

place because it spends more money, it spends too much, it taxes too much, it borrows too much, and the American people know we cannot continue to do that, as was the case made very well by Senator RISCH.

I ask the Senator, does he have any other thoughts on what we need to be doing and how we need to be doing it?

Mr. RISCH. First of all, one of the things people have to accept—and it does not happen around here—is we do not have an income problem. We have a spending problem. All the money in the world would not get us to where you are able to solve every problem that comes down the pike and people want to resolve.

The President is urging that somebody is not paying their fair share. I wish he would hang more details on that. I wish some media person would ask him: Identify these groups for us, please. I think he is trying to create a national dialog as to who is or who is not paying their fair share. I think that might be appropriate.

I think when the American people started on this, they took the numbers and said: OK, if you take the first half of income earners from the lowest to the median, they are paying zero percent in taxes; the top 10 percent is paying 70 percent of all the money the government takes in, so let's have a dialog as to which of those two groups is paying their fair share.

There are some very good sociological reasons why the upper income pays more than the lower income, and I do not think anyone is going to argue with that.

But there is only so much we can do. I am not here defending the rich. The rich take care of themselves. They can move their capital wherever they want to move it. Indeed, we all know a good deal of it is moved offshore. There is \$2 trillion offshore right now that Americans—American businesses—want to bring back, but they will not bring it back because there is a war on capital in this country with the government trying to take the capital. We need to have a national dialogue about that. We need to land in the middle someplace.

Again, no one is going to defend the rich. They do not have to; the rich can take care of themselves. But the fact is, we have to come to the conclusion at some point that the resources of the American people are finite. Be it the rich, be it the poor, be it the middle class, their ability to pay for government is finite. There is a point at which we have to say wait instead of saying we are going to bring in more. We have to say we are going to have to prioritize the money we have and how we are going to spend it.

I think that is the way we get out of this situation, having an acceptance that there is a finite amount of money. It is too easy for us to borrow money. We have seen that in our own lives. We have seen friends of ours who have gone down to the bank and borrowed

money. If the money is too easy to borrow, they get into trouble, and they get into trouble relatively quickly.

Well, we have gotten into trouble because it is so easy for us to borrow. People still want to loan us money. People are still loaning us money every day. They lend us billions and billions. Indeed, if they did not, we would be out of business. So it is time for this national dialogue on where we are going to go.

As I said, the only way this is going to be resolved is if we compromise. Instead of talking about how much more we are going to spend, we need to do something we have not done since World War II; that is, compromise on how much we are going to cut.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, I anticipate Senator HELLER will probably seek the floor. But this concludes our colloquy.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ADALBERTO JOSE JORDAN TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Adalberto Jose Jordan, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BUDGET

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, our Nation is more than \$15 trillion in debt. The President's budget will increase government spending by \$47 trillion over the next decade. Included is the largest tax increase in American history, while our national debt increases to \$25.9 trillion over the next 10 years.

That is right. This budget proposes a massive tax increase, not as a plan to address the national debt but to fuel more reckless big government spending. Our Nation cannot afford to continue down this path. This reckless budget will not only saddle our children and grandchildren with massive government debt, but it proposes to raise taxes on the very businesses we need to create jobs.

How can this President and the majority party claim to be projobs when everything they are doing is antibusiness? This budget threatens our long-term economic security and places a greater burden on our children and grandchildren who will be forced to live and pay for Washington's inability to solve this problem.

While I believe the President's budget spends too much, borrows too much, and taxes too much, in the Senate the majority party has chosen to go to the other extreme. They have now refused to pass a budget for more than 1,000 days. It is our responsibility as legislators to develop a real, workable budget that will put our Nation back on the path of economic prosperity. Unfortunately, the majority simply has not taken this responsibility seriously.

Now, there are some who claim that spending caps established in the Budget Control Act constitute a budget. Quite frankly, I disagree. At a time when millions of Americans are out of work, this behavior in Washington continues to create great uncertainty and stifles economic growth.

No State has felt the failures of Washington more than the State of Nevada. My State continues to lead the Nation in unemployment, with more than 150,000 Nevadans looking for a job. With the so-called stimulus plans, Cash for Clunkers, and bailouts, Washington's response to our economic problems has been woefully inadequate and, in Nevada, a complete failure.

Here is the kind of story I hear all too often from my fellow Nevadans:

You may recall that my wife Pam and I own Straw Hat Pizza here in Carson. Pam has owned and operated the restaurant since May of 1985. Unfortunately, after 25 years of operation, today is our last day of being in business. We are forced to close our doors and likely file for bankruptcy due to the horrible economic situation in our state, and Carson City in particular. It's a true tragedy that a lifelong endeavor ends this way, and Pam feels that she is a failure.

I keep reminding her that the failure was not hers, but rather a failure of liberal elected officials to do what's right for our country and get out of the way, let free enterprise work its magic, and in turn let individuals flourish.

Members of Congress are willfully refusing to put our Nation on a path of long-term fiscal responsibility, creating greater uncertainty, and contributing to an anemic economy that is forcing small businesses to close their doors. As long as this is the case, Americans will continue to be frustrated and angry with Washington's inability to produce real results.

Our Nation's Capitol remains the only place in the country where difficult decisions are not made. Congress continually kicks the can down the road leaving tough fiscal decisions for future Congresses, future administrations, and worse, the next generation.

In light of these facts, is it any mystery why Congress is currently experiencing its worst approval ratings in history. I introduced the No Budget,

No Pay Act to force Congress to face reality, to take responsibility for running this country. This bipartisan legislation requires that the Senate and House of Representatives pass a budget and all appropriations bills by the beginning of each fiscal year. Failure to do so would result in the loss of pay until Congress takes its job seriously.

If Congress does not complete its constitutional duties, then its Members should not be paid. It is that simple. If we do not do our job, then we should not be paid. This concept resonates with the American people. I know this because I asked Nevadans during a series of telephone townhall meetings last year whether they supported a bill that would hold the pay of Members of Congress if they failed to pass a budget. More than 4,000 Nevadans participated in this poll, and 84 percent of them supported the No Budget, No Pay concept.

The budget is not a trivial piece of legislation or a campaign document. It is a roadmap that identifies goals, priorities, and establishes a multiyear fiscal course for the Nation. If done right it can provide stability and set expectations for where we want to take our Nation.

Budgeting is not a strange concept. It is something that is done at all levels of government, businesses large and small, and at every kitchen table across the country. It is past time for Congress to actually implement policies that would encourage the economic growth we need to ensure that workers can have good jobs and provide for their families.

While the No Budget, No Pay Act will not solve every problem in Washington, I sincerely believe it would be a step in the right direction. These essential functions of Congress are vital to fiscal responsibility and creating greater certainty so our job creators can flourish.

I was pleased to see reports of growth—small growth—in our economy. But lack of clarity provided by Washington continues to hamper economic growth. Back home, Nevadans continue to struggle. Small businesses are trying to survive while gridlock in Washington is making it harder for employers to know what to expect in the coming years. Establishing a responsible budget would be a good first step toward placing our Nation on a path for a more prosperous future.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TESTER). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EGYPT

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, some Senators are concerned that I may be delaying a vote in the Senate. This is not

true. I offered yesterday to vote on my amendment with 10 minutes of discussion. I have offered to vote immediately at any point in time.

I do think it is worth 10 minutes of our time and 10 minutes of America's time to discuss the plight of U.S. citizens in Egypt. I don't think 10 minutes is too much to ask to discuss, debate, and vote on whether Egypt should continue to get aid from us while detaining our citizens. Egypt is unlawfully preventing U.S. citizens from leaving that country. I don't think 10 minutes is too much to ask. We have sent over \$60 billion in aid to Egypt over the years, and they now hold 19 U.S. citizens virtually hostage.

Will we ever learn? Will we ever learn we can't buy friendship? Nineteen U.S. citizens who traveled to Egypt to help Egypt embrace democracy, to help Egypt to have an elective government, to enjoy the freedoms we enjoy and the success we enjoy having a democratic government, those Americans are now being prevented from leaving Egypt. Some of the prodemocracy workers are, in fact, seeking refuge in the U.S. Embassy.

This is a tragedy and something we should make a clear and unequivocal statement about. Does Egypt wish to be part of the civilized world or do they wish to descend into the lawlessness of the Third World? Some have argued we don't need these provisions, that there are already provisions in place to prevent Egypt from getting aid. Apparently, the Egyptians aren't listening, and they need to listen very clearly.

The amendment I proposed will end all aid to Egypt—economic and military. We give over \$1.5 billion to Egypt every year, and we cannot continue to give aid to a country that is illegally detaining our U.S. citizens.

Some have said the provisions we already have will take care of this. There are a couple problems. The Egyptians aren't hearing that message, so the message needs to be louder and more firm. We will not tolerate any country holding U.S. citizens as hostages or lawlessly. I think Egypt needs to know America means business, and that is what this debate is all about.

I don't think it is too much to ask the Senate to consider this proposal on Egypt; let's spend 10 minutes and let's have a vote to send a message to Egypt.

The question is, Will we ever learn? Will we ever learn we cannot buy friendship? Will we ever learn we cannot create Democrats out of authoritarians simply by buying them off? We have tried it. We have sent billions of dollars to Africa and asked authoritarians who rape and pillage and torture their own people, and we give them more money trying to convince them to be democratic. It doesn't work.

We need to have a firmer hand and say there will be no more aid to countries that detain U.S. citizens, that don't allow their citizens to vote, and to countries that torture and rape and pillage their population.

We have sent billions of dollars to Afghanistan, and it is an insult to Americans—particularly to American soldiers—that the President of Afghanistan has said if there were a war, he would side with Pakistan against the United States.

Will we ever learn? We send money—billions of dollars—to these countries, and apparently they still dislike us, disrespect us, and say they will side with our enemies.

There are now officials in Pakistan, which has gotten billions of dollars from us, saying Pakistan will side with Iran. Afghanistan is telling us they will side with Pakistan. So Pakistan will side with Iran, and what does the chump, the U.S. taxpayer, get? Send more money. No. 1, we don't even have the money. We are borrowing the money from China, and we are asked to send more money to people who disrespect us. I think that is an insult that should end.

Will we ever learn? Will we ever learn we can't buy friendship? Will we ever learn authoritarians, no matter how much money we give them, will not become democratic? Egypt must be put on notice.

The President is not leading on this issue. Just a few weeks ago, the President's Under Secretary of State, Robert Hormats, stated he wanted to make sure the administration assured the Egyptians that we want to provide them "more immediate benefits."

Do you think that maybe the President is sending the wrong message to the Egyptians? They are detaining 19 U.S. citizens and preventing them from coming home and U.S. citizens are holed up in our Embassy and the administration says we need to make sure the benefits get there immediately. The administration is bragging about sending more aid to Egypt.

Just yesterday, the President came out with a new budget. Guess what. There is \$1.5 billion of taxpayer money to be sent to Egypt. What kind of message are we sending them? I think the President is not leading the country and is not exemplifying what most Americans would want; that is, to send a clear and unequivocal message to Egypt that we will not tolerate this behavior or subsidize this behavior.

Think of it. The American taxpayer is being asked to subsidize a government that is detaining U.S. citizens. The American taxpayer is being asked to subsidize Pakistan, that says they would side with Iran. The American citizen, the American taxpayer, is being asked to subsidize Afghanistan, that said they would side with Pakistan against us. All the while we are running trillion-dollar deficits, borrowing this money, and bankrupting our country.

The Egyptians need to be sent a clear and unequivocal message. I think it is worth 10 minutes of the Senate's time to have a vote. I think it is worth it for the 19 U.S. citizens. If it were my child in Egypt working there for a prodemocracy group, I would want to think the