

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, the President released his February 2014 budget proposal this morning, and now for the first time in over 4 years, the House and the Senate and the President all have submitted budget blueprints showing their priorities for getting our Nation's finances back in good standing.

In the House, our budget balances within 10 years by slowing the growth of government, responsibly and carefully reforming Federal spending, while strengthening and preserving Medicare and Social Security for future generations. And the House budget pays down the national debt to zero within our lifetimes.

Just 12 weeks ago, taxes went up on every American; yet, unfortunately, the President's plan raises taxes again on Americans while increasing spending, growing the size of government, and never, ever balancing.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want balance in Congress, and they want a balanced budget. As we go forward, let's do our job and control spending. Let's balance our own books, and let's stop the constant push for higher taxes on the American people.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded not to traffic the well while another Member is under recognition.

PROTECTING EARNED BENEFITS

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

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to set the record straight here with regard to Social Security and Medicare:

First of all, neither one of them are responsible for the debt and the current fiscal crisis that we find ourselves facing;

Secondly, neither of them are entitlements. They're earned benefits that people started paying for the very first day, the very first hour they went to work, and they have every right to expect those benefits;

Thirdly, there are some long-term problems with both, and they should and need to be fixed, but they can be done, clearly, without reducing the benefits.

Let me remind all of us that nothing has done more in this country to lift more people out of poverty than Social Security, and nothing has done more to add more life and more years to life than Medicare.

Mr. President, my fellow Members, we must stand up for Social Security and Medicare and protect those benefits going forward.

CONTROLLING GOVERNMENT SPENDING

(Mr. LATHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, this morning was a remarkable time. The President, even though it's 65 days late, came out with a budget today. And it is interesting to note that it is about \$600 billion of new taxes, after we've just had a \$620 billion tax increase on this economy, with the health care bill, about another \$1.2 trillion of new taxes and fees, and his budget proposal increases the size of government 50 percent over the next 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, I've been home for the last couple of weeks talking to constituents, and what they tell me is the fact that they want a balanced budget. The President's budget never gets to balance. Our budget does. They want a balanced budget. They want us to get control of spending in Washington because they know how it affects themselves, their families, and the future of this country.

The spending coupled with all of the new regulations, the health care mandates coming down on small businesses, they are stopping job growth. We have got to get some common sense in this House.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, sequestration has been in effect for 41 days, and already it is hurting American families. Just outside my district at Fort Knox, more than 5,000 civilian employees face at least 2 weeks of furlough because of these indiscriminate cuts in Federal spending.

A constituent of mine whose husband is a military technician for the Kentucky National Guard said her family will lose close to 20 percent of their income because of furloughs. He is one of at least 460 technicians in my district who will be furloughed.

I've talked with a school principal who's forced to lay off special education teachers because of sequestration. I've met with local social service organizations who are concerned that sequestration will eliminate entire Federal grant programs, jeopardizing jobs and essential services for Louisville families. And officials at the University of Louisville are worried that cuts to their research will interrupt lifesaving medical advances.

Mr. Speaker, sequestration was a threat, not a policy. That's why I voted against it. It now is clear that the real threat of sequestration is to middle class families who can least afford another recession. Congress should enact a budget that eliminates sequestration and spares even more American families the pain of this ill-advised austerity.

A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, we've all heard the statement "a day late and a dollar short." Well, the President is now 2 months late with his budget and billions of dollars short. It's clear, this President wants to balance the increase of government on the backs of the American people. He believes that government needs the resources more than hardworking Americans.

We put forward a budget to be able to protect our senior citizens, to be able to build for the future for our children. The real approach, when we're talking about balance, is to have a budget that truly balances.

This administration continues to grow government, continues to waste the hardworking dollars of the American taxpayer.

Let's stand up and put politics aside and stand up for the people of this country and put forward a budget that will truly put America back to work.

CREATING JOBS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today about the urgent need to create jobs and grow our economy, an issue that should be our number one focus right now. We are nearly a month and a half into the sequester, which has imposed painful cuts to defense, transportation, and education, and it's hurting our economy.

I'm disappointed the House Republican leadership chose the path of the sequester rather than working with House Democrats to stop these needless, across-the-board cuts. I'm also disappointed that House Republicans have chosen the politics of brinksmanship and government shutdowns rather than negotiate a compromise with Democrats.

We must stop politicizing every function of government from the debt ceiling to the budget. Creating jobs and strengthening our economy starts with the private sector and government working together to ensure confidence and investment across the country.

I encourage all of my colleagues to come together and focus on jobs. Let's work on legislation that helps our constituents obtain jobs and grows our economy.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, prescription drug abuse is killing more people in this country than car wrecks. It's hard to believe, but it sneaked up on us.

In my district 10 years ago, we started an organization called UNITE, Unlawful Narcotics Investigations, Treatment and Education, a holistic approach, and it works. We've put in jail about 4,000 pushers. We've got drug counselors in schools. We've got clubs in schools to entertain young people on nice things to do and the like, drug courts in every county. It works, but the problem persists.

Last week, I had the great honor and pleasure of helping host in Orlando, Florida, a drug summit on prescription drug abuse, almost a thousand people from 49 States and several foreign countries focusing on the problem. It's the second year we've done that, the second straight year. Mayor Bloomberg was there. The head of CDC was there, the head of FDA, heads of all sorts of Federal organizations, and we're determined to help wipe out this big killer in this country.

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CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF KEVIN KRIGGER

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, when the horses line up in Churchill Downs for the running of the Kentucky Derby next month, all eyes in the U.S. Virgin Islands will be on young Kevin Krigger, a jockey from my home island of St. Croix, who will be riding the horse, Goldencents.

We're all proud of Kevin, who grew up in LaVallee and attended Central High School. Kevin always wanted to be a jockey and grew up in the sport, riding horses on our beaches and country roads, challenging anyone he could to a race.

Before he was recruited by other Virgin Islanders who race in the States, he was well known on the tracks of St. Croix, St. Thomas, and Tortola as a talent to watch. He proved himself riding on the west coast, in particular, at Emerald Downs in Seattle, Washington, before his historic win on Saturday at the Santa Anita Derby.

On Saturday, Kevin Krigger became the first African American to win the Santa Anita Derby. Last fall, he was the first African American jockey to win a million dollar race in Louisiana's Delta Jackpot. If he rides Goldencents to victory in the Kentucky Derby next month, he will become the first African American to do so since 1902.

Mr. Speaker, Kevin Krigger's family and fans in the Virgin Islands will be cheering wildly on the first Saturday in May. I congratulate his mother, Averil Simmonds, and his father, Albert Krigger, Jr. We're all proud of this young man and his accomplishments, and wish him Godspeed in this and all of his future endeavors.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BUDGET

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, you can't spend more money than you bring in. That's a fairly simple concept, isn't it? But apparently not for Democrats who run the administration in Washington.

Under President Obama, we've had 4 years of government spending, each year spending over \$1 trillion more than we took in. That kind of spending is not only irresponsible, it's dangerous. It drives up the national debt, hurts families, neighbors, and our friends.

The time to rein in Washington spending is now, a concept so obvious it has become a cliche. House Republicans understand this. That's why we passed a responsible budget that keeps our taxes low and balances spending. That's more money in your family's pocket.

The President is going to introduce a budget that doesn't balance and tries to raise taxes again.

House Republicans know the way forward, a way forward to foster a healthier economy and help create jobs. It's time for the President to get serious about this issue as well.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 678, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SMALL CONDUIT HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL JOBS ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 140 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 140

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 bill (H.R. 678) to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal Reclamation law, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except: (1) those received for printing in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII dated at least one day before the day of consideration of the amendment; and (2) pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate. Each amendment so received may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or a designee and shall be considered as read if printed. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee

shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During the consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

This resolution provides for a modified open rule for the consideration of H.R. 678, the Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act, and provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources.

It makes in order all amendments which were preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and which otherwise comply with the rules of the House. So this modified open rule is very fair, it's a generous rule, and it will provide for a balanced and open debate on the merits of this particular bill.

Mr. Speaker, I'm also pleased to stand before the House and support this rule, as well as the underlying legislation, H.R. 678, which is the long title I gave earlier.

I appreciate the hard work of the bill's chief sponsor, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON), as well as the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS), and of the subcommittee of jurisdiction, Mr. McCLELLAN of California, for allowing this bill to move forward from the committee and continuing the Natural Resource Committee's record, under Chairman HASTINGS' leadership, of furthering several important pieces of legislation which, if enacted, will greatly improve our Nation's energy policies and provide a responsible, balanced approach to further domestic energy development.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I thank the gentleman from Utah for yielding me the customary 30 minutes and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, last Friday we received the news that the economy had only added 88,000 jobs in the month of March. The percentage of unemployed Americans dropped, but that is almost entirely because thousands of workers have given up looking for jobs at all.

This slowdown is a warning to Congress, but we won't take it, I feel sure, since we've pretty much ignored it. Unless this majority reverses the spending cuts contained in the sequester, the health of our economy is only getting worse.