

I'm new here. I've only been here 9 months, but I've been following government, been a part of it for a long, long time. I'm a citizen who understands how our democracy is supposed to work; and I always believed that if a majority of both bodies agree on a particular position and the President agrees, that we can put a law through, sign it, and get on with the business.

The other side talks a lot about negotiating, having a conference committee. It is so interesting to me that back in April after both bodies, the House and the Senate, had adopted budget resolutions, that it was the Republican leadership that not only failed to, but refused to negotiate a budget resolution that could have avoided this whole thing in the first place. I had to wonder then—I was scratching my head—Why?

The charade of the last week or so has made it clear to me why: This was the intent all along, to shut down government and use that—the kindest term I can use, I suppose, is “leverage”; I've heard others use other terms—but to use that leverage to try to extract from the government that which the other side couldn't win legislatively, couldn't win at the ballot box, but will use every tool, including the closing of the Federal Government and now the threat to default on our Federal obligations, and wreck the economy in doing so.

The President agrees, the Senate agrees, a majority of the House agrees we should continue to operate government. We should adopt the continuing resolution at the number that the Republican leadership has supported all along and get back to providing the services that our country needs and provide stability back into our economy.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I was frankly disappointed and really perplexed yesterday when the President of the United States called a meeting in the White House and asked the Speaker of the House to come and meet. He asked the leader of the Democrats in the House to come and meet. He asked the majority leader in the Senate to meet. And at the same time, his pressman, Jay Carney, was on TV saying: We're not going to negotiate. When they ended the meeting, Senator REID and Ms. PELOSI said: We're not going to negotiate.

Mr. Speaker, I'm aware that this bill has been 50 years in the making. The Democrats have wanted to nationalize health care for 50 years. They found their political timing to do it when they controlled the House and the Senate, when President Obama was President, and with a total partisan vote, they got what they wanted—even with-

out even reading the bill. As Ms. PELOSI said: We're going to pass it and then we're going to read it. Yet Mr. Obama has said that House Republicans are on an ideological crusade, Mr. Speaker. His staff has referred to us as suicide bombers. Really?

You know, Mr. Speaker, we were all elected to serve our constituents. The President was, and so was I. So was the Speaker of the House. We don't have a monarch in this country, Mr. Speaker, we have a representative government, and our role is to listen and to respond to our constituents. They are writing us, they're emailing us constantly telling us their concerns. Let's hear about one from Cornelius, North Carolina:

Just received my new monthly premium from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North Carolina for 2014. With ObamaCare, my monthly cost now has tripled with more limited coverage. But what the heck, now I can get pregnant at 58 years old since I now have my mandatory maternity coverage. Please continue to push to stop this horrible mandate.

Here is another constituent from Huntersville, North Carolina:

We are currently paying \$270 per month for our high deductible health insurance policy through Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Today, we received our new rate for our family for 2014. A comparable plan now with Blue Cross/Blue Shield is \$1,037.02.

Mr. Speaker, this is deplorable. She goes on to write:

It was my understanding that under ObamaCare, premiums would go down. It was my understanding that this would be good for everyone. If ObamaCare is not good enough for government employees, like Members of Congress and the White House, why is it being delayed for certain corporations and labor unions who are asking for an exemption, and why can't I get out of this program?

She goes on to write:

I'm asking you to stand up for freedom, for choice, for the citizens of this country, to delay ObamaCare for at least a year, at the very minimum, or even better, to repeal the law in its entirety.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an ideological crusade; this is about meeting the needs of our constituents. There are other concerns out there with jobs. Companies aren't hiring full-time people. They are hiring part-time so they can stay under that threshold. The cost of this health care plan has gone up dramatically. The Congressional Budget Office says it is unsustainable. Why should we allow for corporations—there's 1,100 of them today, friends of the President—to receive a delay in ObamaCare, and yet ordinary Americans cannot do that?

That's why we proposed an amendment for an individual mandate deferment, that they would not be obligated at this time. We also said that Members of Congress should not receive the subsidy, nor should the White House staff, the President, and his Cabinet Secretaries. Why should we get something special that ordinary American people don't get? And yet these bills are lying on the desk of HARRY REID because he tabled them.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to bring sound reasoning to this process. Let's meet and negotiate, Mr. President and Senator REID.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, the American people are frustrated and angry that politicians in Washington can't even work together to keep the government open and operating. They're hearing a lot of rhetoric from the White House and Congress about who is to blame, but instead of trading accusations about who is to blame, the President and Congress should face the realities of divided government. The only way forward in divided government when there is a difference of opinion, when there's an impasse, is negotiation and compromise.

I come from the same congressional district that was once represented by Henry Clay, a great statesman and Speaker of the House. Clay, who was known as the “Great Compromiser,” knew that in divided government, the only way forward is through negotiation and compromise. Unfortunately, the President and the Senate majority leader continue to reject the model of Henry Clay. They continue to say that they will refuse to negotiate, refuse to compromise, refuse to work in a bipartisan way to achieve a middle ground and end this government shutdown.

Last night, the President hosted congressional leaders at the White House; but rather than offer to negotiate about how to reopen the government and fix some of the harmful effects of ObamaCare, the President reiterated his stubborn refusal to negotiate. Regrettably, the meeting was more political theater than a genuine effort to resolve this impasse.

In contrast, this House has offered to negotiate. The House has offered multiple compromises. Since September 20, the House has voted no less than 14 times to fund the government, to fund critical parts of the government, to fund the District of Columbia, to fund the National Institutes of Health, to fund our national parks, to fund our troops, to fund our veterans, and to end this government shutdown.

But instead of working with House Republicans to reopen the government, this administration directed barricades to be placed at the World War II Memorial, inconveniencing our Honor Flight veterans visiting our Nation's Capital. Instead of working with House Republicans to end the interruption of lifesaving clinical trials for cancer patients through the NIH, the Senate majority leader asked: Why would we want to do that?

Our friends on the other side of the aisle say they want to vote on a so-called clean CR. They insist that we ignore the voices of millions of our constituents who are flooding our offices

with calls asking for protection from ObamaCare. But the truth is this: The House has compromised over and over and over again, and the only demand that this House is making to the President and this Senate is that if you insist on ObamaCare, if you refuse to delay this law or fix its harmful features, then at least do away with your special deal. At least give up your special exemption and your special perk under this law. At least join with House Republicans in requiring all politicians in Washington, the President, members of the Cabinet, Members of Congress and their staff, to live under the same health care law that they have imposed on the American people. At least live by the laws you write.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by asking my colleagues on the other side of the aisle a simple question: If ObamaCare is such a great program for the American people, if it is so worth defending that you're willing to shut down the government to defend it, then why won't you participate in it? Think about it. If ObamaCare's exchanges are such a perfect solution to the problems of health care in our Nation, then why are Democrats in the White House and in Congress so intent on keeping their special exemption from them?

Mr. Speaker, it is wrong for politicians in Washington to shut down the government and vote against every bill to reopen the government just to keep their special deal that no other American gets under ObamaCare. So I call on the President and the Senate to end their stubborn refusal to negotiate, end their suborn refusal to compromise, end their stubborn refusal to open this government just so that they can keep their special exemption under ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, I say that, if ObamaCare is such a great law for the American people, then it should be good enough for President Obama and Members of Congress.

MARKET IMPACT OF SHUTDOWN AND DEFAULT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is important to look at the impact of the shutdown and a looming government default on our financial markets.

On the shutdown, if the SEC uses all of its rainy-day money, it will be forced to close some key market oversight functions. There would be little to no oversight of exchanges. And if there were more trading glitches like the one that closed NASDAQ last month, the SEC wouldn't be able to respond quickly and problems could quickly spiral out of control. This could irreparably damage confidence in the safety and integrity of U.S. financial markets, and I've always said that

markets run more on confidence than on capital.

On the debt ceiling, defaulting on Treasury bonds could be truly catastrophic. The assumption that Treasury bonds are risk free is the most fundamental assumption in the financial markets. It underpins the entire world's bond market. If Congress doesn't lift the debt ceiling and we default, Treasury bonds would, for the first time in our history, no longer be risk free. The value of bonds around the world would instantly fall, and billions of dollars of wealth would be destroyed in the blink of an eye. The dollar could even lose its status as the world's reserve currency.

We need to end the shutdown and lift the debt ceiling today. Jobs, growth, and the financial security of our country depend on it.

BRING CLEAN BUDGET TO THE FLOOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) for 2 minutes.

Mr. SARBANES. We beseech the Speaker of this House, JOHN BOEHNER, to bring a clean budget to the floor. That is the responsible thing to do. It is the democratic thing to do. Unfortunately, in a cynical power play that only serves to further inflame the wrath of the American people, the Speaker has erected a wall of obstructionism, a wall that, in truth, is separating the American people from their democracy.

So we say today to the Speaker: Mr. Speaker, open these gates of democracy. Mr. BOEHNER, tear down this wall. Tear down this wall of obstructionism. Tear down this wall, this wall that has been constructed on a foundation of reckless ideology. Tear down this wall of shame upon which the most extreme members of your caucus have so proudly, almost gleefully, inscribed their names in mockery of the will of the American people. Tear down this wall of obstructionism. Show that democracy can indeed flourish in this Chamber. Bring a clean budget to the floor. Today, bring it to the floor. It will pass, and we can put our government back to work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 3233. An act to extend the period during which Iraqis who were employed by the United States Government in Iraq may be granted special immigrant status and to temporarily increase the fee or surcharge for processing machine-readable nonimmigrant visas.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We give You thanks that You have given to us the goals of justice and the designs of freedom, and that these are our heritage, as Americans.

Bless the Members of the people's House with the understanding that it is their work to develop the strategies and the plans for achieving those goals, and the trust to know that Your Spirit is with them in their work.

Grace this assembly with the resolve to be faithful in its tasks, responsible in its actions, and fervent in its desire to serve a Nation which, so many hope, will live beyond the current difficulties into an ever-greater realization of both justice and freedom.

May all that is done today be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DOYLE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS WILL NOT BE BULLIED

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