

FRUSTRATION FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

(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 in frustration—frustrated with the lack of compassion for the middle class coming out of this body, frustrated with the lack of ideas and focus on job creation, and frustrated with the continued partisanship and division that have led to some of the lowest levels of confidence and trust for this body in its history.

America deserves better than this, Mr. Speaker. One hundred and sixty million middle class individuals deserve to have their payroll tax cut extended through the end of this year. Those who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own deserve to know that they will be able to continue to have a lifeline in the time of need. And seniors deserve to know that they can visit their doctor of choice without worrying whether or not Medicare will cover the visit. America and Americans don't deserve more wasted time.

Instead of a vote today on the debt ceiling, one that is partisan, divisive, and ultimately dead on arrival in the other Chamber, we should be focusing on jobs and creating jobs and protecting the middle class. Think of it: 61 percent of Americans always or usually live paycheck-to-paycheck, which has risen from 43 percent in 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I'm frustrated with the American people being also frustrated. It's time this body come together, put politics aside, and work on growing jobs.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, while the President campaigns on his "we can't wait" slogan, American workers are still asking, "Where are the jobs?" The President knows that 20,000 true shovel-ready American jobs can be created by approving construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.

Why is he rejecting 20,000 American jobs? Why is he not reducing our dependence upon Middle Eastern sources of oil? Why is he not increasing our energy security, which increases our national security? Why isn't he taking our debt crisis seriously by increasing revenue from taxpayers with American jobs? Why is he not listening to the American people?

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better from their President. He should focus on the 20,000 new jobs he could help create—not the one he wants to keep.

BE FAIR

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, as I was home, I was asked to explain the payroll tax extension, and as I did it, it was clear to me. The Republicans in the House are toying with the wellbeing of the working people, the seniors, and our most vulnerable.

Everyone will say we support a year's extension; the question is, how do we pay for it? The bipartisan Senate, only 10 voting "no," gave us the 2-month extension to do that negotiation. It is time to pass a year's extension.

People are watching this House. They want to be sure that we don't limit unemployment insurance benefits to those who only have a high school diploma because unemployment is an earned benefit for those who are unemployed through no fault of their own, and it would just not be fair.

Mr. Speaker, be fair. Do not make our seniors, our most vulnerable, and the middle class pay for the extension because that just would not be fair.

CONGRATULATING WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, on January 4, the West Virginia University Mountaineers football team faced the Clemson University Tigers in the prestigious Orange Bowl. Through an outstanding record-setting performance, the blue-collar work ethic of the West Virginia Mountaineers prevailed.

Eighty-four percent of the country had predicted that West Virginia would lose, but in case you missed it, the final score was 70-33. West Virginia's unheralded players proudly showed once again that as a team, they can dominate the best of schools on any given day, just like they've done defeating Georgia and Oklahoma in previous BCS bowl games.

Everyone in West Virginia should be proud of their State and their flagship university.

So let me end with this: For those Clemson supporters who still don't know where West Virginia is, look in your end zone.

□ 1230

COMBATING ONLINE PIRACY

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, today many Web sites across the Internet, from Reddit to Wikipedia, have blacked out their sites in protest of a bill before this body, the Stop Online Piracy Act, and its accompanying bill in the Senate, the PIPA Act. These bills threaten free discourse, free speech, and the

very infrastructure of the Internet, itself.

The Internet has brought this country and the world so much, not only in terms of the millions of jobs and economic productivity of American citizens, but far-reaching changes in terms of the Arab Spring and the Voice of Freedom desires across the world. SOPA and PIPA directly threaten the very Internet that has brought humanity great prosperity and greater peace.

I call upon my colleagues to join in solidarity with Internet users across the world in making sure that we tackle online piracy in a way that doesn't throw out the baby with the bathwater.

THE AMERICAN ECONOMY: PUT AMERICANS FIRST

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

Mr. TIPTON. I appreciate following my colleague from Colorado, who recognizes the importance of jobs. Unfortunately, the President of the United States has turned a blind eye to the needs of the American people.

In my own district in the State of Colorado, according to the Colorado Department of Labor, we have 17 counties that have unemployment in excess of 20 percent. We have an opportunity to create jobs in this country. The Keystone pipeline will help provide energy certainty for this country in a responsible way, and will create American jobs on American soil to be able to put American people back to work.

Today, we hear the President is throwing his hands up and turning his back on the American people. The people deserve better. We must get this economy moving. We must create those opportunities for jobs for the American people. This is our time. This is our opportunity, and we call upon the President to join us in putting Americans first.

THE MUHAMMAD ALI LEGACY ACT

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, Muhammad Ali's contributions to the world continue to transcend his achievements in the boxing ring.

Although he won three heavyweight championships, Muhammad has never believed in resolving differences through conflict. He is a man of peace and justice, of patience and grace—a visionary who changed the boxing world so he could change the entire world. In 2005, he founded the Muhammad Ali Center in my hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. The center is a cultural attraction and an international education hub, whose work is based on the core values by which Muhammad lives—respect, confidence, conviction, dedication, giving, and spirituality.

Yesterday, Muhammad turned 70. Today, I'm introducing the Muhammad

Ali Legacy Act to honor his values and to build upon his humanitarian work. The legislation establishes a grant program to promote global respect, understanding, and communication. The program will prepare leaders to contribute to the global society through peace-building and violence prevention, and it will teach young people how to combat the pull of radicalism.

By cosponsoring the Muhammad Ali Legacy Act, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this work and the man who has dedicated his life to it.

OUR TROOPS WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN

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

Mr. HUIZENG of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this time to come and report back to this body and to the people of the Second District about my very quick but very informative weekend trip to Afghanistan where I was able to be cautiously encouraged by the progress that the Afghan National Army is making there. Mainly, my goal was to go and say "thank you" to the men and women of all the different branches and to let them know that they will not be forgotten by me, by my constituents or by the rest of us here in this body.

I especially want to say "thank you" to our international partners—the Brits, the Aussies, the Germans, the Dutch, the Romanians—who are there with us along with many others who are pushing this effort forward. I also want to say "thank you" to the Embassy staff for their fine work and to the men and women of the Air National Guard, who are there sacrificing, especially those men and women from the 82nd Airborne, who hosted us in Kandahar. I also thank the marines at Camp Leatherneck in Helmand province.

I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, I now proudly carry this challenge coin given to me by a new friend, a sergeant major from Michigan. I carry this in my pocket every day, and I want them to know that they will not be forgotten.

TURKEY IS AMERICA'S ALLY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague in saying that our troops will not be forgotten. I continue to wear a yellow ribbon, as we're doing in our community in Houston, in welcoming home the troops from Iraq.

That's why I rise today—to challenge those who are in the midst of the Presidential campaign to be cautious about ill-conceived and ill-spoken words. When one of the candidates, the Governor of Texas, calls the leadership of Turkey "Islamic terrorists" and says

that Turkey is run by Islamic terrorists, I can assure you that those words are ill-conceived and inappropriate and absolutely wrong.

Turkey is one of the United States' strongest allies. It's a member of NATO, and it is seeking at this time membership in the European Union. There is constant dialogue between our country and Turkey. We are encouraging, of course, Turkey's diplomatic efforts to engage with Israel; and frankly, our troops have benefited from some of the needs taken care of through efforts by Turkey.

So I would just encourage that we not pour fuel and fire together and that we recognize Turkey and others of our allies live in very difficult areas. Therefore, we need to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. Check your facts. I don't believe the democratic country of Turkey is run by Islamic terrorists. You're wrong and it is inappropriate.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3261

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3261.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 515, ADDRESSING A MOTION TO PROCEED UNDER SECTION 3101A OF TITLE 31, UNITED STATES CODE

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 515 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 515

Resolved, That a motion to proceed with regard to a joint resolution of disapproval specified in subsection (a)(2) of section 3101A of title 31, United States Code—

(a) may be offered even if the joint resolution has not been reported to the House as contemplated by subsection (c)(3) of such section; and

(b) shall be in order only if offered by the Majority Leader or his designee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. The Budget Control Act of 2011, which was enacted into law on August 2, 2011, authorized increases in the administration's borrowing authority subject to a joint resolution of disapproval. The law provides for consideration of a joint resolution of disapproval with 2 hours of debate. Amendments to the joint resolution are not permitted under the law. H. Res. 515 allows the House to consider the resolution of disapproval in the House today, rather than tomorrow, as currently contemplated in the law. Simply put, we are moving up its consideration by 1 day to better accommodate the House floor schedule.

I rise today in support of this rule and the underlying resolution. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you posing two very, very important questions. The first is an issue of scale.

Where I come from in North Charleston, South Carolina, we have a little trouble digesting exactly what \$1.2 trillion really means. To help get my own head around the number \$1.2 trillion, I did a little factfinding. A last-minute flight from Charleston, South Carolina, to Washington, D.C., is about \$1,100. You could fly back and forth every single day for the next 3 million years in order to spend \$1.2 trillion. I'm not sure about anyone else in the Chamber, but there aren't too many things I'm planning to do for the next 3 million years.

Now that we have a little perspective on what \$1.2 trillion really means, the second question is a simple one: Why is it so hard to say we can't afford it? It's a simple question. Why is it so hard to say that we can't afford another \$1.2 trillion of debt?

I asked the same question on my Facebook. Here are two responses to the question:

What's not to understand? Just cut the darned budget just like the rest of us have to do.

We the people, on an individual level, have got to demand less government. It's called courage, the courage to just say "no."

□ 1240

So, Mr. Speaker, it's bad enough that through the national health care bill, the Democrats raised taxes on the middle class by \$500 billion and then they raised another half a trillion dollars for Medicare, but now they want to borrow \$1.2 trillion. From whom—it's a good question—from whom? Unborn Americans, unborn Americans and foreign nations in order to continue borrowing 42 cents on every dollar to spend in 2012.

It's just not right, Mr. Speaker. The American people will not stand for the blank check culture of the past and I, for one, stand with the American people.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and the underlying legislation. I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" on this rule and "yes" on the underlying bill.