

In London (Donnie McClurkin), Show Up (John P. Kee), and many others.

Jordan has held senior executive positions at Tommy Boy, RCA and PolyGram record labels. In 1995, he was named Vice President of Black Music Marketing at Jive Records. At Jive, Jordan not only played a vital role in the label's success in urban music, he also helped to launch Verity Records and catapult it into the most successful gospel record label to date.

Throughout his career, Jordan has served as executive producer or has marketed or promoted over 50 award-winning CDs for artists ranging from Will Smith to Kirk Franklin. He worked with DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince (Will Smith) on their album *Parents Just Don't Understand*, which sold over four millions copies; *Salt N' Pepa* on their *Very Necessary* album, which sold over five million copies; Joe on his tops selling CDs *All That I Am*, which was a platinum selling album, and *My Name Is Joe*, which sold over three million copies; and three of Kelly's CDs—*R. Kelly*, *R. and TP2.Com*, which all sold more than three million copies.

A man of many interests and skills, in 2006 Jordan was one of only two African Americans to have ownership in an Indy 500 racecar (the other was NBA All-Star Carmelo Anthony). Jordan's car placed 12th in the race.

SEQUESTRATION AND THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the impacts that sequestration is having on our country. Although I did not support the decisions that led to sequestration, I remain committed to protecting the American people from the most harmful and potentially dangerous outcomes related to sequestration.

Sequestration simply means budget cuts, extraordinary budget cuts. Every moment we spend here in Washington should be spent working to improve the lives and opportunities for the American people. To that end, we should be focused on legislation to avert sequestration and improve our economy.

As our minority whip said here this morning, we've passed a budget off the floor of the House. It's the Ryan budget, and it protects sequestration. It wants all of the cuts to take place. On the Senate side, they've passed a budget that does away with the onerous sequestration budget cuts. Now we need a conference committee, simply meaning, we need both sides to come together and resolve their differences and move on with having a budget for this country. But the Republicans are saying "no."

And as it was mentioned by our minority whip, we're here in Washington, D.C., fiddling while Rome burns. We're not taking care of any real business. They will not bring a conference committee together to resolve these differences.

The simplest way to describe the sequester is to say that this was an avoidable, self-inflicted wound. A vocal

Republican opposition over the budget led to an agreement, which ultimately resulted in this sequestration decision.

Republican leadership has failed to bring to the floor this week measures to build our economy. We should be focused on salient measures designed to grow our economy and create jobs.

Republican leadership has also failed to fully address the issues arising from sequestration; although, it is clear that these cuts are arbitrary, indiscriminate, and far too blunt.

The American people may be aware of the obvious impacts of sequestration, such as the closing of national parks and the elimination of tours at the White House; however, Americans might not be aware of how sequestration can impact important parts of their lives and this economy.

Let's take air travel. Some of you have heard about what is going on in our airports. Imagine that you're trying to get to the airport to catch a flight to attend your daughter's wedding or graduation or to see about a sick relative, or you're a business traveler trying to meet a potential client for the first time. Well, sequestration could soon impact all of your travel plans.

Due to sequestration, the Federal Aviation Administration addressed the shortage in their funding by furloughing 47,200 employees and are expected to close certain airports. As a result, we're witnessing airplanes remaining on the tarmac for hours. The traveling public is expecting flight delays and cancellations at airports all across the country. The impact of sequestration is being felt by the thousands of travelers who utilize our airways every day. And, ladies and gentlemen, it's going to get worse.

Along with flight delays, airline travelers can expect increased wait times in airport security lines because the Transportation Security Administration has also had to furlough screening agents in response to sequestration.

I represent Los Angeles International Airport, which is the sixth busiest airport in the world and the third busiest airport in the United States. I understand the impact that flight delays will have, not only on those traveling for leisure, but also on the airline industry and business travelers.

These furloughs are problematic for airports of any size. The importance of the air traffic controllers at LAX and across the country cannot be understated. God forbid that there should be an accident that could have been averted. No explanation could possibly make amends for the resulting loss of life. This is simply unacceptable.

Ladies and gentlemen, I could talk about a lot more, national security, housing, health care, all of that, but the fact of the matter is this is unnecessary. I'm absolutely disappointed. I want this Congress to get on with the business of getting a budget and representing the people that sent them here to represent them.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Last week, we were all horrified to watch the bombings at the 117th Boston Marathon. We all applauded the valiant and successful efforts of law enforcement. Even so, the intelligence community who diligently worked with local law enforcement to ultimately capture a bombing suspect is not immune from the impacts of sequestration.

As a direct result of sequestration the National Intelligence Community could receive 4 billion dollars in cuts. Consider a recent statement from National Intelligence Director James Clapper. He stated "sequestration forces the intelligence community to decrease all intelligence actions and functions without regard to the impact on our mission. It is my judgment, as our nation's senior intelligence officer, that sequestration jeopardizes our nation's safety and security, and this jeopardy will increase over time."

We all watched on television as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, Hostage Rescue Team bravely apprehended the surviving Boston bombing suspect. It is at these moments the American public can witness the training and skill of FBI agents. Yet, even the FBI is not protected from sequestration.

Last month, FBI Director Robert Muller estimated that sequestration would decrease the FBI's budget by \$550 million for this fiscal year. As 60 percent of the FBI's budget pays for personnel, Director Muller anticipates that he will have to plan for the possibility of furloughs in the FBI.

According to Director Muller "any furlough would pose a risk to FBI operations particularly in the areas of counter terrorism and cyber."

I believe the American people understand the importance of protecting our national security, especially at a time when our nation faces threats both foreign and domestic. But again, due to sequestration the FBI and other members of the national intelligence community who play a vital role in protecting our nation may be given shorter hours or furloughed. These are the sort of insidious impacts that unfortunately, may not get anyone's attention until something tragic happens. There are real life consequences if the sequester is not lifted.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The effect on public health could be equally devastating. Sequestration could cut \$3.7 billion from funding for the Department of Health and Human Services. A myriad of programs will be negatively impacted by these cuts. For example, cuts to Community Health Centers could leave one million low-income and uninsured patients without basic health services.

If we do not act to end the effects of sequestration, there could be 45,000 fewer breast and cervical cancer screenings for low-income women. Further, nearly 485,000 seniors could lose access to disease prevention programs.

Even the gains we have made in HIV/AIDS awareness, screening, and care may also be hampered by sequestration. The anticipated cuts to HIV screening could result in 424,000 fewer HIV tests. Further, cuts to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program could leave 7,400 HIV/AIDS patients in need of treatment without life-saving AIDS medications. Finally, the National Institutes of Health would be cut by \$1.6 billion. That's \$1.6 billion less money available for cutting-edge research by scientists seeking cures for diseases like cancer, diabetes, and

Alzheimer's disease. These are only a handful of the unintended consequences of blind sequestration required cuts.

HOUSING

When it comes to housing—according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, these cuts come at a time when the number of low-income families in need of housing assistance has been rising substantially. Currently, there are long waiting lists for vouchers in almost every community, and homelessness remains a persistent problem.

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates that about 125,000 individuals and families, including elderly and disabled individuals, may lose assistance and be at risk of becoming homeless. These effects, while not immediate, would be devastating to the millions of low-income families who depend on these federal programs for shelter, a basic life necessity.

Sequestration cuts would also result in more than 100,000 formerly homeless people, including veterans, being removed from their current housing or emergency shelter programs, putting them at substantial risk of becoming homeless.

WIC AND HEAD START

The sequester could also have a negative impact on federally funded programs that provide services to women and children. Essential programs like Head Start and Early Head Start may have to turn away up to 70,000 children and families. These families rely on their services for quality childcare and parenting education initiatives.

Even Women, Infants and Children, WIC, that provides nutritious food, counseling on healthy eating, and health care referrals to low-income pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children under age 5 who are at nutritional risk faces cut. Secretary Tom Vilsack at the U.S. Department of Agriculture warned back in February that as a result of the sequester WIC will only be able to provide services for 600,000 of the 9 million low-income families currently served.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, sequestration has already taken a toll on families, businesses, and communities across the country. At a time when we are working to rebuild our economy, sequestration will cost American workers millions of dollars in lost wages and businesses billions of dollars in lost revenue.

Sequestration will have impacts that we might not consider here today. It will impact our national security efforts. It will impact our air travel and it will even impact the food we eat. We must work to avert these thoughtless cuts.

It is time for Republicans to stop refusing to move forward in our work to pass a budget that reflects our nation's values. It is time to do the right thing for the American people and lift the sequester.

SEQUESTER AND THE BUDGET

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the number of times that Congress has dropped the ball when it comes to our budget. But I'm also here to say that we can fix it.

Last year, Congress passed the only law I have ever seen that was designed to never be enforced. It's called sequestration.

Sequestration was actually designed to cut spending across the board in a way that was so offensive and so illogical that it could never survive as a law. It was a law that was meant to unify both sides of the aisle in an effort to develop a comprehensive deal to fix the economy and our deficit.

A responsible Congress could have stopped those ridiculous cuts. In fact, I agree with Senator MARK WARNER, who happens to be a former Governor, who had to balance his State of Virginia's budget, and I quote, he called this "stupid."

Mr. VAN HOLLEN, whom I work with on the Budget Committee, introduced commonsense legislation that would have responsibly reduced our deficit and ended the sequester. Unfortunately, the Republican majority refused to allow an up-or-down vote on this floor for that straightforward legislation. They doubled down on irresponsible policies based on an economic math that we now know is completely flawed.

It reminded me of a story. Two guys are in a lifeboat, and the one holding the oars says, "This is a bad situation, and one of us ain't gonna make it." It doesn't take a genius to figure out who the guy with the oars is talking about.

All of us are in this lifeboat together, and we know where the majority stands. They're not rowing for the middle class. They're just fighting to protect millionaires and make sure their special interests keep their tax breaks.

We know families, businesses, and communities continue to be hurt by what we do or don't do here in Washington. You've all seen it. FAA furloughs are causing flight delays, just one example of how we're continuing to hurt our economy.

We can do better. We can write a legitimate, measured budget for this country.

Mr. Speaker, return this House to regular order. Our House has a budget. The Senate has a budget. Let's go to conference and start negotiating a real American budget. The American people deserve some certainty, and they certainly deserve to know what priorities are important to their elected representatives.

For those watching at home, why is a conference committee so important? Because there are vast differences between the budgets currently on the table. A conference committee negotiates, in full view of the public, on principles and priorities that set funding for the next fiscal year.

Let's talk about this like my Republican colleagues' favorite thing to talk about. Let's talk about it like people do at the kitchen table.

If paychecks are cut or an unforeseen emergency happens in a family, families don't just pay 10 percent less on their mortgage or require 10 percent

less of the medications they depend on. Instead, we make smart cuts. We stop buying the things we don't need, but we don't stop educating our children. At least in my house, my wife and I don't decide what's important to us and ignore everyone else.

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That doesn't work in families, and it doesn't work in Washington. We sit down like adults—at least we should in Congress—around some kitchen table and figure out what we can buy and what we can't. We work through today's needs and plan for our future. We don't stop investing in our families. Like Senator WARNER said, that would be stupid.

The House and the Senate need to get around the table—any table. If you can't find a table here in the Capitol, come to my kitchen table. We must create an American budget that invests in job growth and educating our future workforce. We can make cuts—but cuts that make sense. Let's root out the waste, fraud, and abuse and cut tax loopholes to make sure everyone pays their fair share.

The American people have shown us what to do. Let's get around a table. Let's name conferees and show the people who sent us here that we can be responsible and keep the promise of the American Dream a reality.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have been honored to be elected at the State legislative level in California, I have been honored to be a council member, and now, since January of this year, I have been a Member of this body. And I'm very, very disappointed. In business, at home, and in elected office, I've never seen a situation so stagnant, so stale and damaging to the people who sent us here to represent them.

HONORING NAZARINE J. BELLARDINI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a constituent and World War II veteran, Nazarine J. Bellardini of Norwood, New York.

Mr. Bellardini served the Nation in the Air Force during World War II. After he was honorably discharged in 1948, he returned home to upstate New York and married his wife, Caroline, in 1950.

Like so many World War II veterans, Mr. Bellardini helped build the modern middle class. After the war, Mr. Bellardini worked at the 7UP Bottling Company in Utica, New York. In 1957, he was initially employed at the State University of New York at Potsdam in the mailroom.

Mr. Bellardini retired from Potsdam as the plant superintendent for heating, ventilation, and refrigeration. His behind-the-scenes work was vital to the success of the thousands of students who attended SUNY Potsdam during his tenure.