

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

you could help us by reminding the people that we have a switchboard down here. It's 202-225-3121.

It may not be able to do anything because the leadership just walked away without the courtesy of saying that they didn't have time to deal with the millions of people whose lives have been affected. Maybe, Mr. Speaker, if you can remind Americans who are just watching that maybe they should call and ask the Congress and ask the Speaker, Please, reconsider. We're going to be here tomorrow. We were told to be here tomorrow.

Whatever happened to make someone angry tonight, the people that are suffering as a result of this disaster, they're not responsible. Don't make them pay for it.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise not as a person from a State that was directly affected, because my State of Pennsylvania, while impacted, had no where near the devastation of that which I saw in New York, New Jersey, and parts of Connecticut.

In fact, I was in New York a week ago in an elevator and met a man who was telling me how happy he was that he finally had a chance to get out of the pickup truck that he had been sleeping in since the storm. He was hoping, for the first time, to get back to his home. His story is just one of hundreds of thousands through this devastated region.

We have stepped up for our neighbors in other parts of our country because these acts of nature are larger than any individual. We must be larger than that. Support the ability to give that support to those in this time of need.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, if you've ever had a natural disaster affect your area or if you have ever visited a natural disaster, be it in California, my home State, or on the east coast or in the Midwest, whether Iowa and the floods or Missouri in recent times, and spoke to and listened to the pain in the voices and saw the fright in the eyes of the people affected, you would wonder why we are not bringing this legislation to the floor. It isn't about a natural disaster; it's about a human experience.

When I was a very new Member of Congress in the late eighties, we were affected in California by the Loma Prieta earthquake. I bring that up because the very next day after the earthquake, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. Jamie Whitten, came to the floor of the House without anyone going to him or asking

him. He went to the floor of the House and said to the people of California, Congress will honor our responsibility to the American people. We will put forth what meets the needs of the people. We need to work together to get that done. It was such a comfort.

These were just words. It was such a comfort to the people just to hear that and to know that a chairman would act upon that. And for the past few weeks, I know that our colleagues from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, some in Pennsylvania and other surrounding areas, have been assuring their constituents and the people of their areas that the Federal Government would be there for them. It is a social compact. It is the most important tie they have to us.

Again, if you could hear their personal stories you will know they'll never be made whole. The rug has been pulled out from under them in terms of their housing, their belongings, their pictures, their memories, the character of their neighborhoods. The rug has been pulled out, and now tonight, is this Congress, this House of Representatives, going to pull the rug out again from them legislatively?

Just as a reminder, the Senate of the United States, in a bipartisan fashion, passed a \$60.4 billion assistance program for this natural disaster. It met the documented needs that were put forth by the people of the regions, by Governor Christie, by Governor Cuomo, by Governor Malloy, Governor Bloomberg, and so many others. So, documented need.

Again, it's not going to make everyone whole emotionally in their personal belongings and their memories and the rest, but it is a sign of respect that we cannot let what happened stand and that the resources will be there to try to return them to some sense of order and home and home life.

I don't know if any decision has been made. I hope not. I hope that as the leadership meets and considers a possible agenda for tomorrow, they would reconsider this because this goes deep into the hearts of people as they feel a sense of helplessness for something they had no responsibility for, a natural disaster.

Remember last year when we visited some of the places where homes were uprooted? It's earth, wind, and fire. When something like that happens, it's the wind, it's the water, it's the fire. It's every kind of thing assaulting people. Let's not be a part of that assault by putting doubts in their mind as to whether there is an appreciation for what they have lost, a respect for who they are, and honoring of our social compact that the government will be there when people are in need.

Again, I hearken back to Jamie Whitten. We never had a moment to fear that our needs would be met. Let's just make this night pass as if it never happened. Let's just replace the impression that is out there with the idea that tomorrow we will take up the Sen-

ate bill or take up the compromise that has been worked out to take this in two tranches. We cannot leave here doing nothing. That would be a disgrace.

□ 2350

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. PLATTS. As a retiring Member, I am proud to stand with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle from New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania to urge action on this important issue.

Over the past 2 years, I've often been frustrated by the actions of the Senate—or the inactions, I should say, of the Senate—where we would send bill after bill over there. Not that they would vote it down, but they just wouldn't vote. They wouldn't allow the will of the people to be expressed by a vote's being taken.

If we conclude this session of Congress at noon on Thursday of this week without voting on this important issue, we are denying the will of the people to be expressed. We're not allowing that to happen. I would contend of the will of the people of America that the one thing they're comfortable in spending their money on is in helping their fellow Americans, and there is great need in New Jersey, in New York and elsewhere.

We need to stand together, and I hope that we will come to the decision that it's never too late to do the right thing. The right thing is to allow the will of the people to be expressed, for this issue to be voted on and to let the Members express their opinions through their votes. I'm certain, if that's the case, if that happens, the will of the people will be to send the aid that is so badly needed.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. PAYNE. I am very dismayed by what I have heard tonight. Citizens of this Nation—any of us—would think at a time of natural disaster they could depend on their Congress, their Nation, the people of this country. Many times, we have come to the aid of citizens throughout this Nation. Why not now? What is different now? New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and parts of Pennsylvania have been devastated. My district not as much, but we still have issues there that need to be addressed.

Just the other day, I was on vacation with my children, and I got a call. There was a leak in the roof of my house. I did not realize there was about a 10-foot patch in my roof missing—from Sandy. I had the wherewithal to take care of it, but there are hundreds of thousands of residents in those States who need our help.