

You got exactly what you wanted. One of the key spokesmen of the Tea Party, one of our colleagues said, and I quote:

We're very excited. It's exactly what we wanted, and we got it.

The American people deserve better.

FAIRNESS

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today about fairness. Last night, I sent a letter to our Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives asking that my salary be withheld during this government shutdown.

Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress are no better than anyone else in the State of Missouri or the United States. Families in my district and across the country are facing furloughs because President Obama and the Senate Democrats refuse to work and cooperate with House Republicans to stop the negative impact ObamaCare will have on our economy and our health care system.

Senate leaders and President Obama must be willing to work with conservatives here in the House. While our government is shut down, I'm refusing my congressional salary because Members of Congress should not be treated any differently than any other American; and I urge every colleague and every Senator to do the same.

IMPACTS OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(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. Many years ago, during the last shutdown, my husband was a Federal employee, and we were impacted.

My husband used to leave the house every morning around 5:15, walk to the bus stop, like so many Federal employees, catch a bus at 5:30. And my son would have Cub Scouts maybe at 7, or some event that night, so he'd try to be home by quarter of 7.

And then one day, the government shut down. And I can't forget the sense of betrayal there. For all the hard work, for doing the people's work, this is what happened.

And now this is happening again today to so many. This is just wrong on every level.

The reason we have shut down the government is because they don't like the law. They don't like ObamaCare. They don't want all the people who have no insurance to get insurance today. They don't want people who have preexisting conditions now to be able to get health insurance.

Send us a clean bill. If you really want to work this out, send us a bill, take out the ObamaCare, take out the

part about birth control, take out all of your special stories there. Give us a clean bill, and we could pass it today.

But, instead, they want to hold the American government hostage.

THIS IS ABOUT MORE THAN OBAMACARE

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, the government is shut down today because Democrats like HARRY REID and the President refuse to negotiate. We, in the House, have sent not one, not two, not three, but four different spending proposals to the Senate. All were rejected without debate, and the Senate has refused to appoint conferees to even talk to us about it.

This is now about more than ObamaCare. This is now a fundamental debate about how we work in a divided Congress. Republicans must work with Democrats. The House must work with the Senate, and the Congress must work with the President.

During a Conference Call With Your Congressman last night that I hosted in the middle of all of this, Gloria Wilson from Corpus Christi said:

You make us feel like we have a voice.

Well, I am the voice of my constituents, and that's what we're doing here in the House. Compromise and coming together and doing what's right for the country is what the Founding Fathers intended when they set up two Houses of Congress and three branches of government.

We, in the House, are ready, willing, and able to negotiate with the President and the Senate. What we're not willing to do is give up our constitutional responsibility as guardians of America's purse and voices of our constituents.

LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, in Psalm 118:24 it says:

This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This is a day of rejoicing. The Republican wrecking ball that was supposed to take out ObamaCare has failed. It was a failed idea. It was a bad idea. And ObamaCare is going into effect today.

So rejoice. Everyone in this country now has a chance to have health insurance coverage. We've been waiting for 100 years since Teddy Roosevelt first proposed it. And finally, it's here.

Newt Gingrich said, If we allow Mrs. Clinton's health care plan to pass, the Democrats will be in for the next 60 years, like they were after we passed the Social Security Act of 1935.

Well, folks, that day is here. It's a glorious day. Rejoice. You can get your health insurance.

THE PLOT CONTINUES

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, almost before we finished our vote on the floor of the House calling for a conference committee to address concerns and try to face each other eye-to-eye, House-Senate, to come up with a solution, the phone lines were ringing and a robocall was sent out: while you were sleeping, your Member shut down the government.

This morning, I went to check and see how much further this plan had gone on, that purely said what was done for the last 2 weeks was political, to shut down the government, designed by the Senate Democrat leadership and the President of our United States.

I went to E-Verify. This is a computer program. E-Verify is unavailable due to the Federal Government shutdown. It's a computer.

The Panda Cam at the zoo was shut down. That's a camera. It's not a Federal employee.

Mr. Speaker, we offered fairness for the people of the United States, an option to make sure that we lived under the same plan that they do. The Senate rejected it.

We offered a compromise to go, simply, to a conference committee and discuss a plan of a way forward. It was rejected.

The plot continues. Political, not policy, not for the good of this country.

BIPARTISAN COOPERATION IS WHAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE EXPECT

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I associate myself with the remarks of Mr. McDERMOTT. It is a happy day for the American people because today people can begin enrolling in the Affordable Care Act.

Imagine if you were there when Social Security became the law of the land. Imagine if you were there when Medicare did—and two of our colleagues were, Mr. RANGEL and Mr. DINGELL.

But you are here when the third pillar of economic and health security for the American people is being put into place. It's historic: health care for all Americans, as a right, not just a privilege for the few. We'll talk more about it in the course of the day.

But I come to the floor to really address the issue of the government shutdown, an attempt to hold back the implementation of the Affordable Health Care Act. It didn't happen.

But what is happening is that our colleagues on the Republican side have

refused to accept their own suggestion. So I come, once again, to the floor to propose to the Speaker and our Republican colleagues an explicit offer to help get the votes for their number, 986. I think it's a number that's too low, but I do think with the 6 weeks that are built into it for us to come to the table to discuss a budget that reduces the deficit, that creates jobs, that puts people to work, that we can make progress.

Once again, an explicit offer to help you, Mr. Speaker, get those votes, because this shutdown, while it might be a joy to all of you who are opposed to government, is a luxury our country cannot afford.

Senator REID, leader of the Senate, has three times, at least three times, accepted your offer of 986. Once again, he will send it back to us so that we can take "yes" for an answer to a number that the Republicans have put forth, which the Democrats don't like because we already agreed with the Republicans on a number, a compromise number, 1,058, but are willing, in the interest of the American people, to accept that number as the basis for discussion and go to conference, really go to conference.

Well, I won't even go into my view of what happened last night. I will say, and remind, that 5 years and a couple of weeks ago, we had terrible news brought to us that said that our financial institutions were in meltdown.

House Democrats rallied to support President Bush to stop that meltdown from happening, even when Republicans rejected the proposal of their own President.

Bipartisan cooperation is what the American people expect; and when it is a question of a meltdown of a financial institution, the shutdown of our government, we have no choice but to cooperate with each other.

So in that spirit, I offer a hand of friendship to the Speaker, to our Republican colleagues, accepting their number as the basis for us to go forward to truly go to the table, as was suggested 6 months ago and many, many times in the time since then.

So I hope that, again, in the interest of the American people, the Republicans will take "yes" for an answer to their own proposal, and let us sit down and get to work for the American people.

Shutting down government should not be an option that is taken lightly by any of us here. Let's get it open. Let's get to work.

□ 1230

FAIRNESS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, the House continues to send the Senate options to end the current government

shutdown, but they refuse to appoint conferees. Every American family has to live within its means and overcome differences. Congress must do the same. I implore the Senate to take the very basic step of agreeing to a conference with the House to resolve our differences.

House Republicans remain committed to ending this government shutdown. It is unfair for the administration to grant a delay for big businesses, but not to individuals. It is unfair for the administration and Congress to exempt themselves from ObamaCare and to grant hundreds of other special waivers, but not allow a delay of the individual mandate for every ordinary American.

We must all live under the laws that we enact and provide fairness for the American people.

TAKE THE RESPONSIBLE COURSE

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, last night, as we were preparing to vote at an ungodly hour, I was receiving messages from friends from home who were concerned about the irresponsible nature of the leadership in this House in taking actions that would lead to the shutdown of our government.

One of the messages that was particularly important to me was from a dear friend who was waiting for midnight so that she could sign up for health care for her child. My friend Ellie's husband died at a very young age, unexpectedly, and left her alone with a young child. Her child has developmental issues and challenges, but he's done very, very well with a great deal of help, and he's gone off to college. She couldn't be more proud of him.

But the truth of the matter is she can't afford health insurance for her family. It's over a thousand dollars a month. She wrote to me:

I cannot wait until I can sign my family up for health care.

That's what today is about. We need to get the country back to work, open the government, and take the responsible course.

TIME FOR THE SENATE TO RESPOND

(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, it seems that only the American people can drag HARRY REID to the negotiating table. Back home, Hoosiers already know that Washington is fiscally broke; but today, after the Senate pushed this country into a shutdown, they also know that Congress is broken.

The House has sent HARRY REID and Senate Democrats four separate proposals to keep the government open, yet Senate Democrats have rejected each one of them without offering a single counterproposal. It's clear that President Obama and HARRY REID would rather shut the government down than even discuss the real-world consequences of ObamaCare.

The American people don't want the government to shut down and they don't want Washington to saddle them with ObamaCare's tax hikes, job losses, and higher premiums. My colleagues in the House have listened and acted. It's time for the Senate to respond.

I'm hopeful that the American people will continue to make their voices heard in Washington. It's time for Senate Democrats to end their politically motivated obstructionism. It's time for Senator REID and President Obama to come to the table and talk.

HARDER YET MAY BE THE FIGHT

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of talk about fairness. Let me tell you what's not fair.

It's not fair for a working mother with one child who works full-time at \$7.25 an hour and makes \$15,080 a year. That working mother works full-time and lives below the poverty line. The poverty line is \$15,180 a year. It is not fair for that working mother not to be able to afford health care for herself and for her child. This is the fairness that we are addressing.

This fight is all about working-class people, not about those who make millions and billions. One person in this country made \$3 billion. That's \$400 a second. It's not about this person who, by the way, paid 15 percent taxes. It's not about 1 percent raking in all of the wealth. It's about working-class people who can't get health care.

We cannot allow health care to become wealth care in the richest country in the world. One out of every 60 persons in this country is a millionaire. One out of every 11 households is worth more than a million dollars.

This is about working-class people. Harder yet may be the fight.

NO SPECIAL DEALS

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my constituents' frustration with Washington, D.C. After a long career in the private sector, I share their frustration. I have negotiated many contracts where I used to work. To negotiate a contract, you need two parties to come to the table.

Last night, the House sent a reasonable compromise to the Senate that