

Third, we can reduce expenditures in a manner that is sensitive to the fragile nature of our economic recovery. We must reduce expenditures in a way that recognizes we still have a long way to go in order to recover, and the meat-cleaver approach advocated by my friends on the other side of the aisle will not make the decision better; it will just make the situation worse.

□ 1040

Lastly, the Democratic approach, the balanced approach, stands up for important social safety net programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid that have nothing to do with the economic situation that we find ourselves in right now.

Why should we invest in the American economy?

Well, we don't have an immediate deficit crisis in America right now. We've cut \$2.5 trillion from our deficit over the last several years; and we're prepared, on this side of the aisle, to reasonably do more.

But don't overhype the problem. In fact, objective economists have indicated we don't have an immediate deficit problem in America right now. The Speaker of the House of Representatives has conceded that we don't have an immediate deficit crisis in America right now.

Just on Sunday, the chairman of the Budget Committee acknowledged that we don't have an immediate deficit crisis in America right now. That's why we're pursuing a balanced approach.

What we do have is a jobs crisis. Over the last 4 years, under the leadership of President Obama, we have come a long way, almost 6 million private sector jobs added. But we still, of course, have a long way to go.

Let's just look at the landscape. Corporate profits are way up. The stock market is way up. The productivity of the American worker is way up. Yet unemployment remains stubbornly high, and consumer demand remains stagnant.

That's why the Democratic approach is to invest in our economy, invest in education, invest in job training, invest in transportation and infrastructure, invest in research and development, invest in technology and innovation, invest in the things that will continue to make America a leader in the 21st century.

If you invest in our economy, then you will increase jobs for the American worker. If you increase the jobs available to the American worker, consumer demand will increase. If consumer demand increases, the economy will grow; and if the economy grows, the deficit will decline, and so, too, will our debt as a percentage of GDP.

This is decision time in America; and, clearly, the best decision that we can make is a balanced approach to dealing with our economic problems today.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 42 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Alisa Lasater Wailoo, Capitol Hill United Methodist Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

As we begin our work today, we pause to give thanks for: each world leader, especially Pope Francis beginning his tenure today, each political party, each Congressperson and their staff, each individual citizen they represent, and all their diverse gifts and disparate needs.

As we begin our work here today, we ask You to reveal: where we've become desensitized to the struggles of Your children, where we've let pride prevent holy possibilities, where we've chosen self-preservation over challenging partnerships.

As we begin our work here today, remind us: that Your limitless love overcomes our limitations, that You have a dream for Your globe that surpasses our wildest imaginations, that You can work through the minutia of detailed legislation and the grand vision of this Nation.

So as we begin our work today, we pray that we may do so ready to trust the lead of Your tender and tremendous love.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WENSTRUP led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BUDGET PLAN

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, the American people, regardless of political affiliation, expect elected leaders in Washington to offer a plan to reduce mounting deficits and revive our stagnant economy. House Republicans agree and have offered another responsible plan to balance the budget with responsible reforms.

Meanwhile, the best plan Senate Democrats can come up with continues to spend more money than we take in. They call for a balanced approach, and yet their budget never balances and includes \$1.5 trillion in new taxes. At least Senate Democrats have finally come around to offering a plan, after spending the last 4 years on the sidelines. The President has yet to submit his budget to Congress, already 6 weeks behind his legal deadline.

Budgets offer a picture of how government plans to steward taxpayer money. The Senate budget asks for higher taxes to fund higher spending, to finance ever-growing government.

My constituents are tired of the cavalier and unserious approach that has become all too common in Washington. I'm pleased that the House Republican majority continues to take its responsibilities seriously and produce budgets which balance, getting us back on track to fiscal sanity and a healthy economy.

ADDRESSING OUR UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it's now been 807 days since I arrived in Congress to address jobs, and the Republican leadership has still not allowed a single vote on serious legislation to address our unemployment crisis. More than 12 million American families do not have the luxury of waiting on this issue. They are devastated. There are five students in my

district who graduated from Harvard in 2011, and they're still looking for work. Think of the lost talent.

It's time for Congress to understand that unemployment is an urgent national crisis. It results in lost tax revenue, higher government expenditures, and unbearable levels of human suffering.

Mr. Speaker, our real deficit is unemployment. Let's eliminate this true deficit by bringing the President's American Jobs Act to the floor for a vote. It deserves a vote.

Mr. Speaker, our mantra should be: jobs, jobs, jobs.

HONORING MARTIN MUMAW III

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional Hoosier, dedicated public servant, and a good friend of mine, Martin Mumaw III—a man with a strong desire to help others and a man who has been a tremendous asset to the Eighth District of Indiana.

Martin has dedicated over 40 years of service to Indiana, the Eighth District, and Daviess County Republican Parties. He is currently serving his fourth term in elected office as Daviess County treasurer. He also has worked with many civic organizations and within the Republican Party as precinct committeeman, county chairman, and member of the Eighth District Central Committee.

His public service and civic engagement have been a means by which Martin has improved the lives of those around him. His dedication and service led former Indiana Governor Robert Orr to name him "Sagamore of the Wabash" in 1988, an award for distinguished public service.

While his public service has been tremendous, Martin is probably best known for his fellowship, kind heart, and sense of humility. He's never met an enemy and is the first to extend a helping hand.

I'm proud to stand here today to honor Martin's history of service, a history to which we all owe a debt of gratitude. God bless you, Martin Mumaw.

GOP BUDGET

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

Ms. CHU. Two thousand dollars; \$2,000 is what you will lose if the Republican PAUL RYAN budget goes through.

What does \$2,000 mean to you?

For a single mom, it could mean the difference between feeding her family or seeing her kids go hungry. For hard-working Americans, it could mean the car payment, or gas money, or prescription drug money that you need to pay each and every month. But to the GOP, \$2,000 is the amount they are tax-

ing middle-class families in their "new budget," the PAUL RYAN budget.

But not everybody has to pay more. The truth is that in this budget, if you're an oil company or corporation taking jobs overseas or a yacht owner, you have nothing to fear with the GOP budget. Your lifestyle is totally secure.

Once again, working families will pay more so the rich can pay less. For the sake of middle class Americans, we must oppose the Ryan budget.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TOM GRIFFIN

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, next to me is a photo of Doolittle Raider Tom Griffin's memorial service I recently attended in Green Township, Ohio. Tom Griffin was an inspiration to everyone who had the honor to know him. I had the great pleasure to meet with and talk to Tom many times over the years. We shared the podium quite often at Memorial Day services, for example, and at veterans' events all over the community.

Tom was a man who literally lived history. In those darkest early days of World War II, when Tom and 79 other Doolittle Raiders took off from the deck of the USS *Hornet*, they had no idea whether they would survive the day.

The American people back then got a much-needed boost when they learned of the heroics that took place that day over Japan. But Tom cringed at the word "hero." He felt that he was just doing what he'd been trained to do. And Tom Griffin went on to risk his life for his country for years following the Doolittle raid, culminating when he was shot down over Sicily and spent 22 months in a German POW camp.

Tom recently said, "What a life I've lived." May we all strive to live a fraction of the life that Tom Griffin did. May God bless Tom Griffin.

□ 1210

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS REPORT CARD FOR AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the American Society of Civil Engineers report card is out for the quality of America's infrastructure, and the results are a national disgrace and an embarrassment. America gets a D grade for the quality of its infrastructure.

According to the World Economic Forum, we're 24th in infrastructure quality. In 2001, we were No. 2, and we also had a budgetary surplus.

There are 69,000 structurally-deficient bridges in this Nation. Every second of every day, seven cars drive on a

bridge that is structurally deficient; but the Republican budget plan that will be voted on this week cuts infrastructure spending by 32 percent per capita over the next 10 years.

The United States Chamber of Commerce that represents the so-called job creators estimates that we will lose \$336 billion in economic growth over the next 5 years.

China spends 9 percent of its economy on infrastructure; Europe, 5 percent; the United States less than 3 percent.

Moreover, you just spent \$89 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Afghanistan, and \$69 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Iraq, and you propose to cut infrastructure spending per capita by 32 percent.

This is a national disgrace and embarrassment.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAJOR TOM GRIFFIN

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, in 2008, at 92 years old, Major Tom Griffin stood up at a Veterans Day event in Cincinnati, and he told his story as one of the Doolittle's Raiders that attacked Tokyo after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

Managing to bail out after the attack and making his way to China, Tom returned to the U.S., deployed once again, this time to Europe, and was a POW for almost 2 years. Tom Griffin never said, why me; but, rather, why not me?

Growing up in the Depression, Tom Griffin learned to put service above himself. Over the years, I saw Tom tend to other veterans as they aged, and he was there for their final separation from service on Earth.

Tom Griffin has completed his Earthly mission. However, the positive effects of his work will never perish. But are we worth the sacrifice made by Tom Griffin and so many others?

Will history show that we treasured the gift of freedom that he handed us?

We all need to commit to ensure that Tom Griffin's efforts on behalf of freedom will not have been in vain. May he be able to look down at us and say, well done.

Tom Griffin, you led a good life. You were a good man and the greatest of Americans. Thank you, and God bless you, Tom Griffin.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to recognize the contributions that women have made to our society throughout history. As this month marks both Women's History Month and the American