

Marvin Daniel Price, who passed away July 21 at the age of 81. Mr. PRICE came to my attention because he is the youngest known person ever to play professional baseball in the United States of America. At the age of 14, Marvin played with the Chicago American Giants in 1946.

One might wonder how this happened. Well, his sister, Ms. Gloria Price Simpson, tells the story that one day Marvin couldn't come out to play because he was sick. The other kids looked up to him, so they spotted him in the window and asked him if he would call the balls, and so he called out, safe, foul ball, fair ball.

He always imagined that baseball would play a major role in his life, and in fact it did. At the age of 14, professional baseball soon became a reality for Marvin when he was spotted playing baseball in Washington Park by the legendary Chicago Giants outfielder Jimmy Crutchfield. A tryout was soon arranged with then-owner J.B. Martin at Comiskey Park where manager Quincy Troupe originally thought he was the new bat boy.

It didn't take long for him to show that he wasn't there just to distribute the equipment. Marvin put on such a show that the Chicago American Giants decided to take him on a barnstorming trip to the South where he could play without jeopardizing his amateur status back in Chicago. Playing against hardened black baseball veterans in the South, Marvin displayed an awesome hitting performance.

After a week he returned home to Englewood High School, where he graduated and went on to play professionally with the Cleveland Buckeyes, New Orleans Eagles, and Chicago American Giants where he batted .390. Just as it looked as though Marvin was headed for baseball stardom, he enlisted in the military and spent 4 years in the United States Coast Guard.

After his stint in the military, he continued to play semi-professionally; and over the next 30 years, he worked as a supervisor with the Chicago post office while working part-time with the Chicago Park District teaching young people not only about the game of baseball, but the game of life.

On Friday, October 11, at U.S. Cellular Field, formerly known as Comiskey Park, there will be a memorial ceremony in Price's honor. Family members, friends and supporters, members of the White Sox and others are invited to come and celebrate his rich life and history. He was indeed a legend before his time, and so we salute you, Mr. Marvin Daniel Price, the youngest known professional baseball player in the United States of America.

VERY REAL AND DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES OF A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues would have us believe that our current Federal shutdown has no real consequences. I have heard some even suggest that this period of suspended government should be thought of merely as a slowdown or a slimdown. There is talk that the shutdown is causing no real pain. The most extreme anti-government politicians even express the hope that such a cut-back in government programs and services should be made permanent, and too many others are content to hang back and let those with extreme views have their way for the time being.

But I stand here today to remind my colleagues and the public that cuts in government funding and government programs have consequences, sometimes deadly. It is a lesson we learned in 2006 when annual coal mining deaths soared to 45, a 10-year high, reversing an 80-year trend of steadily falling fatalities, a trend attributed in part to years of underfunding the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

It is a lesson we should heed now. This year, as of September 4, 14 coal miners had died on the job in our country; and this past weekend alone, three coal miners lost their lives at work over 3 consecutive days, including one miner in West Virginia. Think about that. In the first 9 months of the year, 14 coal miners perished on the job. In the first 9 days of the government shutdown, three coal miners have perished.

Mr. Speaker, even one death is one too many. Now, no one has linked these recent deaths directly to the government shutdown, but the inability of this Congress to pass a simple bill to fund all the operations of our government has resulted in cutbacks of routine inspections that are essential to the complex system of safety oversight of this complex industry.

Miners and operators know that MSHA's multi-layered inspection and enforcement system has been hampered. Assistant Secretary Joe Main has said:

Three miners killed on 3 consecutive days is extremely troubling. The fact that this occurred over a weekend when there may have been a greater expectation that an MSHA inspector would not be present is a red flag.

I hope that everyone in the coal industry, from the CEOs to the office staff, to security guards, to the coal miners themselves, will redouble their vigilance and take every possible step to ensure health and safety; and I urge my colleagues in this body to abandon this ridiculous political showdown that is undercutting the safety in our mines, our industrial facilities, our food chain, and so much more.

This is not a slowdown. It is not a slimdown. This is a politically driven shutdown, and it has real and dangerous consequences for the people who put their faith in us to provide them with basic services to ensure their

well-being, to protect their lives, and to simply do the job that we have been elected to do: to lead.

PAIN OF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IS TOO GREAT

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, as this shutdown drags on—and I concur with the comments of my colleague from West Virginia—it is serious and having serious consequences. The American people are left to wonder why.

Back here in Washington, D.C., you have all kinds of talking points and spin, and it circles around and can easily get very confusing as everyone seems to focus on the wrong things as to what caused this. And, really, it is very simple; and I think understanding it and getting Democrats and Republicans to stop talking past each other is the first step to getting out of this.

We have to understand that basically when you pass a budget to fund the government, the first thing you argue about is how much money is spent on it; and we had that argument and, believe me, there are deep disagreements between the Republican House, the Democratic Senate, and the White House on that.

But an agreement was reached between Speaker JOHN BOEHNER and HARRY REID on the level of funding; and that level of funding, frankly, is vastly lower than Democrats want, and we were going to go forward with that until the Speaker changed his mind and decided that he wanted something else. So if you are wondering why HARRY REID, the Senator, the Majority Leader in the Senate, is upset about this situation, it is in part because he had a deal and the Republicans went back on that deal.

But it gets worse than that. So instead of simply agreeing to the amount of money that would fund the government, Republicans are now saying, no, they want policy changes within the budget in order to fund the government, in order to just simply keep it open and in order to raise the debt ceiling so that we can pay our bills.

Now, policy changes do occasionally happen within appropriations bills, but only when they are agreed upon between the House, the Senate, and the White House. And the problem that the Republicans have and what they have had for 3 years is they simply do not have the votes to pass the policy changes that they want because they didn't win the election last time. President Obama won the election, Democrats control the Senate, and, ironically, Democrats actually won 52 percent of the vote for Congress, but because of gerrymandering, Republicans wound up with more seats.

But however we got here, they do not have the votes to advance the agenda that they want to advance, and they

are willing to shut down the government and stop funding it and not raise our debt ceiling; and, by the way, every day we get closer to that debt ceiling and not raising it is a day that is bad for this economy, all because they can't pass their policy agenda through the present Congress. Which raises the interesting question, What is that policy agenda? And that perhaps is the most frustrating thing about this.

We heard originally that they didn't pass the continuing resolution to fund the government because they wanted to end ObamaCare. Now editorials have been written by leaders; by the majority leader, Mr. CANTOR. I have heard PAUL RYAN say, no, no, no, it is not about ObamaCare; we understand we are not going to get that. Okay. So what policy change is it that you want? And this is where you get into the deficit. But, again, the Republicans haven't specified what they want on this.

Now, we know if you go back through 3 years of history, what they say they want, they want tax reform, though it hasn't been specified, and they want cuts in entitlements to get us closer to a balanced budget. They are completely unwilling to consider any revenue increases.

Now, the problem with this is the President doesn't agree. The Senate doesn't agree. The deficit is a problem, no question, but Democrats believe that part of that solution has to be revenue; and to this point we get \$600 billion in revenue as a result of the deal that was reached last January in exchange for over \$2 trillion in cuts, \$2 trillion between the cuts that were made in the Budget Control Act of 2011 and the cuts that have now been forced on us by sequestration, \$2 trillion in cuts and \$600 billion in tax increases.

But be that as it may, the Republicans don't have the votes. They don't have the support of the President, and they don't have the support of the Senate to get those cuts, and yet they insist on shutting down the government.

Now, the big problem is what is it that they would want in tax reform and entitlement reform? And this is the thing that I think the American public is unaware of. The Republicans keep saying that they want entitlement reform, which means cuts in entitlements. They keep saying that they want tax reform. They have been in charge of this House for 3 years. They have not brought to the floor or passed out of committee any tax reform or any entitlement reform.

They put it in their budget, which is just sort of a big-picture list of future objectives of what they want to do. Why haven't they passed legislation? If they are willing to shut down the government and cause all of the pain that we have heard because they fervently believe that we need entitlement cuts and tax reform, the least they can do is bring it to the floor and tell us what it is.

Oddly, the President and Democrats have put more on the table in terms of

reforming our entitlements. As part of the Affordable Care Act, we made reductions in Medicare, which the Republicans beat us up for and which has been responsible for Medicare actually going down in inflation.

The only solution for this, tell us what you want and understand how this situation works. The pain is too great.

VOTE FOR A CLEAN CR AND DEBT CEILING BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge you to turn away from this destructive path of threatening the full faith and credit of the United States Government as a means to extort political concessions and to subvert the democratic principle of majority rule. I urge you, Mr. Speaker, to become the Speaker of the House and not spokesperson for a fringe cult within the GOP caucus.

The Affordable Care Act is settled law. In fact, the negotiation for any change to the Affordable Care Act is possible and perhaps even desirable under so-called regular order, and that goes for the other ransom demands that the GOP has made.

Now, of course, the reason for this crisis, this shutdown of the government and the debt crisis, has now shifted from repealing or delaying ObamaCare to vague demands for negotiations. We have seen a laundry list, Mr. Speaker, of other so-called demands: approval of the Keystone pipeline; concessions on payments to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid; tort reform; repeal of job-killing regulations, that is, protections for clean air and clean water.

The latest demand is Republicans passed a bill to create a superdupercommittee that includes instructions that the committee can only resolve our budget crisis by considering spending cuts and entitlement cuts, but no new revenue. In other words, Mr. Speaker, you don't really want to negotiate. It is just obvious from your words and deeds, Mr. Speaker, since you, Mr. Speaker, have blocked negotiations 18 times over the past year.

Mr. Speaker, you are putting the country through this "shut-er-down" theater that you called for in the last Republican campaign, in the last cycle. "A nuclear weapon" is how Warren Buffett characterized failure to raise the debt ceiling.

Let me say that again. The world's most respected financial markets expert compared this now familiar Republican tactic as a weapon of mass destruction, a weapon that is "too horrible to use."

Let me quote Yalman Onaran in Bloomberg:

Failure by the world's largest borrower to pay its debt, unprecedented in modern history, will devastate stock markets from

Brazil to Zurich, halt a \$5 trillion lending mechanism for investors who rely on Treasuries, blow up borrowing costs for billions of people and companies, ravage the dollar and throw U.S. and world economies into a recession that would likely become a depression. Money managers, economists, bankers and former government officials interviewed for this story, few view default as anything but a financial apocalypse.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, you continue to take default off the table. Meanwhile, even the discussion of default is driving up borrowing costs for the U.S. as investors demand higher yields to buy short-term U.S. Treasury bonds. Short-term borrowing costs have doubled and now are at the highest levels since late 2008. Heaven help us if you, Mr. Speaker, actually drive the U.S. into default.

Think about this: the \$12 trillion of outstanding government debt is 23 times—23 times—the \$517 billion Lehman owed when its bankruptcy sparked the 2008 financial crisis. The full faith and credit of the U.S. debt is the collateral for banks, financial contracts, and repurchase markets throughout the world, the collateral that stands behind global finance and investment. It is why we are the world's reserve currency. Any default by the U.S. will have very real and extremely serious consequences and trigger a self-inflicted global financial crisis.

In my mind, Mr. Speaker, the full faith and credit of the United States is not open for negotiation. I urge my colleagues to cease using the debt ceiling and economic calamity as a political tool and vote for a clean CR and debt limit bill.

NEED TO REOPEN GOVERNMENT NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the gentlelady just expressed the dynamics of a pending default, and I could not agree more with the horrors of her description. It baffles me, literally baffles me, that in actuality we are sitting idly by, the Republican leadership, watching Rome burn.

Let me read for you a note that I got from my district, Mr. Speaker. "I have no idea if any of you still are in office, but until further," this is asking whether my staff is still in office, "but until further notice we have been furloughed effective at 9 a.m. today. I will send you an email when back in the office, which I hope is soon, especially since the Senate has not yet passed a bill to pay us even if furloughed. So we just all hope this is a short time off."

Who is this? The Houston VA regional office. Isn't it interesting my friends rise to the floor of the House with such indignation about the VA, the VA centers, and, yes, tragically the devastation of families not receiving their memorial benefits; yet here we are today, another day of the government shutdown, and an email into our district offices indicating that the VA office is closed.