

action and there are Democrats on this floor deeply grieved by this action. This is not the right thing to do. I would hope it would be reconsidered.

We have asked our Members to stay here, every one of them, knowing full well they wanted to go home just for a day to see their families.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope this decision would be reconsidered. I would hope that we would say to those citizens: We're here for you, one country, one nation.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the distinguished gentleman from Maryland said what had to be said, but I want to add that I've been in this House 20 years. We have seen droughts; we have seen storms; we have seen earthquakes; we have seen wildfires out west. This Congress has never, never failed to vote emergency appropriations for the aid of the beleaguered States. Never.

Hurricane Sandy struck on October 29, 8, 9 weeks ago. It's unprecedented that it should take so long, and yet we are now told that this House is going to adjourn sine die even though the Senate voted the aid, and we're going to do nothing? It's unprecedented. It is disgusting.

I can understand—I would not sympathize, but I could understand Members who might say the amount requested is too much, we should change it, we should quibble with it, we should debate it—fine. But to ignore it, to ignore the plight of millions of American citizens—unprecedented, disgusting, unworthy of the leadership of this House. They should reconsider or they should hang their heads in shame, Mr. Speaker.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let me lend my voice to those who previously spoke, particularly Mr. HOYER.

My district was devastated by the storm. I have thousands of people who do not have homes, who are living in temporary circumstances. I have municipalities that have expended millions of dollars in trying to do the cleanup. The fact of the matter is that if we don't take action tonight and we let this House adjourn without taking action on the supplemental for the hurricane, we will suffer a great deal.

Many of these towns are waiting for the money to come through to provide funding for municipal services, for emergency services. Many of them are completely broke at this time in terms of their ability to provide help for their residents. This is a very serious matter. This need is immediate. This can't wait until next week or next month.

There's absolutely no way that that can happen without having a tremendous negative impact on the residents of my district.

So I implore the Speaker, please reconsider this decision. It is just not possible for us to continue without having some relief from the Federal Government.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, as a Republican, I stand up here today to join my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and associate my words with the gentleman from Maryland.

Even though my district was not impacted by the devastation of Hurricane Sandy, it is right and just that we take up this bill. I ask our Speaker to reconsider the decision that has been made not to address this supplemental in this Congress. And I join my colleagues across the aisle to ask for that relief so that we can get to the people that need it the aid that they so are in need of on this day and this age.

□ 2330

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, let me join my colleagues in my sadness that we are here at 11:30 on the 1st of January with time running out. We just had a historic vote, a bipartisan vote, something that people didn't think we could do here, but we did do that.

And now we're letting this opportunity slip away when people's homes have been destroyed, when people's businesses have been destroyed, and when tens of thousands of people who have suffered over 9 weeks have nothing to show from this Congress. That we would walk away without doing our part to help the people suffering in New York, in New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania and other parts of the country is outrageous. It is simply outrageous.

We've done our part. We've worked with our colleagues. And I thank Mr. KING, and I thank Mr. REED and Mr. GRIMM for working with us. But it got us to no avail here. We needed to work to get this done for our constituency, and it has failed.

Mr. Speaker, please reconsider and bring this bill to the floor before we leave this Congress.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

(Mr. KING of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, tonight's action not to hold this vote on the supplemental is absolutely indefensible.

There are thousands and thousands of people throughout Long Island, Rockaway, Staten Island and New Jersey and throughout the Northeast who are homeless tonight, who are without jobs, and who have lost their business. This is absolutely indefensible.

The fact is every bit of documentation that was required by the leadership of this House was provided by Governor Cuomo, Governor Christie, and Mayor Bloomberg. Everybody played by the rules, except tonight, when the rug was pulled out from under us—absolutely inexcusable, absolutely indefensible.

We have a moral obligation to hold this vote. The people who are out of their homes, the people who are cold, the people who are without food, and the people who have lost their jobs don't have the time to wait. We cannot just walk away from our responsibilities.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. MEEKS. I'm sitting here in shock this evening. This is supposed to be the people's House. We are the United States House of Representatives. There are Americans that are suffering because of an act of nature. It is our obligation, not as Democrats, not as Republicans, but as Americans to make sure that we come to the aid of Americans. And that's why in this issue, Democrats and Republicans have worked together in any kind of crisis. Especially when it goes to natural disasters, we've always come together.

How can we, at this critical point, turn our backs on Americans? This is not supposed to happen here. It happens other places.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot turn our backs on our citizens who need us. Some will not have a place to stay for a long period of time. People have suffered, and people need food. We are Americans. This is what's supposed to separate us from everyone else. I am absolutely shocked.

Mr. Speaker, you have to reconsider.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I have been a Member of this body for 24 years, and I don't think I've ever been as angry as I am tonight. This is unconscionable. In the last debate, I got up, and I said that when President Truman campaigned, he campaigned against the 80th "do nothing" Congress, and that "do nothing" Congress passed three times as many bills as this current "do nothing Congress."

And isn't this a fitting way for this "do nothing" Congress to end, by doing

nothing to help the plight of millions of people who are suffering in all of our districts?

This is an absolute disgrace, and the Speaker should hang his head in shame for not allowing this to come up. This is, again, not a Republican or a Democratic issue. It's an American issue.

I have voted for aid for Katrina, for all places all over the country. And for us in the Northeast to be treated this way is absolutely unconscionable. I would ask the Speaker to reconsider, and I would tell you that I have never been angrier than I am right now. I'm usually proud of this House. Tonight, I am ashamed.

Shame on you, Mr. Speaker.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my voice to those who have spoken here tonight. We need to be there for all of those in need now after Hurricane Sandy.

I come from upstate New York, and this is a bipartisan effort. I just want to thank all my colleagues here in this House who helped my district after Hurricanes Irene and Lee. We had heartbreaking and devastating losses all across the region, and this body came together to provide the requisite help so that we could begin that long road to recovery.

And we need to be there for all of the American people who need help after storms. And now for Hurricane Sandy, we need to come together and ask the Speaker to reconsider to have this aid so that we can get this aid so that we can help this country get back up on track.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

(Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I represent the northeastern part of the State of New Jersey. Millions of New Jerseyans and millions of folks in New York, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut suffered devastating damage, about \$60 billion worth of damage, from a natural disaster. I, too, as my Republican and Democratic colleagues have said, have voted time after time for relief from natural disasters.

I urge the Speaker to reconsider this unconscionable, inexplicable refusal to let us vote on disaster relief for the millions who are still suffering in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

We provide lots of revenue for the United States of America. We're a donor State to the States who get a lot more Federal aid than we give to those in New Jersey and New York. We're due this.

But the question for the American people, Mr. Speaker, is: Why is the Speaker of the House doing this? What

is going on in his caucus or in his mind, Mr. Speaker, that would say we're not going to allow a discussion and a vote on aid that will address \$60 billion worth of damages to tens of millions of American citizens in the Northeast?

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I'm from New Orleans, and we weren't affected by Sandy. But we were great beneficiaries of this body coming together after Katrina and Rita to help us in a time of our greatest need. And it's appalling that this House can't come together when we have so many Americans in need.

One of the mottos of our service is "no man left behind." Well, tonight, Mr. Speaker, you are leaving millions of children, fathers, and mothers behind in the cold. And as we took one step closer to financial solvency and averted a national bankruptcy today, we just took one humongous leap towards a moral bankruptcy.

This House can't justify to ourselves, to our neighbors, to our pastors and to our priests that the actions we're taking today are right and that they follow in the motto of this great country.

Today is a very shameful day; but more than being shameful, the fact that we are not addressing the needs of the Sandy victims is not just shameful. It's sinful.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I do join my colleagues in asking that the Speaker reconsider. I want to thank Majority Leader ERIC CANTOR who has worked tirelessly through these many days right up to the last couple of minutes. Today, families lack housing, businesses are in shambles, and municipalities have been decimated; 346,000 housing units were damaged or destroyed in New Jersey with 22,000 units today uninhabitable. Approximately 100,000 new storm-related unemployment claims have been filed in New Jersey—100,000—and over 235,000 people have already registered with FEMA for individual assistance.

This is a dire crisis. People are hurting. I talk to people in my district who have been mal-affected, and they're looking to us for help, and they're looking for timely help. We need to pass this.

Please, Mr. Speaker, reconsider.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I truly feel betrayed this evening. I left this floor with an understanding that this bill was going to be brought to the floor.

One of Congress' most basic responsibilities is to help families, communities, and businesses recover. Yet Republicans refuse to act to help the victims of Sandy as expeditiously as we know we can.

We can pass this bill tomorrow with bipartisan support. Yet the Republicans will adjourn this session, allow this bill to be buried, and make sure that the people of our communities do not get the help that they need.

Disaster knows no boundaries. This body has acted with speed and compassion to help Americans throughout the country in disaster after disaster. Dysfunction, Mr. Speaker, in this Congress, shouldn't result in punishing victims of Sandy in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.

This is a sad day. I urge the majority to reconsider the decision to not put the supplemental on the floor, and I want to thank our leader, Mr. HOYER; our leader, Madam PELOSI; and all those who have been advocating for Sandy. We need to do this, and we need to do it before we adjourn.

□ 2340

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. GRIMM. It is with an extremely heavy heart that I stand here almost in disbelief and somewhat ashamed that I need to take to this floor.

What I'm thinking about are friends and neighbors that lost more than their homes, more than their worldly possessions, more than the businesses they've worked for their entire lives. They've lost family members. Now I have to go home and tell them their New Year's gift is that they're going to wait even longer for something they should have had over a month ago. It's inexcusable, and I am here tonight saying to myself for the first time that I'm not proud of the decision my team has made. It was the wrong decision.

I am going to be respectful and ask that the speaker reconsider his decision because it's not about politics. It's about human lives and human dignity, and I pray that he understands that.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. RANGEL. I know there are many people watching us late this night that truly don't believe that the House of Representatives can turn their back on any Americans and any part of this great Nation. But, Mr. Speaker, maybe