

Let's just have a reasonable, evidence-based conversation. That is all we want. That is what the American people are asking for.

And so as we prepare to close, let me just yield to my good friend for any parting remarks.

Mr. HORSFORD. One additional area that I would like to touch on and ask, maybe, my colleague to expound upon is that, under those Bush-era tax cuts, it included tax cuts to companies that ship jobs overseas, which contributed, did it not, to that 650,000 job loss? Was there a correlation there or not?

Mr. JEFFRIES. I think that is a very appropriate question. We are going to have to have a broader conversation about some of our policies that have resulted in the exportation of middle class American jobs to other parts of the world; and for the life of me, I haven't been able to figure out why anyone in Washington thinks that that is a good idea.

We have had an economic recovery under this President, and I believe more than 7 million private sector jobs have been created, but we still have a long way to go. And we certainly cannot afford to engage in the type of policies that, as you have pointed out, have led to the transfer of American jobs overseas.

Why? Because we are incentivizing companies to ship jobs abroad as opposed to incentivizing American companies to keep jobs here at home in the great United States of America. And I certainly hope that that is something that can be reversed as we move forward and enter into a discussion about some of the agreements that will be pending before this Congress.

Mr. HORSFORD. If the gentleman would yield, I would just say—and I think that this would be an appropriate discussion for us to have at a future Special Order—the fact that some of those corporate tax breaks to ship American jobs overseas resulted in debt that is now being obligated by this country into future years indicates a change in policy that we need to have.

We agree we need tax reform in this country. We need tax reform that allows those jobs to be returned to the United States by eliminating the corporate welfare that was provided by giving those tax incentives to those companies to take American jobs overseas to begin with and, to add insult to injury, to have it included in the overall debt and obligations of this country going forward.

But the bottom line here tonight, Mr. Speaker, is we have a job to do this week, and that job, we are asking, is to bring a clean, swift, debt ceiling bill to the floor without a bunch of conditions or demands, and allow this Congress to do its job this week and send to the Senate a clean debt ceiling bill that allows us to meet our obligations.

Those obligations, as my colleague here tonight has aptly explained, are obligations that prior administrations

and prior Congresses have entered this country into. We have to keep the full faith and credit of the United States intact. We cannot repeat some of the damaging consequences from 2011. We cannot have a repeat, Mr. Speaker, of lost economic productivity or economic activity. We cannot have the stock market plummeting. We cannot have lower consumer confidence. We cannot have businesses deciding whether to hire more employees because they are concerned that this Congress is going to cause more harm than help by failing to pass a clean debt ceiling.

That is what we are asking here tonight.

I thank my colleague, the anchor for this hour, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), for leading this discussion. I am pleased to have participated.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank my good friend for his very thoughtful and comprehensive remarks and analysis of the situation that we find ourselves in and his very clear-eyed plea that we in the Congress simply do our job and raise the debt ceiling to avoid a default and threatening of the full faith and credit of the United States of America.

The 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution states, in part, that the validity of the public debt of the United States enacted into law shall not be questioned.

No more drama. No more theatrics. No more brinksmanship. No more extremism. Let's raise the debt ceiling and get back to doing the business of the American people.

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues Congressmen Jeffries and Congressman Horsford for once again leading the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order Hour.

As a result of your leadership, the Congressional Black Caucus continues to discuss critical issues facing our nation on the House floor and to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss why we must raise our nation's debt ceiling and bring a clean debt ceiling bill to the floor.

The full faith and credit of the United States should not be subject to negotiation.

On Friday, February 7th, the United States of America once again reached its debt limit.

Treasury Secretary Jack Lew has again begun paying our bills with what he calls "extraordinary measures."

This is not a new situation for us, as we have been here many times before.

And we have seen that each time we face this fully preventable crisis, the result is harm to the American people and to this nation's international economic reputation.

In August 2011, Members of Congress faced a debt ceiling standoff that resulted in the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Because we could not come to a budget agreement as required by the Budget Control Act, Congress instituted automatic spending cuts to our military and to critical services to our communities.

In October 2013, we faced another debt limit crisis when our government shut down for

17 days, leaving hundreds of thousands of government workers unsure of when their next paycheck would arrive.

By the end of February, if we do not raise the debt limit, we will again be teetering at the end of a financial cliff.

It is reported that Republican House leadership is deciding what they should ask for in return for allowing our nation to meet its financial obligations.

Once again, they are looking to barter this country's financial well-being for narrow political wins when they've seen the harmful results of their actions.

We cannot continue to play political games when our nation's credit is at risk.

Approaching the 11th hour in this debate, when a clean debt ceiling bill can be brought to the floor today, should not be an option. It is not in the best interest of this nation.

Before I yield back, I also want to clarify what raising the debt limit means. There is often confusion about raising the debt ceiling. Some believe it allows our government to authorize additional or new spending, which is not the case.

Raising the debt ceiling does not mean our country will be allowed to spend more money; it means that we will be able to pay the financial obligations which we have incurred in the past.

Just like millions of people across this nation have bills to pay that keep the lights on in their homes, or to pay for the car they drive back and forth to work, America must pay the bills required to keep our state and local governments running.

America must make sure that millions of seniors receive their Social Security checks.

We must not let partisanship or brinkmanship do any more damage to our federal programs or our ability to borrow in the future.

This is why raising the debt ceiling is so important.

I urge my colleagues to bring a clean debt ceiling bill to the floor.

No conditions or concessions should be made in turn for raising our country's debt ceiling.

The full faith and credit of the United States is not for sale.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ADERHOLT (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of family medical reasons.

Mrs. NOEM (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of flight cancellation.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of illness.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of weather in Oregon.

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of business in the district.

Ms. MATSUI (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of illness.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of an illness in the family.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the

House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 11, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the fourth quarter of 2013 pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Anne Marie Chotvacs	11/4	11/7	Egypt		856.00						856.00
Commercial airfare							10,135.10				10,135.10
Misc. embassy costs								714.00			714.00
Jennifer Miller	11/4	11/6	Turkey		514.00						514.00
	11/6	11/8	Qatar		566.00						566.00
	11/8	11/12	Jordan		1,560.00						1,560.00
Commercial airfare							12,189.05				12,189.05
Hon. Ken Calvert	11/21	11/25	Portugal		706.00						706.00
Commercial airfare							6,619.10				6,619.10
Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart	11/26	11/27	Belgium		648.00						648.00
Commercial airfare							10,994.90				10,994.90
Total					4,850.00		39,938.15		714.00		45,502.15

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. HAROLD ROGERS, Chairman, Jan. 31, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Visit to Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt—October 30–November 4, 2013 with STAFFDEL Karem:											
Michael Casey	10/31	11/3	Lebanon		150.00						150.00
	11/3	11/4	Turkey		262.00						262.00
Commercial transportation	11/3	11/4					5,459.50				5,459.50
Visit to Germany, Poland, United Kingdom—Nov. 4–11, 2013											
Hon. Michael Turner	11/5	11/8	Germany		366.00						366.00
	11/7	11/7	Poland								
	11/8	11/10	United Kingdom		368.00						368.00
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	11/5	11/8	Germany		366.00						366.00
	11/7	11/7	Poland								
	11/8	11/10	United Kingdom		368.00						368.00
John Wason	11/5	11/8	Germany		366.00						366.00
	11/7	11/7	Poland								
	11/8	11/10	United Kingdom		368.00						368.00
Douglas Bush	11/5	11/8	Germany		366.00						366.00
	11/7	11/7	Poland								
	11/8	11/10	United Kingdom		368.00						368.00
Visit to Philippines—Nov. 22–26, 2013 with CODEL Smith:											
Hon. Trent Franks	11/2	11/26	Philippines		577.00						577.00
Visit to India—Dec. 14–22, 2013 with CODEL Holding:											
Hon. Madeleine Bordallo	12/15	12/21	India		670.00						670.00
Commercial transportation							539.24				539.24
Total					670.00		539.24				1,209.24

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, Chairman, Jan. 31, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Mary Neumayr	11/18	11/23	Poland		2,087.06		1,966.20				4,053.26
Phillip Barnett	11/19	11/22	Poland		1,043.53		1,566.20				2,609.73
Gregory Dotson	11/19		Poland						³ 791.53		791.53
Hon. Pete Olson	12/14	12/17	India		1,718.36		10,665.01				12,383.37
Committee total					4,848.95		14,197.41		791.53		19,837.89

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Cancellation fee for lodging in Poland. Gregory Dotson did not travel on the STAFFDEL.

Hon. FRED UPTON, Chairman, Jan. 29, 2014.