

Connecticut that is laying off 2,000 people, the Pentagon contractor that will soon be laying off thousands of people, the tax deadline for those who haven't filed coming up on October 15, needing IRS workers to help them with issues that they have in terms of filing their tax forms, or even the Federal courts, which will be assessing on October 15 whether or not they can keep their doors open for the moving of justice in this Nation.

So I think it is extremely important that whatever is tying you up, whatever is keeping you from looking at the common good—and I would offer to say to the American people everyone knows that we are not Greece. We wish the best for the people of Greece. But America is the richest country in the world, \$4 trillion in economy, and a country that is looked to from all around the world.

Our economy is bigger than the European Union. That means countries like Spain, Germany, France, England, all those members who as well are our allies, but look to America—how shameful it is for someone to be held, and if you will, tied up by their own individual personal interests.

One would ask if the Founding Fathers, as imperfect as America was as she began, had come from the 13 Colonies and various districts, and probably interests, and had held to those specialized interests, would we have created a Nation that started out by saying we organize to create a more perfect Union? Albeit that there were groups of populations that did not have dignity and justice and citizenship at that time, something that I could look back at in bitterness, but I do not, because this is the greatest Nation in the world. But we are not showing ourselves that way.

It is not the truth to suggest that there are not enough voters, Members of Congress, that would vote right now today to open this government. It is something called a continuing resolution, but it's a bill that you put on the floor that has been passed already by Republicans and Democrats in the United States Senate.

This is not an idea of anyone over another person. Republican and Democratic Senators have already voted for this clean bill that we could vote on today. We have martial law. What that means—and my colleagues know what it means—is that you can put a bill on in just minutes.

So, rather than deciding amongst your children which ones to feed, which is the approach that my Republican friends in leadership are doing—squeezing out one little skinny bill versus another, squeezing out bills that leave out the FAA inspectors, leaving out ICE that deals with immigration, leaving out those who are dealing with young people who are undocumented, leaving out those who are helping young couples who want to get a home with mortgage processing. Who knows whose homes are going to be impacted

by the heavy rains that are up and down the east coast who may need Federal assistance? All of that is being dumbed down—lost—because we have not opened the government.

I come today, Mr. Speaker, to ask all of us to turn to our American card, and hold up the American card—I am an American—and vote to open this government right now.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Reverend Andrew Walton, Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

God of light and life, our prayer today is simple.

May the eternal Spirit that embraces all good deliver us from fear.

May the hearts, minds, and souls of the women and men of this House of Representatives elected to serve the people be released from fear into freedom.

In freedom, may they discover and rediscover what is already deep within themselves as humans created in divine image.

May every conversation and deliberation of this day and days to follow be filled with compassion for the millions of people whose lives and livelihoods are affected by these decisions, courage to compromise when necessary to sustain and provide for the well-being of all people, humility to let go of the ideological convictions when those convictions hinder the common good, and clear vision to see beyond narrow agendas toward a Nation filled with promise to be a beacon of light for all people.

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 Texas (Mr. BURGESS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURGESS 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.

TWO WEEKS, NO NEGOTIATIONS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago Friday, the President called Speaker BOEHNER out of the blue to announce he would not negotiate to avoid a shutdown. Since then, the President has made no plans to negotiate and has hosted one White House meeting to restate his position to not negotiate.

Clearly, this confirms the American people should look at the actions of all officials, not just words. Sadly, the President says he "has bent over backwards to work with the Republicans," but this is not accurate. This continues his actions different from his words. In February 2009, the President announced the deficit was unsustainable, but then he tripled it.

House Republicans voted four times to avoid a shutdown. House Republicans were sincere in their actions and now vote repeatedly to save jobs and help families.

It is my hope there will be good-faith negotiations and we can come together to avoid the upcoming unsustainable fiscal crisis by ending the shutdown and addressing the debt limit.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

IT IS NOT TIME TO FIGHT

(Ms. BONAMICI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, today is day 7 of an unnecessary and harmful government shutdown that is hurting millions of Americans. Speaker BOEHNER called it an "epic battle."

Hundreds of thousands are out of work, Federal contractors aren't getting paid, small businesses aren't getting loans, home purchases are on hold, nutrition programs are at risk, and Speaker BOEHNER has said, "It is time for us to stand and fight."

With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, this is the U.S. House of Representatives; it is not a battlefield. It is not time for us to fight; it is time for us to vote. Our constituents sent us here to get things done, to work together.

It is not time to fight; it is time to reopen the Federal Government. It is not time to fight; it is time to raise the debt ceiling and pay our bills. It is not time to fight; it is time to get the budget conference committee to work, something we have been asking for for months.

We can do it today, Mr. Speaker. It is not time to fight; it is time to vote. It

is not a surrender; it is a solution. It is not time to fight; it is time to vote.

THE PRESIDENT'S REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE IS HURTING OUR ECONOMY AND PUTTING OUR COUNTRY AT RISK

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues over the last 10 days have been through quite a bit. We sent four bills to the United States Senate to keep our government open and to protect the American people from the harmful effects of ObamaCare. Each of these requests was denied by the United States Senate.

After the fourth effort, we asked to go to conference and sit down and resolve our differences to keep the government open and to provide fairness to the American people under ObamaCare. The Senate Democrats once again said no.

The President had us all down to the White House last week, only to remind me that he was not going to negotiate over keeping the government open or over the looming need to increase the debt limit.

The President's refusal to negotiate is hurting our economy and putting our country at risk.

This morning, a senior White House official said that the President would rather default than to sit down and negotiate. Really? I am going to say this again: a senior White House staffer this morning said that the President would rather default on our debt than sit down and negotiate.

Now, the American people expect when their leaders have differences and we are in a time of crisis that we will sit down and at least have a conversation. Really, Mr. President, it is time to have that conversation before our economy is put further at risk.

TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY OF WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, today, as Congress focuses on the government shutdown, our Nation quietly marks the close of our 12th year at war in Afghanistan.

While the country talks about a Federal Government shutdown and the divisive partisan politics that are standing in the way of progress, the harsh reality and hell that is war seem a distant memory for most. Meanwhile, we have over 54,000 troops serving in Afghanistan today. To all of our troops, thank you for your service and the sacrifices that you and your families have endured.

Two thousand one hundred and forty-three U.S. servicemembers have been killed in Afghanistan to date, leaving behind families who will never again

feel their warm embrace. Let us honor those who have served and who continue to put their lives on the line and do our best to bring them home. Let us remember their great sacrifices and set aside the pettiness in our own lives that divides us, and let us remember their great service and ask ourselves constantly how best can we be of service.

A PREVENTABLE TRAIN WRECK: WHITE HOUSE BUILT SLOPPY IT ARCHITECTURE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the administration finally began to acknowledge what many have been saying for some time: healthcare.gov is having major problems.

The administration spent most of last week boasting about the high number of visitors to the Federal site, but it conveniently left out a very important statistic: how many people actually were able to purchase insurance.

Unlike the initial claims that the sites were crashing because demand was so high, it is clear now that the exchanges were failing because they appear to have major structural flaws. According to technicians and people at The Wall Street Journal, the site appears to be built on a "sloppy software foundation."

To make matters worse, even the information the Web site collected may be useless thanks to a security problem that corrupted a lot of the data. According to one estimate, 99 percent of the applications submitted may be facing data problems that will stop these applications.

Members of the administration need to come to the Energy and Commerce Committee and start telling us the truth about this information architecture. Taxpayers have spent money, a lot of money, to build these sites. If they have been sold a pig in a poke, they need to know.

PAY OUR MILITARY ACT

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, my office continues to be flooded with calls from North Carolinians who are frustrated with the government shutdown. The House and Senate clearly disagree on how to proceed, but one thing we can all agree on is supporting our men and women in the military.

Last Monday, Congress passed, and President Obama signed, the Pay Our Military Act. This bill ensures that our servicemen and -women and their civilian counterparts are paid during the shutdown.

Unfortunately, the administration delayed using this authority to pay all

members of the military and DOD civilians, meaning many civilian workers who should be working were furloughed.

Our servicemen and -women deserve our deepest respect and gratitude. These men and women bravely serve their country and their paychecks should not be jeopardized. After pressure from the House, the administration quit delaying the implementation of this law.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the administration to also adopt the other common-sense funding bills passed by the House last week. Americans want to get back to work and don't want to see the government play politics with their paycheck.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1745

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) at 5 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 371, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 77) making continuing appropriations for the Food and Drug Administration for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 371, the joint resolution is considered read.

H.J. Res. 77

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the Food and Drug Administration for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013 (division A of Public Law 113-6) and under the authority and conditions provided in such Act, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this joint resolution, that were conducted in fiscal year 2013, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available by such Act under the heading "Department of Health and Human Services—Food and Drug Administration".