

SHOUT OUT TO MEMPHIS MUSIC

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio mentioned the concert that the President hosted with PBS and the Grammys on Tuesday, and did a poor imitation, I guess, of Justin Timberlake on “(Sittin’ on) the Dock of the Bay.”

It was a phenomenal shout-out to Memphis music; and while there were a lot of great performers there, I want to put a particular shout-out to Ms. Cyndi Lauper because she’s special. She did another Otis Redding song, “Try a Little Tenderness,” and it was a phenomenal performance.

I would suggest to some of my colleagues on other side of the aisle that they ought to try a little tenderness on occasion.

Ms. Lauper is special. She did an album called “Memphis Blues” in 2010. It was one of the best albums of the year. It brought blues back. She had Memphians B.B. King and Ann Peebles and Charlie Musselwhite on the album. She’s a phenomenal lady, and I give a special shout-out to Cyndi Lauper and Memphis music.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, after decades of Washington irresponsibility, Americans are facing nearly \$17 trillion of debt and struggling through a deficit-driven unemployment crisis.

Unfortunately, this administration isn’t offering solutions. Yesterday, President Obama introduced a budget that never ever balances and will only make these problems worse. Two months after he missed the law’s deadline, President Obama introduced a reheated version of the same failed tax, borrow, and spend policies that created this mess to begin with. President Obama’s budget raises taxes by \$1.1 trillion, adds another \$8.2 trillion to the national debt, and doesn’t come close to addressing the long-term stability of our Nation’s safety net programs. Under the President’s plan, taxpayers can expect consequences of endless deficits and future downgrades.

House Republicans are offering a real solution. We’ve put forward a reasonable plan that actually balances the budget in 10 years, not because we are interested in spreadsheets and time-tables, but because Americans shouldn’t have to wait any longer for success and prosperity.

Let’s balance the budget and put our trust in hardworking Americans.

ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, elementary schools, high schools, movie theaters, universities, and shopping malls have all been scenes of horrific incidents where innocent lives were lost, along with our sense of security. After each tragedy, we hear sermons, speeches, console survivors and loved ones, but we in Congress have done little to change the way we address gun violence. I want to change that.

While massacres such as the one that occurred in Newtown draw significant attention to the issue of gun violence, it is a persistent problem throughout the Nation. According to a recent Johns Hopkins University survey, a solid majority of Americans, gun owners and nongun owners alike, support several initiatives to slow gun violence. For example, 89 percent of all respondents, and 75 percent of those identified as NRA members, support universal background checks for gun sales.

President Obama’s plan also calls for a ban on military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, like the kind that have been commonly used in so many of the mass shootings we have witnessed in the United States.

We can never prevent all crimes or gun violence, but we can work together to find ways to limit the loss of lives with commonsense solutions.

COMMON SENSE IN
COMPENSATION ACT

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, over the past 2 months, Federal official after Federal official has talked about the need to furlough employees due to sequestration, yet the government continues to hand out millions of dollars in bonuses to Federal employees. Seventy-five percent of senior executive service employees received bonuses, at an average of \$13,081. Regular, oftentimes blue-collar Federal workers are facing furloughs while senior employees are cashing in.

The FAA has been talking about 90-minute waits for passengers, but yet in fiscal year 2011, they handed out \$40,000 bonuses to more than 86 different employees. This is unacceptable, and the recent OMB guidelines don’t go far enough.

The Common Sense in Compensation Act bill that I am introducing today would prohibit those bonuses for the rest of fiscal year 2013 and cap them at a maximum of 5 percent of the salary going forward. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor my bill.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS OUR TRUE
DEFICIT

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it has now been 830 days since I arrived

in Congress, and the Republican leadership has still not allowed a single vote on serious legislation to address our unemployment crisis. I have news for my colleagues: unemployment is our true deficit.

By getting Americans trained and back to work, we can increase our tax base and stop our borrowing. By reducing unemployment, we can stop our national epidemic of foreclosures. Regardless of the assistance you receive, you cannot keep your home if you do not have a job. My State is the Nation’s foreclosure State, and my hometown, Miami, is the foreclosure capital.

Mr. Speaker, unemployment is destroying families and depressing property values. It is devastating our people and dragging down our recovery. Our mantra in this Congress should be: Jobs, jobs, jobs.

□ 1230

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress have just come back now from 2 weeks of recess being at home. And group after group after group that I spoke with talked about exactly the same thing that the previous speaker and others are talking about, and that is jobs, job creation, and the opportunity for our children, and sometimes our spouses, to get back into the jobs marketplace.

I remind the people of Dallas, Texas, that there’s really a tale of two States or two cities. One is Dallas, Texas, and the other is Chicago, Illinois, the State of Illinois vs. Texas.

Texas, over the last few years, has created more jobs than the other 49 States combined. The reason why we’ve done this is because we chose not to do the path that Illinois has done, and that is, raising taxes, lowering job expectations and performance, and the ability for people to want to invest in that State and their future.

Mr. Speaker, that’s exactly the same background and philosophy that our President and Democrats are having to run jobs out of America. I stand for the Texas model, lowering taxes and making sure we have jobs.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION
LEGISLATION

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I’m happy that, finally, we are moving forward on gun violence prevention legislation in this country. And I really applaud our Senators, JOE MANCHIN and PAT TOOMEY, for coming together, finally, in a bipartisan fashion to push forward legislation to expand background checks in gun shows and for online purchases.

This is a strong first step towards a meaningful solution to end gun violence in this country. And I hope the House, I hope we take this up soon, and pass this legislation.

But I think we need to do more. And if losing 20 young innocent lives doesn't shake us up to end this epidemic of gun violence that has plagued our Nation's neighborhoods, schools, and churches, then nothing will.

If we harden our hearts to the tears and the testimonies of the parents of Newtown here with us this week, then we're telling every family that has been shattered by a gun and every family that has been shattered by this kind of violence that, if we don't act, we're washing our hands of their agony.

You know, I hope that we still have a ban on military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, but this is a good first start.

THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, saving Medicare and Social Security for future generations is something Republicans and Democrats can and should agree on. The House Republican budget preserves Social Security and Medicare for current seniors and future generations by beginning the work of making incremental cost-saving reforms.

President Obama, however, sees the threat to Medicare and Social Security solvency as a chance to get more of what he wants. While Medicare and Social Security are going bankrupt, the President is refusing to consider reforms to save our senior safety nets unless he's allowed to raise taxes in exchange.

When it comes to tax increases, how quickly the President forgets. The President just got done raising taxes on the American people on January 1.

The American people send enough of their hard-earned money to Washington each year, and more should not be taken from them to enable further travails in misguided "stimulus."

Reforms to save Medicare and Social Security are critically important to future generations of Americans. They should be treated as more than bargaining chips by the President.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GENE SEGERBLOOM

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Gene Segerbloom, who recently passed away at the age of 94. A true public servant to the end, Gene served Nevada throughout her life, first as a high school teacher, then a Boulder City Councilman and, finally, as a four-term assemblywoman in the Nevada State

Legislature, beginning at the young age of 74.

While in the legislature, she worked hard to defend the rights of women and children, as well as to protect the environment and Nevada's beauty, which was painted by her husband, Cliff, in many beautiful watercolors.

The Segerbloom family has been a fixture in Nevada politics for four generations. Gene's legacy continues through her son, Tick, who is a State senator today. Tick put it perfectly when he said simply, "She loved Nevada. My mother always had a smile on her face, and she never had a bad day."

I miss her personally, and Nevada mourns her loss.

LET'S PUT OUR FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, over the past break, I had the chance to go home to the beautiful Georgia Ninth, where I'm born and raised. And one of the things that I find when I go back that is always refreshing is people seem to want to find answers. They find answers to the problems of their life. They want to know what is happening, and they do not understand inside-the-Beltway-thinking that simply adds more and more talk and more and more rhetoric.

Over the past week I have sat in two committees in which the government's own inspectors have found waste, have found duplication, have found fragmentation, in which everything is going in a way in which people back home don't understand.

Sometimes we come to this well and we say, People, we need to come together. Well, what we've got to understand is what we have just heard the last 2 weeks from people in our district is that they want to see action. They don't understand sequester when you've got all this money sitting out there that is being wasted and duplication in programs such as three programs to study catfish.

As I said in the committee the other day, I've fished for catfish all my life. I don't understand why we need that much inspection.

What we need now is action to cut the waste. We've proposed a balanced budget from the Republican perspective. We're going to continue to fight to put our fiscal house in order.

REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, the gun safety debate that we are having is not about politics or political means. It is about doing what's right by our families, protecting our children, and reducing the gun violence that persists in

the streets of my district every single day. If Congress has the power to prevent some of this senseless violence, then we have a moral obligation to do so.

Background checks are an absolute must. Criminals and the mentally ill should not be able to go online or walk into a gun show and walk away with a gun.

My bill, the Safer Neighborhoods Gun Buyback Act, provides a 25 percent markup on guns traded in, creating an incentive to get the most widely used guns in crimes off of our streets.

It's not complicated. These are commonsense reforms, and the victims of gun violence and their families deserve a vote.

So I urge my Republican colleagues to bring this legislation to the floor. We owe it to the American people, and New Jersey families should not have to wait any longer for commonsense reform.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USS "THRESHER" DISASTER

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. This week marks the 50th anniversary of a terrible submarine disaster. The USS *Thresher*, the first in a new class of subs designed to answer the Soviet threat in the Cold War, left the world's greatest shipyard, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, to conduct sea trials on April 10, 1963. Disaster struck, and America lost 129 of its finest men that day.

I honor these men who are on eternal patrol, and I honor their families, their wives and their children, some of whom never met their dads. Their sacrifices did lead to a sub safety program.

One of the surviving children wrote a song about his dad, and he said, "A man whose love is stronger than the tide that's taken you away."

Let's pause and remember these great men and their families.

STOP THE SENSELESS GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I'm here because of Angel. Angel was just an ordinary teenager. She loved basketball. She liked to hang out. In fact, that's all she was doing on a balmy night in West Palm Beach, just hanging out, when she was violently killed by a man, devoid of humanity, armed with a gun.

And so, instead of dressing Angel for her prom, her mother dressed her for her funeral. Instead of attending Angel's graduation, her family visited her gravesite.

Isn't it time to take the guns out of the hands of criminals and madmen?