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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 22, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM MCCLINTOCK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

SERGEANT DWAYNE POLK, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS, LAWMAN

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, peace officers are the ones who diligently protect and serve the people. They are the first to respond to the call for help in time of trouble.

They go after the bad guys and provide us safe communities to live in. Some take extra jobs to make ends meet. They wear the badge of commitment over their heart. Sheriffs departments in Texas wear a star over their heart.

Today, peace officers in Houston, Texas, have placed a black band across their badges in honor of one of the fallen among their number. Sergeant Dwayne Polk, 47, of the Harris County Sheriff's Department, was killed about 3 a.m. Sunday morning. He was headed home in his uniform after working a contract assignment.

Sergeant Polk grew up in Houston, Texas, with his three sisters and his two brothers. His mother always encouraged him and the other kids to read the Bible.

He had worked for the sheriff for 16 years. Sheriff Adrian Garcia said:

It was tough talking to his son, but he will have many big brothers in the sheriff's department.

As Sergeant Polk was driving home that Sunday morning, his pickup truck was struck by Andres Munos-Munos, who ran a red light, never slowed down, and crashed into Polk. Polk was killed. Munos-Munos was drunk and had minor injuries.

Munos-Munos was charged with intoxication, manslaughter, and is in jail. He had been convicted last year for drunk driving and unlawfully carrying a pistol. He went to jail for 30 days for that offense. News reports also say Munos-Munos was in the country illegally.

Last weekend, while Polk was being killed in Texas, America's families of peace officers killed in the line of duty last year were here in D.C. Their fallen were honored by thousands of other officers from America on the west side of this Capitol.

Next year, about this time, Sergeant Dwayne Polk, of Harris County, Texas, and the sheriff's department will be remembered here as his name is read from the rollcall of the dead.

Citizens should appreciate the service of officers like Sergeant Polk. They do the work most of us would never do. They go into the worst places of our cities to root out evil that lives among

us. They sacrifice for us. The least we can do is appreciate them for wearing the star or the badge over their heart, protecting the rest of us.

They are the only thing that stands between us and the lawless. They are among the best we have. So we mourn the loss of Sergeant Polk, while thanking the good Lord such men as him ever lived.

And that's just the way it is.

THE EFFECTS OF SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as the sequester's effects continue to place our economy and national security at risk, the news that 650,000 civilian defense workers will be forced to take unpaid leave ought to alarm all Americans who are concerned about our military readiness and national security. These furloughs will affect thousands who live in my district and thousands who live in the districts of every Member here.

After Congress voted earlier this month to end furloughs for air traffic controllers that had caused flight delays, one would have expected there to be a unanimous outcry for the rest of the sequester to be replaced.

The best way to do that, of course, Mr. Speaker, is with a big and balanced agreement, but, instead, Republicans in this House don't seem interested.

It's not just Democrats who are taken aback by their silence. Republican Senator and former Presidential nominee of the Republican Party, JOHN MCCAIN, said on May 14, just a few days ago, about these furloughs for civilian defense employees:

Nobody seems to care. It's amazing. It's one of the most amazing things I've seen in the years I've been in the Senate.

So said JOHN MCCAIN.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Democrats continue to call for the sequester to be replaced with a balanced approach to deficits that restores fiscal discipline, preserves our ability to pay for our military readiness, and invests in a strong economy.

The sequester, on its own, is not a solution. It has been, however, Republican policy all along and is now in effect because they refuse to compromise in a bipartisan way to find a real solution.

If you go back to July of 2011 and look at the Republican offer of the Cut, Cap and Balance bill, you will see that sequestration is in there. It is the alternative that Republicans put forth as policy; 229 Republicans voted for that policy.

Well, they got what they wanted. On April 27, a report in *The Hill* said:

GOP leaders in the House said they have no plans to bring up broad legislation to replace sequestration, according to a leadership aide.

The men and women who are hard at work supporting our troops and protecting our Nation are set to be furloughed for 11 days this year—an unfair, unplanned, undeserved pay cut, while, frankly, the leadership of this House sits idly by and takes no action to replace the sequester.

The same goes for the other terrible effects sequestration could have: 70,000 eligible children kicked off Head Start; 10,000 teachers' jobs at risk; retirement disability claims delayed; 4 million fewer Meals on Wheels for seniors; 125,000 fewer rental assistance vouchers; 2,100 fewer food safety inspectors.

Surely, if those were on the floor for a vote, most of us would not vote for them; but that's what's happening as a result of the sequester.

We know, Mr. Speaker, what the Republican plan is for these defense cuts, to pass appropriation bills in the House that shift those cuts so that domestic programs, those education, Head Start, food safety that I've just mentioned, basic biomedical research, are cut more deeply than the parties agreed to in the Budget Control Act in 2011.

We also understand, Mr. Speaker, and everyone recognizes, that the domestic cuts Republicans want to impose, instead, couldn't even pass the House, let alone make it through the Senate or survive a certain veto.

So, again, Mr. Speaker, we have only one reasonable option before us, and that is to work together, to set our differences aside for the good of our country, and to achieve real compromise.

A big, balanced, bipartisan approach that replaces the entire sequester is the only way to protect our defense workers against these furloughs and end the uncertainty that they and their families are facing.

Let's have a vote, Mr. Speaker, on a balanced alternative, not another vote to repeal health care reform that's not going anywhere, not another vote to roll back the rights of workers, not another vote to strip away safety standards or environmental protections.

Let's stop wasting time and get to work on the most pressing challenge we face, and make the tough choices necessary to restore fiscal stability and invest in our economy and in our national security.

□ 1010

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS TOO LARGE AND HAS TOO MUCH CONTROL

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I find it would be irresponsible if I didn't mention this. It sounds like the lightbulb has come on for my colleague from Maryland. He now says that we should replace the sequester. I only wish that that lightbulb had come on when the House passed under Republican leadership—twice—legislation in the 112th Congress to replace the sequester with responsible spending cuts. So it looks like here we are again.

The recent admission by the IRS that it used its considerable authority and resources to target certain Americans because of their political affiliation should serve as an urgent warning to all Americans: the Federal Government is getting too large and has too much control. The simple truth is that when the government expands, personal liberty contracts.

I found it both stunning and revealing when the former adviser to President Obama, David Axelrod, said this:

Part of being President is there's so much beneath you that you can't know because the government is so vast.

For a member of this President's inner circle to admit that the Federal Government is so massive that it is essentially not practical for the chief executive to hold it accountable or for the President to effectively manage it is simply stunning. It also begs the question, if it is no longer possible for the President of the United States to oversee all the Federal agencies assigned to him and to hold them accountable, then who is? Is anyone?

As if the IRS scandal wasn't bad enough, there are other troubling stories that have arisen in the last few weeks. The Associated Press has said that the administration monitored hundreds of private phone calls between reporters. Is this really freedom of the press? Then we find that talking points given to the administration to tell the American people what happened on that fateful night in Benghazi were twisted, cut, turned, and edited to the point that the truth wound up on the cutting room floor in the White House, or at the State Department, or at the CIA, or at the Department of Defense. Actually, we don't even really know. But we're going to find out.

But we do know one very troubling thing: the Federal Government, with the IRS leading the way, is about to become exponentially larger and more

powerful because it's about to get into the health care business. ObamaCare will be fully implemented by next January. And, according to the Treasury Department's inspector general, the new health care law is the largest set of new tax law changes in 20 years.

The IRS will be hiring more bureaucrats to make sure Americans comply with these new laws and to oversee the flood of new personal information the Federal Government will be collecting on the American people. For example, under ObamaCare, the Federal Government will require insurance companies to report to the IRS the name, the address, the identification number, and type of policy purchased by every customer. And, if that weren't enough, the IRS will also require insurance companies to detail whether or not individuals purchased "government-approved health care" to ensure compliance with ObamaCare's individual mandate.

And, just yesterday, Lois Lerner, head of the IRS' Exempt Organizations Division, announced that she would be invoking the Fifth Amendment to protect herself from self-incrimination.

The truth is that our Federal Government is too big, too intrusive, and it's seeping into every aspect of our lives. It's taking away personal freedoms and collecting personal data. It has shown it can be manipulated to punish fellow Americans for their political beliefs, all at the expense of the American taxpayer.

And let me be clear: I'm not a no-regulation guy. We need commonsense regulations to ensure that our food is safe, our air and water are clean, our transportation system and infrastructure are sound, and that our financial transactions are secure, among other things. However, this administration has issued more than 10,000 regulations to date, including 106 major new regulations imposing \$46 billion in additional costs that are being paid for by the American people. This means more rules, more bureaucrats, bigger government, and less freedom.

Most troubling to me is that we were founded as a constitutional Republic, governed by the rule of law. But there are those in Washington who think we should be a Nation governed by the law of rules, where the President and his bureaucratic agencies make up the rules. This represents a fundamental break from our history and traditions dating back to our Founding Fathers. Our Founders placed their trust in the American people to elect their representatives to make the laws necessary to allow Americans to prosper.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the American people to consider America's government is getting too big and too out of control.

As members of the House, we serve at the pleasure of those we represent. The tens of thousands of bureaucrats implementing the more than 10,000 new regulations are accountable to no one, let alone the American people.