

not negotiate. Instead, one person in the Senate decides the fate of our government, of the American people, and it all comes down to HARRY REID.

When we look at this, we were here until 1:30 this morning passing the fourth proposal—and I agree with some of my colleagues, they're saying you're negotiating against yourself. But we wanted to go that extra mile to make sure that we put forth that final proposal that says: Can we not find some common ground?

Now Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues have made comparisons to the Taliban. You know, I don't find that there are any American citizens that deserve that kind of rhetoric and name-calling. It's time that we have an honest and open debate about the merits of this offer, the merits of this debate.

I come from North Carolina. And in North Carolina, we are one of two States that are the worst off of the side effects of ObamaCare. I just got off of a phone call from a government worker who I thought was going to give me a hard time because of the shutdown, and yet she and her husband said that they serve our Federal Government loyally right now. He has served in the military. And he says: You know what, we're standing with you, Mr. MEADOWS, because you're standing with the people.

I think that what we must do is never forget who we've been elected to represent and support. Because you know what, it's not about here in Washington, D.C. It is not about the people that write down the news headlines. It's about the people that we represent back home. And it's time that we start negotiating.

I find it unconscionable that we would send four different proposals to the Senate, and three of them they didn't even vote on. Why is that? Because they want to provide political cover. This quit being about the people and it started to be about politics. Why? Because HARRY thinks that he will have an advantage by shutting down the government, that they will blame those in the House. Well, I want to ask you, Mr. REID, how can you blame someone who has sent you four different proposals, and the best that you can do is just say no response?

I think it is high time that we get together and we work together for the common good. You know, there is not a better example of that than when we passed a Pay the Military Act just the other day in the event of a shutdown to make sure that our military men and women who serve this country faithfully and loyally are paid. And what did we find? Well, that wasn't politically expedient to ignore over in the Senate, so they passed that and it is now law.

It is time that we put the American people in the same focus. It's time that we come together and understand that there are hurting families back home—people that are losing their jobs, people

that are having to be forced to part-time, people that truly are starting to see their insurance go away. They can't keep their doctors anymore. It's high time that we start to address that. People expect a difference, and I'm committed to represent those people of western North Carolina.

I think the other part of it is key, and I'll close with this, Mr. Speaker: I'm willing to work around the clock so that we can find the best way to make sure that we put people back to work here in the government because they are families, too. I've got friends that I've met here that I can see, and I can honestly say that it is hurting me that HARRY REID is not thinking about them.

This is not about politics, it's about people. And it's about time that we come together and start to negotiate. I challenge the leader of the Senate to quit giving the cover votes. Because when we put forth something that says that Congress should not get a better deal than the American people, he should have taken it up.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, quite a day—first day of the government shutdown.

Americans come to Washington to see the Lincoln Memorial, visit the Smithsonian, go to the National Zoo. They go to New York to see the Statue of Liberty—"give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning for freedom." Go to national parks—the treasures of our country—closed. Services tapered down. No new patients at the National Institutes of Health. This should not be in America. Government shutdowns are wrong, and they're bad for our country.

Now, let's think a little bit about how we got here. We got here because the job of the Congress, according to the Constitution, is to come up with a budget and appropriate monies. The Republicans have had a budget, and the Democrats in the House have asked month after month after month after month to have a conference committee appointed so that we could work with the Senate and come up with a budget. And the Republicans—even though we had bills, letters, requests—no conference, no, no, no, no, no.

Now, beyond the last minute, beyond midnight last night, when all of their failed attempts to get the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act—and that's what it is, it's an affordable care act and a patient protection act—abolished; passed 3 years ago; 43rd attempt. Reality: it's not going to happen. It's the law of the land. And one day it will be seen, like Social Security and Medicare, as one of the three greatest laws ever passed by this Congress.

But they've tried everything they can to stop it: defund it, put it off a

year, come up with different prevarications. At the last minute after midnight they say: We want a conference committee. They can get a conference committee if they come with a clean continuing resolution.

And what's in their continuing resolution? A budget of \$986 billion. The Ryan figures were less. That's what they wanted. It's not what the Democrats wanted. The Democrats want a higher budget. This cuts 17 percent from Health and Human Services, programs the government offers to people in need, the safety net, people who more than ever need SNAP payments, need Meals on Wheels, need assistance. We accepted their lower figure for a continuing resolution. Even then it wasn't enough. They put it in all these proposals and abolished the health care bill.

You know, when the Republicans came to power about 3½ years ago, one of the things they told the American people: We're going to be different. We're not going to have bills that combine different subjects. You know all you people don't like that, these bills with different subjects that come back from the Senate or pass the House with amendments. We're not going to do that. Then they come with bills that are the budget, a continuing resolution, along with abolishing ObamaCare. That's against what they said they would do.

They said they were concerned about the debt, and they have offsets—no bill could pass without an offset; nothing could contribute to the deficit. Yet they brought a bill, a continuing resolution, but abolishing the medical device tax, costing the government \$30 billion. No offset.

In the history on ObamaCare, they have been cited by PolitiFact twice for having the governmental "Lie of the Year." One is they said there were death panels, panels that simply said that end-of-life discussions could be covered by government payments, a proposal that Republicans put forward—I believe with Senator GRASSLEY and a gentleman from Louisiana.

They also said it was a government takeover of health care. It's not a government takeover; it's insurance. It's the plan Mitt Romney put into effect, Bob Dole championed, Richard Nixon championed. It's a Republican plan. Most Democrats would have preferred a single payer, certainly a public option. They're not satisfied with that.

Now they're talking about a special deal that Congress people get. Shame on them. I, for one, don't take Federal insurance. I have a different program. But for the people in Congress and their staffers, because of an amendment Senator GRASSLEY put in the bill, they go into the exchanges and they leave their Federal health care plan they've been in. It was subsidized, like employers subsidize health care. Now it is no longer. It's unfortunate.

My time has run out. The government has run out.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, here we are, the government has shut down. It's amazing some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have political amnesia, sort of revisionist history. Let's just look at some of the facts.

The other side of the aisle, the Democrats, took over in 2008. We haven't had a Federal budget since 2008. The only way we got a budget this year from the United States Senate was a provision that the Republicans passed: "No budget, no pay." We had to force them by passing a law and embarrassing them to pass a budget.

How did we get in this situation? And this is a very critical financial situation for the United States of America, for all Americans. The shutdown is very unfortunate, but sometimes you have to take dramatic steps to move forward. We got in this situation because the other side—controlling the House, the Senate, and the White House in 2008—went on a spending binge unprecedented in the history of mankind in any government.

The first year they spent more than \$1.5 trillion more than we took in. From 2008 to current, we went from a \$9 trillion deficit to \$17 trillion; nearly doubled it in 5 years—every year spending out of control.

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We put the brakes on a bit. This is about funding the government for this next year that starts today.

In 2 weeks, we will reach the maximum limit of the indebtedness of the United States. We can't let the United States become a Greece or a deadbeat nation. But stop and think, they are going to ask for another trillion—\$900 billion in debt and deficit limits for the United States.

At some point, you have to say enough is enough. Now, I Googled last night to see my comments on the shutdown. I put in "Mica shutdown." Sometimes we forget what has happened.

In August of 2011, I chaired the Transportation Committee and came to the floor. The other side had controlled the House, the Senate and the White House, and they could not pass an FAA bill. They did 20 extensions costing millions and millions of dollars leaving the FAA—an important agency—in turmoil.

Finally, I said: Enough is enough. I sent over an extension to Mr. REID—it was a clean extension—except it cut out his \$3,720 per airline ticket subsidy. I am not kidding. In Nevada, one of his airports was getting \$3,720.

So rather than take that, we had a partial shutdown of the FAA. Recall that. Just Google it and you will see. I was called the "Shutdown King." For 2 weeks they pilloried me. They called me an "extortionist." They said I was a "one-man Tea Party terrorist." They

accused me of holding a gun to the Senate's head.

We did pass an FAA bill. We got an important part of our government working again.

I don't like to take those tough measures. We have tried to be reasonable. None of us on our side of the aisle voted for ObamaCare. The other side voted for it, and they told us that we could read the bill afterwards, and we would find out what is in it. We found out what is in it. We tried and we voted more than 40 times to repeal it. We tried in a reasonable fashion. We sent over three times proposals to do some of the things that even the President has done, and that is delaying mandates. He carved out exceptions for everybody, except for individuals.

So here we are. They don't want to compromise. They didn't show up for work on Sunday at all. They came in yesterday. How would you like to show up for work at 2 when things are going to heck in a handbasket and then reject a proposal?

We can't revise history. We have got to work together; we have got to get this done. We have offered a conference to sit down, and we can get the job done. Sometimes it is tough.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I take no pleasure in coming down to the House floor to talk about the government shutting down today.

I represent the metro Atlanta suburbs, Mr. Speaker; and we got a lot of CDC employees in my district. I know everybody has got important Federal functions going on in their district; but I will tell you what the CDC does is honest to goodness life and death business—serious, serious business. I want to see the CDC open, I want to see the CDC funded, I want to see the CDC making America proud, as it has year after year.

We have to look at how we got here today, Mr. Speaker. I have been in Congress 2½ years and the sad fact is in those 2½ years there has only been one time that I felt like the White House gave two hoots what my constituents cared about, just one time. That was in the debt ceiling debate in August of 2011. One time. It was a crisis circumstance, a crisis like a government shutdown—the only time the President came to knock on the door to say how do you think we ought to handle it, how do your 700,000 constituents believe we ought to handle it, how can we come together and make something happen? And we did. We came together, and we made a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I remember coming to this Chamber as a young man. I sat over there, I sat right over there in the gallery, Mr. Speaker. I looked over there on the House floor and there was absolutely no one here. I don't mean

not many people here, I mean absolutely no one here. I happened to have the misfortune of being here coming to see the Congress on a day when the Congress was not in session. There wasn't a thing going on.

Mr. Speaker, where we are now in 2013, where the President's new position is, I will never negotiate, period, never, ever; where the Senate's new position is we do not need to have conversations with the House, we have the President of the United States on our team and so we never need to negotiate, ever—Mr. Speaker, if that is what we are going to have here in America, not only should I take my Constitution and toss it out the door, we should just go ahead and turn the lights off altogether. We shouldn't have to have a young man sitting in the balcony wondering why the place is closed down. We should just go ahead and confess that the reason the House no longer meets is because the President no longer cares what the people's House has to say.

Mr. Speaker, I hear it over and over again: it's the law of the land; we should follow it. Now, I happened to hear it in the context of the President's health care bill. I don't hear it in the context of immigration law, for example, where the President just decides what it is that he wants to do, and he just goes out and implements it on his own. I don't hear it in the context of Federal drug law where the President decides, do you know what, these laws aren't as important as those laws so I'm just not going to enforce those anymore. And I don't hear it in the context of the President's health care bill, Mr. Speaker, for the literally thousands of exemptions he has already given to the law because he knows parts of it are unworkable.

Now, we have to confess, Mr. Speaker: America moves in fits and starts. The pendulum swings back and forth. I have to give the President credit for bringing the discussion of health care in this country to a new place. He absolutely did. He brought attention to folks who are uninsured who can't find insurance. Not only did he bring attention to it, Mr. Speaker, really we have created a majority of America that believes we ought to do something and solve that problem.

But instead of solving that problem, the President re-regulated America's entire health care industry. There is not a man or woman in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, there is not a man or woman representing Americans in the U.S. House of Representatives who doesn't have someone in their district who has lost their health insurance because of the President's health care bill.

If you like your health insurance, you can keep it, was the promise. Do you remember the promise, Mr. Speaker? If you like your health insurance, you can keep it. That promise hasn't just been broken, that promise has been virtually erased from America's