

force action on those fronts, to compel agreement on a comprehensive budget plan along the lines of the 2010 Bowles-Simpson Commission proposal or the budget agreements that produced four years of surpluses under President Bill Clinton.

Congress failed to produce such a plan, however, because Republicans refused to consider increasing revenues or closing special-interest loopholes. Today's Republicans value their anti-tax ideology far more than the defense cuts that were supposed to drive them to the bargaining table. As sequestration approached, more and more of them said, "Bring it on."

Now that the cuts are coming, members are scrambling, sometimes to apply Band-Aids, sometimes to insist that the president spare programs they favor. One day there is an outcry about reduced meat inspections, on another an insistence that tuition benefits for military personnel be restored, on another that air-traffic controllers be kept on duty in little-used airports. The latest uproar started two days ago. Federal Aviation Administration furloughs of air traffic controllers at large airports kicked in, delaying flights across the country—at Charlotte Douglas International Airport 31.2 percent of flights were delayed. My North Carolina colleague, Rep. Renee Ellmers, recently introduced a bill to reverse Medicare cuts for cancer treatment, calling the cuts an "unintended consequence" of sequestration. In fact, the 2 percent cuts were an intended and easily anticipated consequence of sequestration.

Congress has now passed appropriations bills for the remainder of 2013, locking in place the sequestration spending levels. Scattered provisions mitigate specific sequestration impacts, but the result often is to shift the cuts to equally important areas that aren't in the news at the moment. Fort Bragg, adjacent to my district, now faces a furlough of civilian employees and a 34 percent cut in its operating budget. And sequestration comes on top of \$1 trillion in cuts to domestic programs already adopted. Together, these cuts have driven major disease research off a cliff—fewer than 10 percent of proposals to fund heart disease, cancer and diabetes research are being funded—and slowed road and bridge construction to a snail's pace.

I want to mitigate the harm as much as any member of Congress. But damage control is not a viable budget policy. Sequestration is a self-inflicted wound, unworthy of those who profess to govern. It is hypocritical and misleading, having imposed indiscriminate cuts on the administration, to pretend that the president can fix the problems with a flick of the wrist.

The remedy lies in a comprehensive budget agreement that puts revenues and all categories of spending on the table. The president's budget reflects such an approach, going beyond the comfort zone of many of his political allies. A similar offer was spurned by Speaker Boehner and House Republicans in December, and sequestration ensued. It is a failure of historic proportions and it must be reversed.

BAY COUNTY CENTENNIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STOCKMAN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the place that I am proud to call home, Bay County, Florida.

One hundred years ago today, Bay County was established by act of the

Florida Legislature, igniting a century of growth and opportunity for a close-knit community that still cherishes its rich history and traditions.

Bay County is located in the heart of northwest Florida, overlooking 41 miles of sugar-white sand beaches along the gulf coast's emerald green waters. With an additional 270 square miles occupied by pristine lakes, springs, streams, and the magnificent St. Andrews Bay, Bay County has become a national destination for tourists, families, fishermen, boaters, and water sports enthusiasts.

While Bay County's beaches and diverse inland areas attract over 8 million visitors each year, it is its people who live and work there that give this place a unique spirit. A small community of little more than 11,000 people in 1920, Bay County now embodies the drive of a diverse and growing population, totaling more than 170,000 people.

Bay County's workforce is among the best educated and most highly prepared in northwest Florida, with institutions of higher learning that rival any in the region. Its economic engine is fueled not by tourism alone, but also by thriving small businesses, nationally recognized companies, major manufacturers, and one of the newer airports in the United States. And, as the home of Tyndall Air Force Base, Naval Support Activity Panama City, and more than 22,000 veterans, Bay County enjoys a rich military history.

On this day, April 24, 2013, the day of Bay County's centennial, I am proud to join my friends, neighbors, my family, and local and county officials from Panama City, Panama City Beach, Lynn Haven, Springfield, Parker, Callaway, Mexico Beach, and the unincorporated areas of our county to celebrate our past and our bright future as we work hard to make Bay County a better place to live, work, and play.

SUDAN PEACE, SECURITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, crimes by the Government of Sudan against its own people in Darfur were just beginning. The world witnessed the burning of villages, poisoning of water, murder, rape, brutal assault, and the deliberate forced displacement of entire villages by violence. In 2004, these acts were characterized by the U.S. Government and Congress as genocide.

For the past 6 years, the International Criminal Court has indicted and issued arrest warrants for Sudan's high officials, military commanders, and militia proxies for multiple counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. In 2009 and 2010, President Omar al-Bashir himself was indicted by the ICC for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

International movements in support of the people of Darfur arose around the world, including a broad coalition here in the United States of religious, labor, peace, human rights, and student organizations calling for an end to the genocide in Darfur.

Between 2004 and 2007, Congress passed a series of bills limiting U.S. aid to Sudan and applying sanctions against Sudan for its atrocities in Darfur.

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In 2007, I visited refugee camps in eastern Chad filled with hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children who had fled the violence in Darfur. Each has a personal story of horror and violence. While I was there, the janjaweed crossed the border and attacked two villages inside Chad, displacing thousands of people in the desolate landscape and brutal heat of Sahel in the dry season. I witnessed with admiration the emergency response mobilized within hours by U.N. and international humanitarian agencies and NGOs to provide these newly homeless and traumatized people with water, food, shelter, immunizations, and medical care.

I will never forget those people, those children. And I will never forget the caring of highly professional humanitarian aid workers who provided lifesaving support to these refugees under difficult and dangerous conditions.

Khartoum continues its brutal campaign in Darfur, and there is no end in sight. Eric Reeves, who 10 years ago bravely brought to the world some of the very first photo and video images of the scorched-earth campaign taking place in Darfur, continues to document ongoing atrocities in the region. The primary targets continue to be civilians from African tribal groups surviving tenuously in the chaotic region. Eric is now on the faculty of Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, and I am very proud to be his Representative in Congress.

Today, the violence and abuses of Darfur have expanded across Sudan. This February, the U.N. reported that over 1.5 million people have been displaced or severely affected because of the violence in Darfur, Abyei, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile, including some 90,000 to 100,000 people newly displaced in Darfur.

For over 3 years, the Sudanese Government has carried out aerial bombing and a scorched-earth campaign against civilians in the states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile under the pretext of battling armed insurgencies that operate in the area. The government continues to deny the World Food Programme and other humanitarian and religious organizations access to South Kordofan and Blue Nile to help the thousands in desperate need of food and basic care. The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights has stated that abuses by the Government of Sudan in these States may constitute

war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Mr. Speaker, there comes a time when we have to say enough is enough. That is why Congressmen FRANK WOLF, MIKE CAPUANO, and I are reintroducing today the Sudan Peace, Security, and Accountability Act.

Khartoum's abuse of its own people is nationwide, and this bill focuses on Sudan as a whole. It requires a U.S. comprehensive strategy to end serious human rights violations in all of Sudan. It would provide genuine accountability for persons who have committed or assisted in serious human rights abuses. The bill supports the aspirations of the Sudanese people for peace and democratic reform. It encourages other governments and individuals to end support and aid to the Government of Sudan. And it reinvigorates genuinely comprehensive and sustainable peace efforts to end Sudan's multiple crises.

We must send a clear message to Khartoum that the time for change is now, that these abuses must stop, and that peace and genuine participation in the future of Sudan are rights that belong to all of the people of Sudan, no matter their race, ethnic or tribal background, religion, or political affiliation.

I urge all of my colleagues to join us on this legislation. It is past time to put an end to the pain, suffering, and genocide taking place in Sudan. It is time to support peace, security, and accountability.

SUDAN PEACE, SECURITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2013

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION

Purpose: The "Sudan Peace, Security and Accountability Act of 2013" would create a comprehensive U.S. strategy to end serious human rights violations in Sudan, provide genuine accountability for persons who have committed or assisted in serious human rights violations, support Sudanese aspiration for democratic reforms, encourage other governments and persons to end support of and assistance to the government of Sudan, and to reinvigorate genuinely comprehensive and sustainable peace efforts that can end Sudan's multiple crises.

Background: 2013 marks ten years from the start of crimes in Darfur that the U.S. government found to constitute genocide. Previous legislation was passed to address the genocide in Darfur, but abuses have continued and expanded to other areas of Sudan. Aerial bombardment of civilian areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile states and continued blocking of humanitarian relief by the Government of Sudan has led to over 900,000 Sudanese in need of humanitarian aid. Violence and aid restrictions also remain in Darfur where some 130,000 people have been newly displaced in the first months of 2013 alone. Reports by the UN and independent monitors have documented ongoing abuses by the Government of Sudan and those it supports that "may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity".

HIGHLIGHTS OF LEGISLATION:

Requires the Administration and all relevant agencies to work together and create a comprehensive strategic plan to end serious human rights violations, provide genuine accountability for crimes committed in Darfur

and other parts of Sudan, support the path for democratic transformation, and create peace throughout all of Sudan;

Demands free and unfettered access for international humanitarian aid and, absent such agreement, requires the Administration to seek other mechanisms to mitigate the effects of lack of such humanitarian aid;

Promotes free and transparent democratic reform in Sudan, including exploring technical support and funding for civil society and others seeking sustainable democratic change;

Increases engagement with other stakeholders with influence in Sudan;

Creates a broad-reaching sanctions regime to target any government or individuals whose support assists the Sudanese government in committing serious human rights violations or who fail to execute international arrest warrants against Sudanese officials;

Seeks more effective enforcement of existing sanctions including adequate resources and personnel and extends to all of Sudan existing sanctions regimes included in prior enacted legislation that were specific only for "Darfur"; and

Provides genuine accountability for crimes committed in Darfur and encourages other countries to expand international accountability efforts to include crimes committed in other regions in Sudan.

[From Reuters, Apr. 12, 2013]

SOME 50,000 FLEE SUDAN INTO CHAD AFTER DARFUR CLASHES

N'DJAMENA.—Some 50,000 Sudanese have fled into southeastern Chad in the past week following fresh tribal conflict in the restive Darfur region, U.N. and Chadian officials said on Friday.

Melissa Fleming, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, said the fighting had spread as each side received reinforcements from tribal allies and had become more violent, with entire villages being razed.

A total of 74,000 refugees had fled to Chad in the past two months, she said.

"People are arriving wounded and telling us their houses are destroyed and their villages completely burned down, with many people killed," she told a news conference in Geneva.

The refugees have fled to an arid area along the Chad, Sudan and Central African Republic border.

"The area they are arriving in is very remote. They left with nothing: there is no water, no food. They are sleeping under trees," Fleming said, adding there was a risk of disease.

General Moussa Haroun Tirgo, the governor of the Sila region of southeastern Chad where the refugees have fled, told Reuters that about 52 wounded had arrived since Thursday.

"The situation is worrying given that the zone does not have enough medical infrastructure," Tirgo said. "We're evaluating the needs with the help of NGOs but the situation is very serious."

Conflict has ravaged Sudan's western Darfur region since 2003 when mainly non-Arab rebels took up arms against the Arab-led government, accusing it of politically and economically marginalizing the region.

Violence has subsided from its peak in 2003 and 2004, but a surge has forced more than 130,000 people to flee their homes this year, according to the United Nations.

OUR NATION'S MISSILE DEFENSE ISN'T A BARGAINING CHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, once again, President Obama and his administration have offered up America's missile defense shield as a bargaining chip. Just the other week, Secretary of State John Kerry flew to China and offered to remove our recently added defenses in the Pacific to encourage them to counter the increasingly belligerent tone and actions by North Korea.

This is the same failed strategy that the administration offered up to the Russians in exchange for them engaging with Iran. If it failed to work then, how could it possibly work now?

At a time when our missile defense system is the only defense that we have to the threat from North Korea and the emerging threats from Iran, I am greatly concerned that our Nation's missile defense strategy is languishing. The end result is increased risk to the United States, increased cost to the taxpayer, and needless alienation of our allies.

Our enemies around the world have sought nuclear weapons and missile technology, yet the Obama administration has consistently reduced missile defense funding, abandoned previous Bush administration strategies that sought to respond to these emerging threats, and has compromised the implementation of current missile defense programs. Meanwhile, they have sought elusive Russian, and now Chinese, approval of the right of the United States to defend itself.

Most recently, the administration has abandoned its own missile defense strategy, known as the "phased adaptive approach," in favor of a stopgap measure of finally placing the additional ground-based missiles in Alaska that they had previously canceled. I welcome the administration finally completing the missile field which it has attempted to close. Although, this reveals that they have no plan to reasonably respond to the real and foreseeable threats from North Korea and Iran.

This announcement leaves the United States without an articulated missile defense strategy. This deficiency is compounded by the effects of the administration's clumsy handling of our relationship with our NATO allies. The abrupt cancellation of the Bush administration missile defense commitments, coupled with the announcement of the abandonment of the President's phased adaptive approach, have left our allies to stand alone in the face of domestic criticism and Russian opposition.

Our relationship with the Polish Government has yet to fully recover, and I am concerned that this administration may repeat the same relationship-straining affront with our Romanian allies. The President and his administration must address the damage done to our relationships with our NATO allies as a result of their failed missile defense strategies.

In addition, I am concerned that the administration fails to recognize the significance of the emerging threats