

differences cause a great chasm, filled with distrust, to exist between Members of this House and between the branches of this Republic, provide the wisdom to approach this session of the 113th United States Congress with a hermeneutic of generosity toward the motives of those with a differing philosophy of government.

Open the hearts of the men and women elected to represent the American people so that fruitful conversations and compromises will allow this august body to serve the common good.

Help us be mindful of our unity, and bless this country and all nations and people now and forever. This we ask in Your Holy Name.

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.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

AMERICA DESERVES A DELAY IN OBAMACARE

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, America is at a crossroads. We have a decision to make. Do we continue down

the path of more government, more spending, more taxes, and more borrowing; or do we stand up and fight for the ideals promoted by those who founded our Nation and drafted our Constitution?

Make no mistake about it, the current government shutdown and the looming debt crisis is the result of this administration and this Senate's refusal to respect and honor the will of the American people. We must stand up for our principles that lead to prosperity for all Americans. Less government, less spending, and the simple idea that delaying ObamaCare for 1 year is fair for all Americans and is worth fighting for.

I urge our House leadership and my colleagues to stand strong and to have what many of my Senate colleagues do not: the courage to oppose any deal that does not defund and delay ObamaCare for all Americans now.

DEFAULT WOULD HAVE PROFOUND IMPACT

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, if Congress does not meet its responsibilities, tomorrow the United States Treasury will have \$31 billion in revenues and \$52 billion in obligations. At that point, the United States would default, with a profound impact on the global markets, which are structured on the premise that U.S. Treasury bonds are the safest asset in the world. The stock market will tank, and interest rates will spike.

Earlier this year, House Republicans passed a budget that spent \$800 billion more than it took in. The logical consequence of that is to raise the debt ceiling. For the other side to use America's national credit as leverage is shameful, as shameful as Members protesting the closure of the World War II Memorial when they are the ones who voted to close it.

Austerity and uncertainty kill economic growth. There is not an example in human history where an economy has grown itself out of a recession through austerity. Moving from crisis to crisis, as Congress has done in the last 3 years, has cost the American economy 900,000 jobs.

Enough. Reject austerity. End uncertainty and open the government, and pass a debt limit bill.

OBAMACARE NOT READY FOR PRIME TIME

(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, last night I hosted a teletown hall with constituents across South Carolina's Second Congressional District. Apart from the vast majority

calling for the President and Democrats in the Senate to negotiate with House Republicans to end the shutdown, an overwhelming number of constituents expressed concern about the administration's disastrous ObamaCare roll-out.

During its first week, 9.47 million Americans visited the government Web site, but only 36,000 were able to complete the enrollment due to glitches. Former White House press secretary Robert Gibbs has stated this is "excruciatingly embarrassing for the White House," and he hopes "they fire some people that were in charge of making sure this thing was supposed to work."

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has failed, spending hundreds of millions of dollars. House Republicans have warned that the unaffordable, unsustainable health care law is not ready. The President, himself, has admitted this by delaying key components. Congress must continue to work to replace it with a plan to preserve the doctor-patient relationship.

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

NO MORE DAMAGING TACTICS

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives has put this country through a spectacle these past few months; and it was a spectacle that was based on the proposition that it was legitimate to actually have a discussion about whether we had to pay our bills.

Mercifully, we are on the threshold of a bipartisan agreement whereby, number one, the Affordable Care Act will be the law of the land, and the debate in the future is not about its repeal; it is about improving it. It is about facing the challenges of implementation. Number two, we are repudiating as legitimate tactics to get your way, by any faction—it could be Democrats in the future—the use of tactics that do damage, threatening to default on our obligations and shutting down the government and inflicting pain on innocent people.

So this struggle has damaged the institution, but the principles that were at stake are now resolved: one, the Affordable Care Act is the law of the land; two, you cannot use the tactic of shutdown or the tactic of default as a way to get your way on your agenda.

EXCESSIVE GOVERNMENT SPENDING

(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, I rise today because we have a problem in the United States of America; that is, we spend too much. Nobody on my

side of the aisle says let's not pay our bills; but we do say, just like every family does when their credit card bill comes and it is a little higher than they expect, well, let's see how we can maybe save some money. Cut up the credit cards and maybe find a way to bring in some more money.

Mr. Speaker, we can bring in more money with economic growth and economic development. Curtailing things that are killing economic development, like the President's health care plan and excessive regulation, must be stopped. We have to stop spending, and we have to increase our revenue by growing our economy.

MERCY FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, over the past 16 days, many of us have risen to this floor and pleaded with our friends on the other side of the aisle and asked for mercy, not mercy for our individual selves as Members of Congress, but mercy for the American people, for the 800,000 over the past 16 days who have lost their jobs in furloughs, for the \$300 million a day that this Nation has lost. This is the very answer to those who are suggesting that we are spending too much money, Mr. Speaker: we have lost money.

But today I come humbly to plead with my friends to do as the Chaplain mentioned this morning, to have a generosity of spirit and recognize that we can come together. Let the voices of common sense recognize that States like Mississippi, Louisiana, Arizona, South Dakota, Missouri, Texas, New Mexico, Montana, Georgia, New York, and Wyoming—States that represent so many—are losing so much because they get the most money from this Nation.

Then let us recognize Juanita Davis with little Tu'Nita, 10 days old, who is fearful that her WIC money, Women, Infant, and Children money, in the State of Texas is running out. I am pleading that we come together with common sense and generosity of spirit and put this bill on the President's desk.

SPINNING GOP WHEEL OF MISFORTUNE

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, once again the GOP has threatened the full faith and credit of the United States. Rejecting all warnings from top economists and business leaders, some of my Republican colleagues have actually claimed that default would be good for our economy; but the truth is, when you spin the GOP wheel of misfortune, everyone loses.

How would a GOP default that deprives seniors of Social Security

checks be good for our economy? How would a GOP default that pits foreign investors against America's disabled veterans be good for our country? How could ruining the U.S. Treasury bond status as the world's safest asset and hiking interest rates on American families be good for our economy? How could stopping payments for the doctors and nurses who care for Medicare beneficiaries be good for our economy?

Mr. Speaker, the answer is that it can't be. The Treasury can't pick and choose which commitments to honor, nor should it have to.

When you spin the GOP wheel of misfortune, there are only losers. Americans are disgusted when reckless games are played with our economic future. Be responsible, finally. Today, vote to reopen the government and prevent a default.

PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE PLAN IS BROKEN

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, the President's health care plan is broken. Let me read from some of the letters and communications my office is getting from around my district.

Mike and Pat in Queen Anne's County write:

Mr. Harris, my daughter's health care premium just rose \$648 a year thanks to the Affordable Care Act. Don't you or other Republicans give up the fight.

Cindy from Talbot County writes:

I have just discovered that I can't keep the medical insurance I have had for many years as it no longer exists thanks to ObamaCare. Even though I am 58 years old, I must pay for maternity benefits and pediatric dentistry when I have no child under 19. I get an increased deductible and a premium increase of \$143 a month. What a mess that needs to be fixed and in a hurry.

Finally, Lorraine from Queen Anne's County writes that, in tears, she called our office. She was told by her insurer that her premium was just increased \$256 a month. Her total payment that she and her husband now are going to pay is \$956 a month, and her insurer told her that it went up because of ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, the President's health care plan is broken.

JUST HOURS REMAIN UNTIL NATION DEFAULTS

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

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you on this, the 16th day of the shutdown, with just hours remaining until our Nation defaults. The only way to end this crisis is for Members on both sides of the aisle to come together and take bipartisan action today. We need to do our job, and we

must act responsibly. The Senate has a bipartisan plan, and we should take it up immediately.

At home and across the Nation, the people we represent are facing harsh consequences: from the couple being denied a loan for their first home, to the Head Start kids whose school doors are shut, to the businesses with lost sales because national parks are closed, to the Border Patrol agent who can't pay his mortgage because his full paycheck hasn't come.

Mr. Speaker, we must vote for commonsense solutions. We must end this shutdown. We must restore faith in the United States of America, and we must restore faith in this, the people's House.

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OBAMACARE

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

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we are all getting calls in our offices as to the impact of ObamaCare on average Americans. Here is an example from just this morning:

A female, aged 23, making below the D.C. poverty level per year. She currently pays \$94 a month for her health care insurance. She went on the ObamaCare Web site just to find out that it would cost her \$250 a month, with a \$6,000 deductible.

Folks, the impact of ObamaCare on average Americans is why ObamaCare should be a part of this spending-and-debt debate here in Washington.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a sense of cautious optimism that we are nearing the end of this financial crisis. Our colleagues in the Senate are showing all of us that we can have disagreements on the issues and still work together to find common ground to tackle the challenges facing our Nation.

After so many weeks of this painful and unnecessary Federal Government shutdown, I urge all of my colleagues in the House to come together to support the commonsense, bipartisan Reid-McConnell proposal emerging from the Senate.

The past few weeks have taken away valuable time and attention from the many challenges facing our country. Once we reopen the government and avoid default, I hope that all of us will redirect our energies toward building consensus on solutions for comprehensive immigration reform, rebuilding our roads, bridges and ports, growing our economy, reducing our debt in a responsible way, and, most urgently, promoting job creation.