

Every appropriations bill, every dime of that \$17 trillion passed this House of Representatives. Why would we not want to pay those debts? That is like my saying in Texas, Oh, I don't want to pay my house note. Well, maybe they will not come after me the first month, but under Texas law, in 90 days, you are going to get your house sold from under you if you don't pay your debts.

The Federal Government at various times has not paid its debts, one by technical glitch in 1979, but the last time we didn't pay our debts was when the British army burned the Treasury. I would hope this stance we have now is not compared to the British army burning our Treasury.

We need to pass a continuing resolution, deal with our budget, and make sure we don't hurt the full faith and credit of our country.

FUNDING FOR IMPACT AID SHOULD NEVER BE THREATENED

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Texas' 25th District, home to Fort Hood, the Army's premier installation to train and deploy heavy forces, and one of the largest military installations in the world and the largest in America.

Fort Hood ranks highest in terms of future capability and can support and sustain more than 50,000 soldiers and their families. The communities surrounding Fort Hood provide outstanding support and resources to these men and women, especially to the school districts, which are responsible for educating the children of our troops and for the education of our kids in the future. For example, 50 percent of all students in Killeen's Independent School District are military kids. That is over 20,000 students, and they are still growing. Nearby, in Copperas Cove Independent School District, well over 8,000 students have a parent in the military.

This is why funding for Impact Aid should never be threatened, not even at a time when Washington is at a stalemate. These students should have access to the best and the brightest educational opportunities our Nation can provide. Our men and women in uniform should not have to worry about their children's education when they are facing potential deployment.

Mr. Speaker, being a part of a military family is not easy. It requires more sacrifice than most of us can fathom. I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and in both Chambers of Congress to make good on our commitment to provide for our military and their families as we move forward.

In God we trust.

MOVING TOWARD A PLACE AMERICA SHOULD NOT BE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, we are now on the precipice, moving toward a place that America should not be. I stood on this floor a few days ago and said, Mr. Speaker, we are facing a crisis; and for some, the argument is we haven't seen the market take a fall.

□ 1030

Let me suggest that we, as custodians of this great Nation—Members of the United States Congress—are like parents. Therefore, I ask any parent who is listening how long do they wait before they see a toddler fall, or do they leap toward that toddler so that they know the strength of that parent is always there.

We have an important challenge today. The headline of this newspaper says:

Senate Leaders See Deal on the Horizon.

And so I make a plea today, Mr. Speaker, that our Republicans, however distracted they may be, join Democrats so that the Senate bill will be on the desk of our President today before midnight. We are parents holding onto America.

I remind my friends of the words of Abraham Lincoln in his first inaugural address:

We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection.

We are close to breaking those bonds of affection because we have thrown the American people into a downward spiral. I hope that Members of Congress will join me on H. Res. 375 in which I have this House go on record to never, ever again tie a nongermane legislative matter into the budgeting process: ObamaCare.

The reasons are many. Oh, there is much talk about the challenges we are having with the technological infrastructure. I met with almost 40 members of navigators in my area. I will tell you, when I left the meeting, they were smiling and they were encouraged; they were ready to move forward. They know there are technological glitches, and we will fix those; but they also know there are stories that are important, such as "ObamaCare Saved My Family from Financial Ruin," by Janine Reid:

House Speaker Boehner and his Tea Party friends shut down the U.S. Government because of people like me. I am the mother of an insurance hog, someone who could have blown through his lifetime limit of health insurance by the time he was 14. My son has managed to survive despite seemingly insurmountable challenges, and he wears his pre-existing condition like a Super Bowl ring. Mason, now 16, was probably born with his brain tumor.

It goes on to talk about, We discovered it 6 years ago through biopsies. Over and over again, he has had any

number of surgeries until the point that he reached where he was reaching his lifetime caps. But yet Mason came up toward the Affordable Care Act, which lifted his lifetime caps. He is a young man now who plays basketball and argues with his siblings. ObamaCare saved Mason's life and will allow Mason to go forward.

Join in H. Res. 375, never again to be mired in the opposition of a legislative initiative that can go through regular order to be able to, in essence, stop and shut down the government.

This default, which can occur, which we shouldn't play with, some people are talking about it can be 2 weeks from now or we will pay the bondholders so other folk won't suffer. Watch my words: interest rates and mortgages go up; access to small loans, business loans will not be able to survive, and interest rates on credit cards. Working America will literally crumble before us.

I hope that we will take the words of Chaplain Black, a dear friend of all of ours and mine:

Gracious God, we praise You that although we have merely a feeble hold on You, that You have a mighty grasp on us. Use Your mighty hands to lead our lawmakers to Your desired destination, making them instruments of truth and justice.

Mr. Speaker, there is a rum maker in Pittsburgh who was just getting his business together. After 2 years of work, he had lined up everything. He was ready to produce legally good rum in Pittsburgh, Maggie's Farm Rum. He was shut down because he could not get ATF, Alcohol and Tobacco, to come forward and be able to help him.

Mr. Speaker, the impact is egregious and horrific, and what I would just simply say to you is don't listen to those who are saying it is going to be okay. We have lost \$22 billion already. I am asking—I am pleading—to put the Senate bill on the floor, to waive the rules and vote on this. Put it on the President's desk tonight. Don't let Fitch, S&P and others send us downhill. This is a great country. This is a great Nation, and we deserve to show America that we care for them.

SHUTDOWN AND DEFAULT

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, we are now 16 days into a government shutdown and standing on the precipice of defaulting on our debt. Families around the country are worrying if they will be able to pay their water bills, but the Members' gym has stayed open during the government shutdown so my colleagues can live rent free in their offices and use the gym to shower and shave.

One of my colleagues who is using his office as a Holiday Inn has nearly 43,000 households on SNAP in his district. These people don't have the option of curling up in a government building or

getting dinner at a congressional reception to cut costs, but my colleague does. The only inconvenience for him is that his office doesn't have a kitchen, so he stocks his office annex with a crock pot, an electric griddle, a microwave, a toaster, and a refrigerator. He told CBS News:

You can put some frozen chicken in with some bouillon, some vegetables. Let it simmer all day, and you are ready to rock and roll.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. economy is not ready to rock and roll as long as Congress refuses to pay the government's bills. American small businesses are not ready to rock and roll when the markets worry that we will default and not pay the bills that we have already incurred. The American people are not ready to rock and roll when they don't know when the government will reopen to provide them with the services that they have already paid for but are not receiving.

The House of Representatives is not a campsite. It is embarrassing that Americans have been kicked out of Yosemite and national parks across the country; yet Members sleep in their offices that taxpayers foot the bill for.

As bad as this government shutdown is, however, the debate over the debt ceiling is taking this dysfunction nuclear. A default would bring on an economic catastrophe that would cost Americans who have been prudent with their money, paying their debts and investing in their 401(k)s, billions of dollars in lost value in their investments, in their homes, in their jobs, and in increased lending rates.

Every American in this country knows that every Member of the House of Representatives makes four times the amount of money than they do. We are paid to come up with solutions for the American people, not to sabotage their 401(k)s.

This is what Warren Buffett said last week about trying to use the debt ceiling as a political ploy:

It should be like nuclear bombs, basically too horrible to use.

In military terms, it is known as MAD, mutually assured destruction. Some on the other side of the aisle seem intent on pushing the button and sending our economy into a nuclear winter. Debt ceiling deniers have now emerged, espousing the belief that the debt ceiling is a figment of our imagination, that it is a part of a liberal agenda to get them to the negotiating table: We are not going to default, there is no default. Or: We shouldn't accept this as the date beyond which we can't go without what they call default. We can go a long time. We can go indefinitely without hitting default, says another.

Mr. Speaker, a reckless faction of your party is not only holding your caucus hostage; it is holding the American people and the global economy hostage. Calling the dealings with this faction as "negotiating" is absurd. The reality is there is no negotiating with

this reckless faction, which seems bent on the destruction of the American economy and the full faith and credit of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, these Members who are sleeping in their offices should be thinking of all of the Americans who will be sleeping in the streets if this reckless Republican faction gets its way.

THE EXTEND NOT CUT SNAP BENEFITS ACT OF 2013

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to rise and address my colleagues.

On November 1, households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, popularly referred to as SNAP, will see their monthly benefits sharply reduced. The temporary benefit boost provided for in the 2009 American Reinvestment and Recovery Act is scheduled to expire next month, leaving many Americans unsure of how they will put food on the table. The November 1 cut will exacerbate the problem of hunger in our Nation and make it much harder for millions of Americans—fathers, mothers, children, veterans, and Active Duty military even—to provide for their loved ones.

The benefit increase passed in the depths of the Great Recession has provided Americans, both directly and indirectly, with substantial benefits. Low-income families who face unemployment and underemployment are provided a critical way to bridge the financial barriers they face. Americans who are employed in adequate-paying jobs are able to remain so because of the boost to the economy; \$9 is added to the GDP for every \$5 in SNAP benefits that the program provides. These cuts will come at a moment when Americans are ill prepared to afford them. The loss of SNAP will not just mean empty tables for Thanksgiving for millions. It will mean, as well, a weaker economy, now even as the effects of our prolonged shutdown and debt ceiling brinksmanship are beginning to erode economic progress. This cut in benefits will simply push the American economy into a vicious cycle which we simply cannot afford at this time.

So I am urging my colleagues to avoid exacerbating the effects of this government shutdown and the potential default of government debts, and I am calling on them to support my bill, H.R. 3108, the Extend Not Cut SNAP Benefits Act, which provides for a 1-year extension of the 13 percent benefits increase contained in the ARRA through the 2014 fiscal year.

I am proud to proclaim 43 cosponsors so far.

In 2011, SNAP lifted 4.7 million Americans above the poverty line, including 2.1 million children. Without an exten-

sion of the 2009 Recovery Act's temporary boost to SNAP, our economy will be the worse, and our children will face a hunger they do not deserve to confront alone. So I urge my colleagues to continue the support of H.R. 3108 and ensure that Americans are not cut off at the worst possible time.

Rep. Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [GU]—9/18/2013
Rep. Brown, Corrine [FL-5]—9/18/2013
Rep. Capuano, Michael E. [MA-7]—9/27/2013
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [RI-1]—9/20/2013
Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [NY-9]—9/18/2013
Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [MO-1]—9/18/2013
Rep. Cohen, Steve [TN-9]—9/20/2013
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [VA-11]—9/18/2013
Rep. Davis, Danny K. [IL-7]—10/3/2013
Rep. Doyle, Michael F. [PA-14]—9/20/2013
Rep. Ellison, Keith [MN-5]—9/18/2013
Rep. Fudge, Marcia L. [OH-11]—9/18/2013
Rep. Green, Al [TX-9]—10/8/2013
Rep. Green, Gene [TX-29]—9/18/2013
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [AZ-3]—9/18/2013
Rep. Honda, Michael M. [CA-17]—9/20/2013
Rep. Huffman, Jared [CA-2]—9/20/2013
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [TX-18]—9/18/2013
Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [TX-30]—9/18/2013
Rep. Langevin, James R. [RI-2]—9/20/2013
Rep. Lee, Barbara [CA-13]—9/17/2013
Rep. Lewis, John [GA-5]—9/18/2013
Rep. McGovern, James P. [MA-2]—9/18/2013
Rep. Moore, Gwen [WI-4]—9/18/2013
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [NY-1]—9/18/2013
Rep. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [DC]—9/18/2013
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [ME-1]—9/18/2013
Rep. Pocan, Mark [WI-2]—10/8/2013
Rep. Rangel, Charles B. [NY-13]—9/18/2013
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [IL-1]—9/18/2013
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [IL-9]—9/27/2013
Rep. Serrano, José E. [NY-15]—9/18/2013
Rep. Shea-Porter, Carol [NH-1]—10/3/2013
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [NY-25]—9/27/2013
Rep. Smith, Adam [WA-9]—9/20/2013
Rep. Takano, Mark [CA-41]—10/8/2013
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [MS-2]—10/8/2013
Rep. Titus, Dina [NV-1]—9/18/2013
Rep. Vargas, Juan [CA-51]—9/18/2013
Rep. Vela, Filemon [TX-34]—10/10/2013
Rep. Waters, Maxine [CA-43]—9/20/2013
Rep. Welch, Peter [VT]—10/4/2013
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [FL-24]—10/8/2013

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 10 o'clock and 43 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 Reverend Dr. Kurt Gerhard, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign Lord, who binds all people of every nation together as one people, in this era of our country when we are defined by our differences and these