

know: Does the Ryan budget put Americans back to work or back on unemployment? The moms and dads I represent want to know: Does the Ryan budget invest in our children or does it ignore our outdated public schools? The small business owners I represent want to know: Does the Republican budget fix our rigged Tax Code or does it protect special interest loopholes? The retirees I represent want to know: Does this budget protect Medicare or does it abandon seniors in the face of skyrocketing health care costs?

The answer is: no. No, the Ryan budget will not put people back to work. No, it doesn't invest in our schools. No, it does not end special interest giveaways. No, it does not protect Medicare.

The Ryan Republican budget does not stand by our communities, and it doesn't invest in our future. That's why I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the Republican budget.

□ 1230

A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, we teach the importance of a balanced budget to our schoolchildren, such as those we had today, but apparently this basic financial principle is not good enough for our President, who says he won't even chase a balanced budget for the sake of balance.

Mr. Speaker, to help the President find a better reason, I would suggest we examine the economic damage caused by runaway public debt. In 2011, Greece, Italy, and Portugal each amassed public debt greater than 90 percent of their economic output. For Greece, the debt was a stunning 165 percent of their gross domestic product. All three countries are now undergoing wrenching austerity and suffering through prolonged recessions and unemployment.

What would this scenario look like for hardworking American families? The burden of unsustainable public debt and increased taxes would lead to higher interest rates on mortgages, car loans, and other credit. Ignoring this problem would bring on higher inflation, reducing the purchasing power of American families and inflicting the most pain on the poor and middle class.

Mr. Speaker, we must support our families. We must support a balanced budget.

RYAN BUDGET ATTACK ON NEVADA SOLAR PROJECT

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Republican budget

that's being debated this week and, in particular, to the unfair and inaccurate attack on a clean energy company that's located in my home State of Nevada. The Republican proposal refers to the Solar Reserve project as "an ill-fated venture."

Had he done his homework, Budget Committee Chairman RYAN would have discovered that this cutting-edge solar project is not ill-fated but, instead, has a long-term contract with our State's largest utility. It has created 450 good-paying jobs for Nevadans and is running on schedule and under budget.

The assertions being made in the Republican budget undermine the success of renewable energy programs, the jobs they create, and the investment they represent in our Nation's future energy needs.

In Las Vegas and across the country, Americans have made it clear that our budget should be a path forward for a strong middle class and a serious investment in the next generation of Americans.

Let's reject these mathematical gimmicks and unsubstantiated attacks and get to work on a real budget.

TRUST ACT

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share something that has been at my heart and will, in the coming days, be at the heart of my first bill introduced in the House. When Members of Congress break the law, they break trust: they break trust with their colleagues, hurting our ability to work together; they break trust with the American people who sent them here; and they break trust with the Constitution they swore to uphold.

I will be introducing the Trust Act. This bill is simple. It does not distinguish between types of offenses or the possible reasons behind them. It makes clear that a Member of Congress convicted of any felony will forfeit the taxpayer-funded portion of their pension.

If our servicemen and -women who lay their life on the line for our Nation lose their pension with a dishonorable discharge, should not Members of Congress be held to the same standard?

These days with public opinion of Congress at record lows and public debt at record highs, the Trust Act is a place to start in restoring the faith of the American people to their government. I am pleased to present this opportunity to my colleagues to restore trust to taxpayers, and I ask them to join me in this effort.

WASTE IN IRAQ

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice

of the nearly 5,000 coalition troops, including 28 of my brothers and sisters from Hawaii, soldiers like First Lieutenant Nainoa Hoe of Kailua or Sergeant Deyson Cariaga from Honolulu, whom I had the honor of serving with, who paid the ultimate price during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Today marks the 10th anniversary of the American invasion of Iraq. And while this war has largely faded from the headlines, we must take every opportunity to learn from our experiences. There are many lessons we should learn, one of the most egregious being the serious waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars, waste that was apparent to those of us on the ground as well as to outside experts. An alarming report this month by the special inspector general for Iraqi reconstruction also determined at least \$8 billion of our reconstruction funds have been wasted.

In Congress today, we have an opportunity to learn from that lesson. We have to pursue commonsense ways to balance our budget without hurting our middle class families, endangering our national security, or shortchanging our veterans. We must focus on our mission to serve the people who sent us here and honor our servicemembers and their families who have made immeasurable sacrifices in the service of our country.

BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I remember when \$1.4 trillion was a lot of money. 1.4 trillion dollars is the amount of money the Federal budget increases under the House Republican budget proposal—an average of \$140 billion a year, 40 percent over the decade. But listening to my House Democratic colleagues, you would believe our budget cuts spending to the bone. You would believe that our Federal Government can't survive on a penny less than a \$2.1 trillion increase.

Admittedly, that \$700 billion is a lot of money. It's 50 percent more than requested under the House Republican budget proposal. But it is important to remember that every penny of that \$700 billion is borrowed from the future of the young people growing up in this great country today.

Mr. Speaker, families all across America balance their budget. The Federal Government should balance its budget, too.

FEDERAL BUDGET

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

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, around the country this time of year, it is known as March Madness as the NCAA

basketball tournament is about to begin. But it is March madness in Washington as well, as the debate starts today over what kind of country we are going to leave to our children and grandchildren.

Later this afternoon, the House begins this conversation in earnest with a debate over the Federal budget. For the third year in a row, House Republicans will offer a budget that will balance, and this time we are putting forward a plan that will do so in 10 years. We do this by making careful cuts in spending and without raising your taxes.

Unfortunately, the President hasn't submitted his budget yet; although he was required by law to do so on February 4. And the proposed Senate budget raises taxes by \$1.5 trillion without ever balancing.

Mr. Speaker, the pathway to getting our country back on track begins today. Let's remember America's children and grandchildren as we engage in this important debate.

FORT HOOD

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, 3½ years ago, our Nation was viciously attacked when an Islamic extremist opened fire on our troops at Fort Hood. We lost 14 innocent Americans that day, 12 military servicemembers, one civilian, and an unborn child.

Since the attack, the Fort Hood community has seen and felt an outpouring of support from across the State of Texas and the Nation, but not from the Federal Government. Currently, the troops killed and wounded in this horrible attack are denied the treatment, benefits, and honors granted to soldiers who are attacked overseas in a declared combat zone. The Pentagon deems this attack "workplace violence" rather than "combat violence."

This is shameful, and Americans should be outraged by the administration's refusal to acknowledge this wrong. Our troops were attacked on U.S. soil in a blatant terrorist attack, and we owe it to these patriots and all who wear the uniform to provide for them. They willingly and admirably put their lives on the line every day to protect our freedom.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 705, the Fort Hood Victims and Families Benefits Protection Act, and start providing the needed assistance for the victims and families of this terrible tragedy. Our troops deserve better.

May God bless all who serve.

□ 1240

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 25, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 115, PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE 113TH CONGRESS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 122 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 122

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023. The first reading of the concurrent resolution shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution are waived. General debate shall not exceed four hours, with three hours of general debate confined to the congressional budget equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget and one hour of general debate on the subject of economic goals and policies equally divided and controlled by Representative Brady of Texas and Representative Carolyn Maloney of New York or their respective designees. After general debate the concurrent resolution shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The concurrent resolution shall be considered as read. No amendment shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, and shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. All points of order against such amendments are waived except that the adoption of an amendment in the nature of a substitute shall constitute the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment. After the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment and a final period of general debate, which shall not exceed 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget, the Committee shall rise and report the concurrent resolution to the House with such amendment as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution and amendments thereto to adoption without intervening motion except amendments offered by the chair of the Committee on the Budget pursuant to section 305(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to achieve mathematical consistency. The concurrent resolution shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question of its adoption.

SEC. 2. On any legislative day during the period from March 22, 2013, through April 8, 2013—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; (b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment; and (c) bills and resolutions introduced during the period addressed by this section shall be numbered, listed in the Congressional Record, and when printed shall bear the date of introduction, but may be referred by the Speaker at a later time.

SEC. 3. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 4. Each day during the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

SEC. 5. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 115) providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration; and (2) one motion to recommit which may not contain instructions.

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

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my good friend, the ranking member from New York, pending which time I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, Mr. Speaker, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, that was a mouthful as the Clerk was reading through this resolution, and it was an exciting mouthful. I'm not sure that folks actually were able to get from just the prose the excitement that is in this rule today.

What this rule provides for is two very important things. I'm going to take them in order of my personal passion, but they're both equally important. Number one, this rule provides that every single Member of this House—not just Republicans, not just Democrats, not just folks who are favored, not any particular category—but every single Member of this House who represents a constituency back home had an opportunity to submit their own budget for the United States of America.

So often, the problem in this town is not enough good ideas, Mr. Speaker.