

it weakens demand and depresses consumption.

Now, I believe in capitalism. I recognize the power of capitalism to create wealth, and I believe markets are the main engines of wealth creation in our country and elsewhere.

But in order to be truly supportive of the free market, I believe you must also be supportive of government. This is because we need to have an appropriate set of public policies in place to reign in the excesses of the market, to help maintain stability, and to ensure that the benefits of capitalism are broadly shared.

In fact, one of the most important lessons we have learned from the recent financial crisis is that markets must be deeply embedded in systems of governance. The idea that markets are self-correcting has received a mortal blow. Markets require other social and public institutions to support them. They rely on courts, legal frameworks, and regulators to set and enforce rules. They depend on the stabilizing functions that central banks and countercyclical fiscal policy provide. They also need the political buy-in that redistributive taxation, safety nets, and social insurance help generate.

And all of this is true of global markets as well.

What I'm saying is this: free markets and government are not opposites, they are complements. And if you don't want to believe me about the importance of government to the free market system—well, maybe you will believe the markets.

In Congress, one of the biggest supporters of the IMF and the World Bank has been the US Chamber of Commerce. They understand the need for effective public intervention when countries are facing an economic crisis. Business has also been the biggest supporter of the U.S. Export-Import Bank, another government function. Finally, last week, after the Republicans shut the government down, business deployed an army of lobbyist to Capitol Hill to stress the importance of getting the government back up and running again.

IN CLOSING

As I conclude my remarks, it occurs to me that perhaps this might not have been the most appropriate audience to hear my views on the importance of governance and the necessary and mutually reinforcing roles of government and markets.

I think perhaps the House Republicans in Congress would have benefited more from this message than anyone else.

Their insistence on shutting down the government—coupled with their apparent willingness to allow our government to default on its debt—reveal just how reckless and dangerously dysfunctional the Republican Party has become.

Their actions show not only a contempt for government, but also an indifference to markets and the importance of stability. Taken together, the Republicans have shown the country just how profoundly misguided their understanding is of the role and responsibilities of elected officials in a representative Democracy.

□ 1845

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3003, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following Members on the

part of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:

Ms. SLAUGHTER, New York
Mr. MCINTYRE, North Carolina
Mr. COHEN, Tennessee

THE OBAMACARE DEBACLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, as the ObamaCare debacle continues to unfold, there is more and more that is absolutely staggering that is now coming out. People in America need to understand who shut the government down September 30, October 1.

The House of Representatives had voted out, first, a bill to completely defund ObamaCare because we could tell—many of us have read it. I read it before I voted “no.” I could see it was a disaster waiting to happen, that real Americans would be really hurt. So we offered a compromise.

All right. This obviously, pursuant to notice by Democrats themselves, was a train wreck, nightmare. It was not ready for prime time. So we actually gave Democrats in the Senate and in the House that pushed it through without a single Republican vote, and the President himself, an easy out because that is, if you really want to get something done, unless it is ObamaCare that you want—that America knows is going to be harmful and totally against, or at least over half are against.

Unless you are going to do something like that that is really totalitarian and against the will of the American people, it is good, a Chinese proverb notes, to give adversaries a way out.

We gave a way out for Democrats in the House and the Senate that passed ObamaCare without Republicans. We gave a way out for President Obama. We said, okay, here is a compromise that ought to be an easy agreement. You know, we will give you money that you are demanding, with a gun to our heads, namely, the shutdown, and all we ask is that you do the right thing for America and suspend the implementation of ObamaCare for a year. Clearly, it is not ready now.

HARRY REID, maybe he consulted with the President, surely he did before refusing to let that go anywhere.

So we did what people are not supposed to do in a negotiation, continue to compromise against themselves. I didn't think it was a good idea. We should have waited for the Senate to vote on something, something. Do something, because being in a legislative body requires more than just saying no, no, no, no, which the majority leader in the Senate did.

Nonetheless, our Republican leadership decided we would compromise against ourselves—yet again. All right, if you don't want to suspend the whole

thing for a year, at least do for individuals in America what you are doing for Big Business. Big Business, basically, as set forward in ObamaCare, was anybody with more than 50 employees.

And yet, again, HARRY REID and the President were a “no” on the compromise that would have just suspended, legally suspended, the mandate forced upon individuals that they are going to pay higher taxes, a fine of \$95 or 1 percent of their income, going up to 2 percent.

But that was going to be implemented, they were going to be penalized, or as Chief Justice Roberts rewrote the ObamaCare bill and called it a tax after he called it nothing but a penalty. So Americans were going to get hammered. We could see that.

At least, we implored the Senate and the President, give individual Americans the same break you have now, basically, illegally given to Big Business by saying yeah, the law says that, but we are just not going to enforce it for a year.

Why not do that for individuals in America if you will do it for Big Business? Why not? It's the fair thing to do.

Once again, it gives a legislative opponent a way out. It gives you a back door to say, well, okay, we are caving in. We are going to allow the individual mandate to be suspended for a year, like we, like the President did, legislating from the executive office.

But, again, the answer was no. And in response to Majority Leader REID's no and the President's no, the President, of course, had called people to the White House later on, after the shutdown, and made clear to the leaders of the House and Senate, you know, I wanted to make clear to you I am not negotiating. Give me my money. Raise my debt ceiling, and then maybe we will negotiate.

Later on, in essence, it was give me my money. Raise the debt ceiling. You will be amazed at what I will be willing to negotiate once you give me everything I want.

So it was indicated yesterday, by the administration, you know, gee, there is a possibility we may have to delay the individual mandate. And in an article today from Jim Wizner, the title of the article, “ObamaCare Mandate May Be Delayed. Official says deadline to have insurance could be postponed.”

The article says, the Obama administration may give Americans extra time to sign up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, postponing when penalties for failing to buy coverage will go into effect, Market Watch has learned.

Further down, it says, the administration declined to say whether people who purchase health insurance late in the enrollment period, say, on March 31, would be exempt from a penalty, even if their policy doesn't kick in until April or May; nor would the Department give a specific date by which people would need to buy coverage to escape a fine.

The HHS, or Health and Human Services, official, however, indicated that the administration may extend the deadline beyond February 15: we are exploring options currently, and will issue guidance at a later date.

The article at marketwatch.com goes on to say the potential extension comes as the Federal health exchanges are under fire for ongoing technological problems that are making it difficult for some people to enroll. The Obama administration has so far resisted GOP pleas to delay the requirement that individuals purchase insurance next year, but has lately expressed frustration with the technical difficulties. Those problems, perhaps the elephant in the room during deadline discussions, may influence a decision to provide an enrollment grace period to avoid fines.

There is another problem that the penalty policy or, as rewritten by our Chief Justice, the tax policy, may be in flux. While Health and Human Services referred Market Watch's previous inquiries about the fine and the deadline to avoid it to the Treasury, a spokesperson there referred a request Wednesday back to Health and Human Services, suggesting that the health officials are now the ones writing new rules for the law.

For this administration, for Democrats in any part of this body or at the White House to even consider out loud suspending for 1 year the individual mandate is absolutely outrageous, and it exposes, clearly exposes that there were games being played in Congress, and it wasn't by Republicans.

It exposes that people knew there were problems with ObamaCare, with the Web sites. They knew that Americans were going to have a nightmare, and were having a nightmare in even trying to get online and review different policies, and they didn't care, just as, obviously, there were people in this administration who could have changed the policy.

They didn't care about the veterans. They can say now, oh, yeah, we had a policy that World War II vets were going to get in, or people that were utilizing their First Amendment rights.

Well, I was there the first day. There wasn't any mention of that. Those barricades were connected across in front of the World War II Memorial, across in front of the Lincoln Memorial, across in front of the Martin Luther King Memorial. There were barricades, for heavens sake, on the road that just made a loop around the Iwo Jima monument, the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial.

They were out to make things as difficult as possible. Apparently, at least as early as Thursday, before the shutdown the following Tuesday, plans were being made to gather barricades. There was an indication at one point some of them may have been rented.

We still haven't gotten to the bottom of where they all came from, where all the cones came from to interrupt peo-

ple's lives around the country, as this administration sought to make it as difficult as possible on Americans. As one park ranger indicated, it was disgusting, the park ranger is reported to have said, but we have been ordered to make things as difficult for people as we can. Well, they were doing a good job.

So, for them, anyone in this administration, anyone down the hall, anyone in Congress to now think about, gee, maybe we should suspend the individual mandate, is an outrage. It tells you that there were people in Congress and there were a lot of people down Pennsylvania Avenue who had no consideration for the American people.

They were out to score political points. They didn't care. They wanted people to hurt and to suffer so maybe they could win the majority in the House next year, and the American people began to see through this.

When the next-to-last compromise of a compromise continuing against ourselves was to suspend the individual mandate for a year, there was no excuse for rejecting that.

□ 1900

The Senate should have at least voted that through. What an incredible turn of events for this administration now to say, Yes, we are thinking about suspending the individual mandate. You have got to be kidding me.

Nothing could make it more clear to the American people that games were played with the shutdown—and it wasn't by Republicans who kept compromising against ourselves, but it was with the people who kept saying, No, no, no.

Then the last thing we did the night before things really shut down was to say, Okay, under the law, the rules, here are our conferees. You appoint your conferees, and we will have this worked out hopefully by morning before people even realize there has been a shutdown. And once again, the answer was, No, no, no. Obviously people in the majority at the other end of the hall wanted the government shut down.

And I would expect that in the future, if someone were looking for a modern day Marie Antoinette, who reportedly, in response to the suffering of the people in France, had said, "Let them eat cake." So out of touch with the suffering of the people, if that were actually said.

Here is an article by Susan Jones, CNSNews.com, and it is dated today:

In an interview with CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta Tuesday night, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said she won't be enrolling in the problem-plagued health insurance system that she was charged to implement.

And this is the quote that the Secretary of Health and Human Services told to CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta. This is the person who is charged with implementing ObamaCare. This is the person who is charged with overseeing ObamaCare. This is the person who has

been given—by an overreaching, oppressive ObamaCare bill, she has been given the power over people's lives, over their health care. There is nothing more personal than that.

This person who will have so much control, if she is still in office at full implementation, says this:

I have created an account on the site.

Talking about the ObamaCare site.

I have not tried signing up because I have insurance.

Mr. Speaker, you had insurance. I had insurance. We had the same policy that every Federal worker in America had the chance to have. There were a number of different policies you could choose from in the Federal employee handbook, the "Federal employee cafeteria plan," as they call it, a number of different insurance policies with private insurance. We had insurance just like Secretary Sebelius has now. The difference is that this bill, this oppressive, government-controlled ObamaCare business, took our health care insurance away.

There has been a lot of confusion in America about whether or not Members of Congress are under ObamaCare. We are. As of December 31, we will have lost our insurance.

I had a health savings account. I wasn't totally thrilled with it. It doesn't work like it should. There are some glitches that needed to be worked out, but I had a choice. I could choose to have a higher deductible, as I have, and a health savings account that I would manage, but Secretary Sebelius had authority to take that away, and she did.

So she says, Gee, I have insurance. Well, so did I. So did all of us in here. Mr. Speaker, so did you. But an oppressive, overreaching Congress took it away. And those Americans were promised over and over and over, if you like your insurance, you can keep it. That promise has now been broken millions of times to Americans. People were told, if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. That promise has been broken probably millions of times to Americans.

The arrogance when millions and millions of Americans are having their insurance taken away from them, having to get different insurance, having to pay higher deductibles, having to pay higher amounts for their insurance, the arrogance to come back and say, I am not going to get insurance under ObamaCare. I already have insurance, that takes a lot of unmitigated gall. You might as well say, Let them eat cake. I have got my insurance. Let them eat cake.

Maybe people want a different Health and Human Services Secretary as a result of the horrendous job that was done in preparing this rollout, but I would think the head of Health and Human Services, to have this kind of arrogance, should not remain in the position with an attitude like that. It would be like the president of American Airlines refusing to fly on any-thing but United.

In the real world, people would care so much about their own product, that is what they would use. They would be embarrassed to refuse to use the product they were forcing on others. Airlines aren't forcing their products on us. This is being forced on us. And the one who is in charge of the forcing is too good to have ObamaCare insurance.

Now, the difference was, the Office of Personnel Management had put into the law something that wasn't in the law, and that was that Members of Congress would continue to have the Federal Government, which are the taxpayers, paying for over 70 percent of our monthly health care costs. We pay a little over a third—well, actually, not quite a third—and the government, the taxpayers, pay over two-thirds, so OPM had issued an order that that could continue even though the law didn't provide for it.

I have indicated that I am not going to accept that. Likely, I will be paying a fine unless the individual mandate is suspended for a year.

Just to indicate how bad this rollout is, this is from the Washington Free Beacon, headline, "HHS Finds Two Enrollees for Pro-ObamaCare Ads. Ad claims website is 'very easy to use.'" This is by Elizabeth Harrington. It says:

New advertisements promoting ObamaCare by Health and Human Services claim HealthCare.gov is "very easy to use" despite a flood of reports about glitches and a dearth of users being able to actually access the site and purchase insurance.

President Barack Obama held a press conference on Monday in defense of his health care law, saying it is "not just a Web site," which has been under scrutiny for its disastrous rollout since October 1.

Coverage of the site has been largely negative, with pundits and reporters alike at news outlets from The Washington Post to The New York Times to the Los Angeles Times noting the problems with the Web site.

However, Health and Human Services is out with new ads touting its success.

For heaven's sake, we ought to have a law against the government lying to the American people. We ought to start with a lie like that.

The new ads "feature two individuals who have received media attention for beating the odds to sign up."

"The site was very easy to use, and the customer service representatives were patient and helpful," she said.

The woman was identified online as Deborah Lielasus, 54, a self-employed grant writer, who has written grants for HHS.

Well, how about that. One of the two people in the ads that they were able to find to talk about how wonderful the ObamaCare Web site was happens to write grants for HHS. How about that.

See, back when I was a judge and chief justice, we would call that evidence that could be used to impeach her credibility. Because of that link with Health and Human Services, she has a direct interest in promoting how good things are at Health and Human Services so that she could potentially get favorable treatment. That is what

you would call it in a court of law. And in a court of public opinion, reasonable people might be embarrassed that all you can find is somebody who has a pecuniary interest in promoting HHS.

But this article points out:

Her process for enrolling was not as smooth as the ad suggests. According to the Associated Press, Lielasus was only able to create an account from before the Web site crashed on October 2.

"As a grant writer who does a lot of research on Federal Web sites, Deborah Lielasus was impressed by how easy it was to use the new online insurance market that launched Tuesday—until it stopped working," the report said.

"They're telling me the system is down at the moment," Lielasus said.

Lielasus told the Washington Free Beacon that enrolling took several days.

"On the first day, I was only able to register for an account, but 2 or 3 days later, I was able to submit an application and enroll," she said in an email.

Lielasus said her experience with HealthCare.gov was "primarily positive."

"I expected some technology glitches in a rollout of this magnitude, particularly on the first day when the site was flooded with reporters as well as individuals trying to enroll," she said.

Lielasus appears to be one of the few who have successfully enrolled in New Hampshire. An ObamaCare navigator tried to sign up 45 people during the first week, "but she wasn't able to enroll anyone online because of the glitches," according to the Concord Monitor . . . Lielasus said that she does not recall who contacted her to be in the video for HHS, only that, "I believe I was approached for the video to share my personal story."

A second HHS video features Daniel McNaughton, who was the only person able to sign up for health insurance during ObamaCare's first week, the Orlando Sentinel.

McNaughton said in his ad that with HealthCare.gov, it was "pretty easy" to shop for insurance.

"I already had health insurance, but I just wanted to see if I could do a little bit better on the health insurance marketplace, and I did," he said. "Once I was on the site, it was pretty easy for me to compare plans. I was able to pick a much higher quality plan, and because of my income as a student, I only pay about 70 bucks a month for it."

Well, the article goes on, and it says:

On Facebook, McNaughton posted a link to the plan he signed up for, which includes a \$3,000 deductible, which doubles to \$6,000 out-of-network. McNaughton, a 22-year-old male, will have maternity care covered, which is an "essential benefit" mandated by the health care law.

So another great thing, when the Federal Government decides to create a one-size-fits-all, single young men must pay for maternity care for themselves.

□ 1915

Because he only makes \$15,000 a year, McNaughton is eligible for a subsidy and will pay about \$70 per month, according to the Sentinel. He is known as one of the few Floridians who have successfully signed up for ObamaCare. The Miami Herald calls enrollees urban legends.

He is only one of two people found by the Herald, which solicited readers for stories of enrollees in the first weeks after the launch. That's weeks, plural:

Nearly 2 weeks after the Federal Government launched the online Health Insurance Marketplace at HealthCare.gov, individuals who successfully used the choked-up Web site to enroll for a subsidized health insurance plan have reached a status akin to urban legend: everyone has heard of them, but very few people have actually met one.

It is pretty sad, but that is what happens when the Federal Government takes charge of people's personal lives.

Here is an article from National Review Online by Andrew Johnson:

An Iowa City man may have the distinction as the Hawkeye State's first ObamaCare enrollee, but it didn't come easy. Edward Voss, a computer programmer, told the Des Moines Register he had to try more than a hundred times before he was ultimately able to sign into HealthCare.gov.

Voss said he didn't know whether or not he had actually enrolled in a plan until Co-Opportunity Health, one of Iowa's two carriers in the exchange, called him on Friday to congratulate him for being its first enrolled customer.

Even though he was eventually successful, Voss criticized the Web site for resembling one from the 1990s, saying it was one of the worst he's seen. He recommended that the administration consider shutting the site down for at least a week in order to address the problems. It's hard to fix things while you're up and running, he said.

That's rather amazing. Over a hundred times to sign up. I guess he probably got maternity care, too, that individual young man.

Here is an article from CNS News dated today—this afternoon—by Ali Meyer. The first line says:

House minority leader NANCY PELOSI, Democrat from California—

Also, the Speaker who helped push through ObamaCare without any Republican input or votes, and who famously said, We'll have to pass it to find out what's in it, this article says she:

—admitted Wednesday that the ObamaCare Web site is beyond glitches, adding that somebody should fix it.

Well, it seems to this person speaking that the somebody that should fix it should be led by the former Speaker, who shoved it through this House without America's support, without any Republican support, and without having any clue what was really in it. That is somebody that ought to work on fixing it.

Another article from National Review Online, by John Fund. Hopefully, he wouldn't mind me calling him a friend:

The no-excuse administration has a whopper of an excuse for ObamaCare. President Obama told the Nation there is no excuse for the disastrous rollout of the health care exchanges that are central on ObamaCare. But that didn't stop Kathleen Sebelius, his Secretary of Health and Human Services and in overall charge of the project, from making excuses in a CNN interview with Dr. Sanjay Gupta yesterday.

She claimed to Gupta that President Obama hadn't been told of any potential problems prior to the launch of the exchanges on October 1—a dereliction of duty any way one defines it.

But there was also this startling explanation of what went wrong at HHS. We

talked about having testing going forward, and if we had an ideal situation and could have built a product and, you know, a 5-year period of time, we probably would have taken 5 years, but we didn't have 5 years. And certainly, Americans who rely on health coverage didn't have 5 years for us to wait. We wanted to make sure we made good on this final implementation of the law.

Well, okay, she only had 3½ years since ObamaCare became law in early 2010 to oversee the design of the exchanges and the Web site accompanying them. So now she tells us she needed 5 years:

Bruce Webster, a noted IT consultant to many companies, is stunned that Sebelius thinks that she needed 5 years, but only had 2, as somehow an excuse for this disaster. That's like Boeing saying, We know the plane crashed, but we needed 4 years to build it and a year to test it, but we only had 2 years. Color me boggled.

Bureaucratic baffle-gab like that was probably behind yesterday's White House announcement that it had, as Bloomberg reported, tapped former Acting Office of Management and Budget Director Jeff Zients to work with the team overseeing repairs to the ObamaCare Web site. Zients was named last month as the director of the National Economic Council, but his arrival there will now be delayed as he takes on his new Sisyphean task.

It is pretty clear that the White House has, as bureaucrats say, minimal confidence in Secretary Sebelius to deliver a functioning health care exchange system. I am told that, for now, her job is safe because firing her would prompt cries from liberals that she was the scapegoat for mistakes made by higher-ups such as her boss, who signed the legislation creating this mess and then failed to hire the proper people to ride herd on its implementation.

It also brings back to mind, through this disastrous rollout of ObamaCare, for which Republicans here in the House, with Speaker BOEHNER leading—he actually did a favor, with our consent, to say, Here's a way out: You want a CR, you want a continuing resolution, you just keep getting the same massive amount of money; you want the debt ceiling raised to who knows what; we'll do that. We'll give you an out on how bad ObamaCare is. Let's suspend it for a year.

When that didn't work—let's suspend the individual mandate. That gives you an out and allows us to postpone some of the harm that is going to come to America from ObamaCare, and they still said, "No." Shut the government down for over 2 weeks, hurting Americans, refusing to provide death penalty benefits to families of fallen warriors in combat, even though they had the power under the bill we passed before the shutdown; making it as uncomfortable and difficult for people as possible, all the while when they were given an out by Republicans to just suspend it for a year. It is an out. It saves grief for America for a year. They wouldn't have it.

Now I know some have said, Well, the problem the administration is in is if they actually postponed ObamaCare for a year, after so many have already lost their insurance, there is no alternative. There is nothing we could do. Gee,

what would anybody do? They have lost their insurance.

Well, this is just a suggestion, but I bet we in Congress could get a majority. I can't imagine there wouldn't be friends across the aisle among our Democratic friends who would agree to this, as they see how problematic ObamaCare is for Americans, and knowing that people think Federal employees have had this gold-plated health insurance policy is okay. I had better before I came here. I had better when I was in private practice.

But given where we are, there are private insurance companies that have provided insurance policies for what is called a cafeteria-style group of choices so every Federal employee in the country, before ObamaCare, could read through the thick handbook and say, Okay, I have studied the different insurance companies, the different plans, the different costs, and this is the one I choose or that's the one I choose.

How about if for the next year, 2 years, give America a break? Let's say any health insurance company that is part of a Federal exchange or a State cafeteria plan or a local government cafeteria plan, we make those available to anybody. If it is a local plan, anybody in that area. If it is in the State, anybody in that State. If it is in the Federal plan, any insurance in that plan or any insurance company that wants to offer the same type coverage for the same price.

Let's offer to every American across the country the same private insurance choices that Federal employees have until ObamaCare kicks in. But let's give them all of the choices that we had up through this year and just say we will suspend ObamaCare.

Yes, Mr. President; yes, HARRY REID; you shut down the government for over 2 weeks to make life difficult for Americans when you didn't have to. We are more interested in helping Americans. So how about a compromise plan that just says, Hey, why don't we let Americans across the country choose from any of the Federal choices we had before ObamaCare, any State choices, local choices, and you can allow employers, since the President is suspending the business mandate, whether there are more than 50 employees, less than 50 employees, let them choose from those. If their employees choose the policy and the employer wants to pay for part or all, let them do that.

Let's give them another year before we force them under the iron hand of the government. Let them choose from any of those, from private insurance companies. Let them make the choices Federal employees had until ObamaCare.

It would still take away the problem of the preexisting condition because the market would be so wide, the people signing up would be so numerous, it could afford to take care of that. If you want to leave people on that are 26, heck, I don't care, 28. Normally, people

in their twenties are in good health. So let them stay on.

We offered to agree to a bill like that before ObamaCare ever passed, but the Democrats were so insistent on their way—not the highway, but their way, period—and now 3½ years later we see the consequences.

We ought to have unlimited amounts. If you have got a health savings account under a Federal plan, State plan, local plan, or if your insurance company that provided the employer insurance plan and the employer wants to continue that next year, even though it has already been canceled, if the health insurance company wanted to re-extend that, let that be part of the agreement during the suspension period of ObamaCare.

□ 1930

Let's allow people to put pre-tax dollars—as much as they want to—in Health Savings Accounts with the understanding that, once it is in there, it can't be used for anything but health care. I have a fear there will be people who might accumulate over the years \$80,000, \$100,000—well, I don't care. I will pay a 40, 45 percent penalty in interest. Man, just think. I could have two or three good bass boats for that, but we couldn't allow that because it is too important for people's health. Once that money is in a Health Savings Account, it can't be used for anything but health care. Let's do what Ben Carson suggested, and let's start encouraging young people to have Health Savings Accounts. Let's do that.

Those who are in Medicare and Medicaid can stay there. If they have the wherewithal to sign up under one of the plans—the Federal options—the Federal employees have had until ObamaCare passed, let them do that if they would rather, but still they will be in Medicare and Medicaid. Let's suspend the hurt that is being done to Medicare through ObamaCare. Let's suspend the hurt that is being done to young people. If one is a young man, single, then until such time as we have a pregnant young man in his twenties, let's don't make him pay for maternity care. There is no need for it.

Just when you think it couldn't get much worse—this is from the Washington Free Beacon dated today, this afternoon—then we also find out the NSA spied on 124 billion phone calls in one month, and those are the people who want to run our health care—the Federal Government.

An article from The Washington Times from this afternoon, today:

House Speaker John A. Boehner predicted Wednesday that, by the end of the month, more Americans will have lost their insurance by being kicked off existing health plans than the number that was able to sign up in the flawed online HealthCare.gov Web site, and the early numbers may back him up.

A massive number of people have now gotten their notices that they have lost their insurance or will effective January 1.

Here is an article that is on the Breitbart Web site, but it is talking about a CNN story:

CNN: ObamaCare site doomed. Riddled with security dangers.

This reports that today, on the CNN Money site, there is a terrific story about the problems surrounding the ObamaCare Web site. The story includes all kinds of new information from a host of experts. Most of the news is flat-out terrible:

A half billion dollar site needs to be rebuilt from scratch. The site has an unwieldy 500 million lines of computer code—it took just 500,000 lines of code to send a rover to Mars—and that code of ObamaCare is riddled with security holes that could result in one of the biggest breaches in American history.

That was quoting from CNN, that article by John Nolte. It is staggering.

State exchange enrollments are mostly Medicaid, not private insurance plans.

This is another story on Breitbart by Dr. Susan Berry:

Defenders of President Obama's signature health reform legislation claim the States that put effort into establishing their own exchanges, mostly Democrat-led, are signing people up successfully for ObamaCare. A new report, however, indicates most of the individuals signing up in these State-run exchanges are enrolling in Medicaid.

Pretty disingenuous.

Then just as you think you can't stand any more about the Federal Government—they are in your bedroom, your bathroom, your kitchen, all into your private lives; they will have your medical records, and they will be giving them to navigators who are not thoroughly vetted so as to keep it secure, and it will be put online where people are saying it is a dream for hackers to steal personal information—and just when you think you can't take anything more in the way of bad news, here is a story from the AP today. It is by Stephen Ohlemacher with the AP:

The headline reads: "700 IRS Contract Workers Owe \$5.4 Million in Back Taxes."

It kind of reminds us of the old Secretary of the Treasury, Timothy Geithner. He signed four different documents, certifying—basically swearing—that if he would be given all of the money as an independent contractor instead of having money withheld, he would certify—he absolutely was swearing—that he would take care of paying his taxes, and he didn't do it until he got nominated to be the Secretary of the Treasury.

As one Treasury employee told me privately—she didn't want to make it public because she didn't want to lose her job—if employees of the IRS were to have done what Timothy Geithner had done in not paying the taxes he swore he would pay, they would be fired on the spot at the IRS. Of course, that was before Lois Lerner and her crew weaponized the IRS so they could go after conservative groups.

Anyway, it is bad news when it comes to ObamaCare; but, Mr. Speaker, like I say, we offered repeatedly to agree—in

fact, we didn't just offer. We passed a bill that would allow ObamaCare to be suspended for a year to, if possible, get its act together and give an out to the President. The President and HARRY REID could have said, Well, those Republicans in the House—we didn't want to do it, but we needed a continuing resolution to keep the government going. We needed the debt ceiling raised, so we went ahead. We had to. They had us over a barrel. We agreed to suspend ObamaCare for a year. Gee, those pesky Republicans made us do it.

That is a political way out that they had, that we gave as Republicans in the House, that we extended as a gift. We passed it as a House bill. We extended it as a gift and gave them an out. That would have given them an extra year to try to get the act together; but, oh, no, they were more interested in scoring political points because they knew the mainstream media would give them cover, that they would blame Republicans 100 percent even though it was 100 percent not Republicans. It was the people who refused to even appoint conferees to try to work it out before the shutdown really took hold. It was the Democrats who refused to agree to just suspend the individual mandate, and the compromise before that was to suspend the bill for a year. They wouldn't even do that.

How sad for the mainstream media that the best question about ObamaCare and the horrendous roll-out of its Web site was not asked by somebody at the ABC, CBS, NBC evening news, but was asked by Jay Leno after finding out that the President said, We are putting our very best people on fixing this Web site. In essence, Jay Leno asked an entirely appropriate question:

Wait a minute. We are talking about our own health care. Why wouldn't you have put our best people on starting the Web site instead of waiting until it crashed so miserably?

The answer is unknown, but the American people deserve an answer.

Are you so intent on having the Federal Government take over people's private lives—their most personal medical secrets—that you would force this horrible health care system upon them?

I am certainly willing. I will bet you we could find a majority in the House, and if HARRY REID would let it come to a vote in the Senate, they would say, Okay. Let's suspend it for a year. Come on. Maybe make it 2 years. During that time, everybody in America—every employer—can either get their insurance back if the insurance companies will do it; and if they want, they can get the private insurance that we used to have as part of our cafeteria plan for every Federal employee in America. Let Americans choose from that. Don't force these ObamaCare exchanges on America. Let them choose like Federal employees have done. Let them choose.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay a brief tribute to a patriotic man who was devoted to the military, devoted to

seeing that the military had what it needed, devoted to America. C.W. Bill Young will have his funeral tomorrow in Florida. He was 82 years old. There have been plenty of tributes written about Bill Young. There will be many more written and many more spoken tomorrow, and I will look forward to hearing those at his funeral, but there is nothing that could be said that could surpass the witness he was to who he was.

I talked to him numerous times. Sometimes I had questions. Sometimes I had points to make. When I had questions, he always had time. He was always honest—completely honest, very sincerely honest. He was a kind, decent, honest man. We miss when we lose a kind, decent, honest man.

Bill Young, you will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ADERHOLT (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today until 4 p.m. on account of an illness in the family.

Mr. RUSH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for October 22 and 23 on account of attending to family acute medical care and hospitalization.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 24, 2013, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3352. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Animal Welfare; Retail Pet Stores and Licensing Exemptions [Docket No.: APHIS-2011-0003] (RIN: 0579-AD57) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3353. A letter from the Management Analyst, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Environmental Policy Act: Categorical Exclusions for Soil and Water Restoration Activities (RIN: 0596-AD01) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3354. A letter from the Chief, Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations; Income Deductions and Resource Eligibility [FNS-2011-0036] (RIN: 0584-AE05) received September 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3355. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Army Case Number 11-08; to the Committee on Appropriations.