; we will protect women, and we will prosecute their abusers.

The Republican bill that barely passed this House yesterday breaks our solemn promise. I call on leadership to allow a fair up-or-down vote on the "real" Violence Against Women Act and not some watered-down, weakened version. We owe it to our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, our friends, and to the memory of those we have lost to abuse.

THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, we have begun the debate on the NDAA, and we all know that this is the legislation that's going to set forth our policy when it comes to the military for this upcoming fiscal year.

You've heard some of my colleagues and how they feel about portions of the NDAA. All points well taken, but I ask that we look at it from a different perspective.

Let us look at the NDAA in light of what the President said in November of 2011. When he addressed APEC, he said, The 21st century is for the Pacific; and we are pivoting to the Asia Pacific. And what does that mean? He went on to say, How the 21st century does and how it's defined—whether it's one in conflict or one in controversy—is going to be determined by the Asia Pacific region.

So what is it that we need in the Asia Pacific region? We need our allies and trade partners to feel safe and confident. And guess what. They look to our military for that. That is also something that the NDAA critically addresses. How the military is in the 21st century and our peace in the Pacific will be determined by them.

DEFENSE BUDGET

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great concern over our defense budget. Our crushing national debt looms, yet we continue to ignore the issue.

The National Defense Authorization Act came in at \$8 billion over the Budget Control Act because the committee put back high-cost items that the Pentagon had not listed as their highest priority. How is that responsible spending? When the issue arises as to what to cut, what must make up that difference to make the numbers work, what will come first? Will our military personnel accounts be under the knife?

I do not believe that this is smart legislating, when we choose to ignore the current fiscal environment. And when we raised concerns on the plans to build a missile defense site on the east coast with money we do not have, the Rules Committee would not even allow it up for debate.

Shouldn't we be discussing these issues so that we can move forward, so that we can come to an agreement on how the Department of Defense and our servicemembers are best served?

DEBT CEILING "GROUNDHOG DAY"

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, it seems like Groundhog Day all over again.

Earlier this week, GOP leaders laid down a new gambit on the old debate over whether to acknowledge our Nation's financial obligations. Those leaders have already abandoned the deal we made on the last debt ceiling package and are shifting all the cuts to education, infrastructure, and other

vital domestic programs. Now they want another round of unsustainable cuts to these programs which will again bring us back to the brink of default.

We know the possible consequences: Market collapse, jobs lost, more than \$1 trillion added to the deficit every year, interest rates will rise. Just getting close to this cliff threatens the U.S. credit rating. We know that from recent experience.

The Speaker has said, no, he doesn't want to abandon the debt ceiling, he doesn't want to violate the debt ceiling, he doesn't want to let the country go into default. But isn't this the same kind of uncertainty that our Republican friends say they are most concerned about? One day it's, Well, we're not going to raise the debt ceiling. The next day, No, I didn't mean that.

We need certainty; we need stability, and we need to recognize this Nation's obligations.

□ 1230

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-110)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared on May 20, 1997, is to continue in effect beyond May 20, 2012.

The Burmese government has made progress in a number of areas including releasing hundreds of political prisoners, pursuing cease-fire talks with several armed ethnic groups, and pursuing a substantive dialogue with Burma's leading pro-democracy opposition party. The United States is committed to supporting Burma's reform effort, but the situation in Burma continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Burma has made important strides, but the political opening is nascent, and we continue to have concerns, including remaining political prisoners, ongoing conflict, and serious human rights abuses in ethnic areas. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary

to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma and to maintain in force the sanctions that respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 17, 2012.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4310, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 661 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 661

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4310) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes. No further general debate shall be in order.

SEC. 2. (a) In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Armed Services now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 112-22. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived.

(b) No amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution.

(c) Each amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(d) All points of order against amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The original proponent of an amendment included in such amendments en bloc may in-

sert a statement in the Congressional Record immediately before the disposition of the amendments en bloc.

SEC. 4. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I make a point of order against the consideration of the resolution. The resolution violates clause 9 of rule XXI by waiving that rule against consideration of amendment no. 1 by Mr. MCKEON.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Connecticut makes a point of order that the resolution violates clause 9(c) of rule XXI.

Under clause 9(c) of rule XXI, the gentleman from Connecticut and the gentleman from Utah each will control 10 minutes of debate on the question of consideration.

Following the debate, the Chair will put the question of consideration as follows: "Will the House now consider the resolution?"

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to speak on behalf of so many families of our men and women in service who are in need of our help. I'm proud to be joined on the floor this afternoon by my dear friend and colleague, WALTER JONES.

I think, Madam Speaker, what we have here is just simply—as the line from "Cool Hand Luke" says—a failure to communicate. These things can happen. But I know that there are honorable people on both sides who are in agreement with the plight of what happens to the Kenyon family, that I have pictured here. I use this picture and rise on their behalf because these are constituents of mine who brought to my attention a concern that while men and women deployed in our armed services—and in this case, Sergeant Major William Kenyon, deployed twice while his daughter, Rachel, deals with autism.

Autism is near epidemic in this country, and for military families especially, when someone is abroad in the service of their country, it's hard enough when two parents are at home to deal with autism, but it's even more complicated when a father or mother is away from their child. And so we heard from thousands of family members across this Nation, and in the process we learned how important this was.

What they seek is applied behavior analysis, which, unfortunately for them, there's a cap that's placed on

this. Imagine you're the mother at home. This loving mother, Rachel, with her daughter, Rachel Margaret, with caps imposed on them, can't afford or can't get the service.

This amendment is simple and straightforward and has been accepted by the committee. And what happened in the process—and this is why I say that there is miscommunication—is that when the agreed pay-for was asked to be modified, it indeed was, but there was a miscommunication between Rules and the committee.

I know in my heart that not only Mr. JONES, Mr. BISHOP, who is here, Mr. SESSIONS, who's part of the committee and the Caucus on Autism, and the number of like-minded people in both caucuses care deeply about these results.

As we approach Memorial Day, certainly we want the message to be to our men and women in the field that we will leave no soldier behind on the battlefield. We also have to know that we will leave no child behind at home.

This is a compelling case that the Kenyons make on behalf of all Americans—men and women who serve in our military—and one that has been underscored by my dear friend in his experience at Camp Lejeune.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina, WALTER JONES.

Mr. JONES. I thank the gentleman from Connecticut.

I want to say to both parties, he is exactly right. I have Camp Lejeune Marine Base in my district. The last 4 years I've met two different times with Marine husbands and wives and their children with autism. It is a serious problem. And as Mr. LARSON has said, this was fixed, but somewhere along the way the communication breaks down, like it does too often here in Washington.

□ 1240

As Mr. LARSON said, let's try to fix this problem today. Let's get it in the base bill. Let's send it over to the Senate on behalf of all of our men and women in uniform and the families who have children with autism.

Please, God, let us fix this for those families.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I thank my good friend, the gentleman from North Carolina, for his comments.

This is a pretty remarkable family. And about a month ago I was in New York City on the Intrepid where we heard from several military families, families in general that are dealing with the issue of autism. So many like-minded people in this caucus, and frankly in this Congress, understand the predicament that the Kenyons face.

Imagine, Sergeant Major Kenyon, having done two tours of duty in Afghanistan. I rise today on behalf of him and his daughter, who only ask of this Congress what I know everyone would like to deliver on. We can't let a miscommunication stand between their getting the relief that they and so many American families need.