

Madam Speaker, our plan is a balanced approach. More spending cuts and modest revenue increases. Now is not the time for partisan politics. With the future of our economy hanging in the balance, we cannot afford inaction.

SEQUESTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD) for 1 minute.

Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Today, I urge all of my colleagues to join together to avert the automatic trigger cuts brought forth by the sequester that are scheduled to begin in 2 days. These cuts will hurt small businesses, the military, seniors, and our children.

In California, it is estimated that more than 15,000 children will not receive vaccinations for diseases such as measles, whooping cough, and influenza—all because of these automatic trigger cuts. This is unacceptable. In addition, special education services for children with disabilities will see cuts, while over 8,200 low-income children in California will not receive critical early education from Head Start. Children deserve better from their Members of Congress.

That is why we need a balanced approach to replace sequestration, which includes revenues and spending cuts, thereby ensuring the most vulnerable are not burdened.

I, therefore, ask unanimous consent to bring forth H.R. 699 to provide balanced deficit reduction.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the House is in session solely for the purpose of conducting morning-hour debate. Therefore, the gentlewoman's request cannot be entertained.

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 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Ronald Derrick, American Legion, Rigby, Idaho, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, thank You for this day. Grant us Your presence.

We stand in a room representing power and authority given by Your

hand. Keep us mindful that one day we shall stand in a greater room and give an accounting of the decisions made this day.

Therefore, I pray with words that have been spoken down through the ages that You, O Lord, would grant to these leaders of our Nation health, peace, concord, and stability, that they may administer the government without failure.

Direct their counsel according to that which is good and well-pleasing in Your sight; and may it be said of them that they performed the duties of their office faithfully and impartially.

Bless each individual present here today, for by blessing the individual, You have blessed this Nation.

To You be the glory. In Your most holy Name I pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROSKAM 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND RONALD DERRICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce Chaplain Ronald Derrick for today's invocation.

Chaplain Derrick serves as the national chaplain of the American Legion. He is a U.S. Army veteran and a 40-year member of the American Legion, serving 18 years with Post 95 in

Driggs, Idaho, and the subsequent 22 years in Post 20 in his current home of Rigby, Idaho.

Mr. Derrick's Legion duties have included terms as post commander, district commander, and Department of Idaho vice commander. For the past 6 years, he has acted as the Department of Idaho's chaplain.

Mr. Derrick is a retired printer and mail clerk, a former county coroner, Driggs Chamber of Commerce president, and EMT and firefighter. Recognizing this latter service, the American Legion named Mr. Derrick Idaho's Firefighter of the Year in 1987.

Mr. Derrick was ordained into the ministry in 1979 through the Solid Rock Pentecostal Church and continues to serve in various aspects of ministry. Mr. Derrick and his wife of 45 years, Bird, have two sons, a daughter, and nine grandchildren.

I would like to welcome Chaplain Derrick and thank him for his dedication and outstanding service to God and country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. In just 2 days, President Obama's devised plan of across-the-board spending cuts known as "sequester" will kick in. I voted for House legislation to replace the President's plan with smarter and more responsible cuts. Unfortunately, the President and his friends in the Senate ignored it.

Right now, America is over \$16 trillion in debt. That means every American owes more than \$52,000 each. Taxpayers all across this country know that Washington has a spending problem, not a revenue problem.

Enough is enough. Now is the time to work together to stop spending money we do not have. We need to give the American people what they want, need, and deserve. We must get our fiscal house in order by balancing our budget. It's almost too late. Let's act now.

RECOGNIZING FAITH-BASED LEADERS IN OHIO'S THIRD DISTRICT IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute African American faith-based leaders from Ohio's Third Congressional District. They are here as civil

rights leaders, providers of child care, after-care, educational programs for our children. They are advocates for entrepreneurs, minority businesses, and economic development opportunities in our communities. They stand strong with their first ladies and congregations for stopping domestic violence against women, for reducing crimes in our neighborhoods.

These powerful leaders are Bishop Jerome Ross, Reverend Dr. Keith Troy, Reverend Fred Lamarr, Reverend Jerry Carter, Reverend Victor Davis, Bishop Donald Washington, Reverend John Little, the Honorable Larry Price, Reverend Dale Snyder, the Honorable Hearchel Craig, and Reverend Joel King, cousin of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lastly, they know all too well what the impact of sequestration will be to our at-risk communities. I salute them because they will carry on their great work despite the sequestration and the unnecessary challenges it will present if imposed. Sequestration is harmful to our district, to our constituents, and to the Nation. The impact of sequestration will affect the Federal Government's ability to provide States with the necessary resources to invest in the future leaders and to protect America's strong business environment.

Our hardworking taxpayers deserve better. Let's not put our economy at risk.

VETERANS JOBS CAUCUS

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

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, as the Representative of the Sixth District of Illinois and the son of a Korean war veteran, I'm honored to serve over 34,000 veterans. We have a deep commitment, as we know, to support those who've risked their lives to defend our freedom and help them in their transition back to civilian life. I've been active in a program called Helmets to Hard Hats, and there's a jarring unemployment figure for veterans that we are all sobered by. More than 844,000 veterans currently face unemployment, and veterans aged 18 to 24 face a staggering 31 percent unemployment rate.

There's an opportunity for us to work together, and I'm pleased to have recently joined the Congressional Veterans Jobs Caucus in an effort to bring Republicans and Democrats together to be like-minded as we seek to serve those who have served us so well. There's a myriad of obstacles that are in place that need to be remedied, and together we can join with the Disabled American Veterans organization, which is here in Washington, D.C. this week to celebrate their success and our obligation to them.

SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we are now 2 days away from failure-triggered, ideologically driven, and irrational budget cuts called "sequester." It is an extraordinarily bad policy that 229 Republicans voted for on July 19, 2011. These cuts could be incredibly harmful to our national defense, our economy, and our national welfare.

General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said:

This will affect the entire country, and it will undermine our readiness for the next several years.

Hundreds of thousands of civilian defense personnel could be furloughed, and thousands of contractors could be forced to lay off critical personnel. Congress should not put our national security or economic recovery at risk. If I were the majority leader, this policy would not happen.

House Republicans should listen to Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood when he said:

As a former Republican Member of Congress for 14 years, I urge my former colleagues to address this issue and to work on a long-term, balanced solution to our deficit problem.

With only 2 days left, it is time for us to come together to find a solution that can replace these cuts with a sensible, balanced alternative.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members not to traffic the well when others are speaking.

□ 1210

REMEMBERING THE MENIFEE COUNTY LIVES LOST IN THE MARCH 2, 2012 TORNADO

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor three precious lives lost in the tornado which devastated Menifee County, Kentucky, one year ago this Saturday.

Beverly Bowman was a magnet to children, according to newspaper accounts. Friends called her the backbone of the Tarr Ridge Union Church.

Anita Smith adored animals. Reports said she owned at least four horses, along with goats, dogs, and a mule.

And Vershal Brown was a remarkable man, recalls Menifee County Sheriff Rodney Coffee: "Day or night, if you called him, he could help you. He would be there."

Mr. Speaker, the people of Menifee County have shown amazing faith and determination in rebuilding their lives and their community. This weekend, we will celebrate together how far they have come, and we will join hands and remember.

SEQUESTRATION

(Ms. BROWNLEY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, this Friday, the U.S. budget faces a round of indiscriminate and severe cuts that will hurt the middle class, compromise national security, and set back our very fragile economic recovery.

I call on all of our colleagues to take immediate action to avert the sequester to prevent \$1.5 trillion in reckless, unnecessary, across-the-board cuts. If we fail, my families and businesses in Ventura County will pay the price.

Naval Base Ventura County in my district could be forced to furlough 80 percent of its civilian workers. Our seniors and our children could be severely impacted through cuts to Medicare, Head Start programs, and teachers' jobs. We need to stop these arbitrary and reckless cuts now and pass a balanced approach with H.R. 699.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring H.R. 699 to the floor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers as recorded on page 752 of the House Rules Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the gentlewoman's request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

GUN CONTROL

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

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, we're now some 11 weeks out from the tragedy that occurred in Newtown, Connecticut. And while all the talk today is about the sequester, we still have politicians and pundits all across the country that are purporting to try and solve this epidemic of gun violence with new rules taking away guns from ordinary citizens.

Unfortunately—and this is humbling for many in politics—no law or set of laws can possibly address in a meaningful way all of the challenges that we face today with a violent America. In fact, we face a much deeper, more malignant problem. It's a culture that degrades and cheapens life.

That's why I continue to be disappointed to hear the President propose further gun control. The President's plan isn't so much an attempt to solve a problem as an attempt to fulfill a wish list for gun control advocates. Unfortunately, for the American people, an opportunity for a real national dialogue on the root causes of this type of violence is being missed.

I've heard from hundreds of Kansans on the issue of gun control, and the vast majority of them understand that Washington restricting their Second Amendment rights will do very little