

so we waited and we waited for them to put it forward—and nothing.

Then they said they needed more time, so we gave them more time, and the Republicans gave us nothing.

Then, they said it was because the majority leader lost.

And finally, finally, the fault of not having a comprehensive immigration bill is on the children, the children at the border. We are suddenly scared of children at the border.

Madam Speaker, there is one person responsible for us not having comprehensive immigration reform, and it is the Speaker of this House.

Mr. Speaker, give us a vote on comprehensive immigration reform.

EXPECT MORE FROM THE IRS

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

Mr. GOWDY. There is a hunger in this country, Madam Speaker, for things that bind us together. Americans agree the IRS should never target citizens. Americans agree the government should tell us the truth.

The IRS has offered eight different explanations for targeting our fellow citizens. If we, Madam Speaker, changed our story to government eight different times, we would be called inmates.

We can't lie to government. Therefore, government should never be able to lie to us.

We agree no President should ever prejudge the outcome of an investigation while that investigation is ongoing. No President should ever say there is not a smidgeon of corruption while an investigation is ongoing.

We agree government should play by the same rules that we play by. We have to keep our emails, we have to keep our receipts, we have to keep our records. Why should it be any different for the IRS?

Finally, Madam Speaker, if we want something in this country that unites us and binds us together, expecting more and better from the IRS seems like a really good place to start.

DECENCY AND HUMANITY

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, this week, even as the House is approving seven different bills to fight the scourge of child sex trafficking, the cry to strip rights and protections from some children persists.

Indeed, at the very same time that our Republican colleagues were speaking here on the floor about doing whatever it takes to protect vulnerable children, they were demanding that immigrant children be sent back immediately.

The support for exploited children which existed across this aisle must extend to children who were born on both sides of the border.

Sadly, fear and hysteria are creating a steady drumbeat to remove legal protections against trafficking for children who are simply seeking refuge here. Exploited children should not be politically exploited.

No, we cannot accept every one of them. We are not asking for amnesty, but how about a little human decency, a little humanity?

How about just following existing law and supplying the resources to see that it is effectively implemented?

IRS' HYPOCRITICAL WARNINGS TO TAXPAYERS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we have a saying in Texas that one should "practice what they preach." But the IRS has released a video that states the importance of keeping good records.

Now, isn't that lovely?

Maybe they should save the lecture for Lois Lerner and the IRS "Taxocrats."

In the video, "Helen" from the IRS says:

Whether you are an individual or a business owner, you can avoid headaches at tax time by keeping good records during the year. Keeping well-organized records helps you answer questions if your return is selected for examination by the IRS.

You should usually keep these records supporting your tax returns for 3 years. You must keep all employment tax records for at least 4 years after the tax is paid.

Are you kidding me, Madam Speaker?

It is interesting. The IRS expects Americans to keep years and years of records, but they lose, misplace, destroy, and hide their own records.

The IRS says, Oh, rules for thee, but not for me.

A little more practicing and a little less preaching by the hypocritical IRS is in order.

And that is just the way it is.

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FAMILIES FIRST

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, the average family income in Stockton, California, has gone down 12 percent over the last 3 years. Families are working longer hours for less pay, and this is happening across the Nation. Wages are falling, while the cost of living inches up. That is why Democrats have a plan to put families first.

First, let's put people to work now by fixing our aging infrastructure and providing tax incentives for hiring. Then let's create a workforce of the future by providing universal early childhood education and give more Pell grants to college students.

Let's make sure that women make equal pay for equal work and that families have quality, affordable child care. I ask my Republican colleagues: Why aren't we doing these things right now? Don't the middle class families deserve some help?

There are other critical issues languishing here, such as immigration reform and action on climate change. We need leadership, not inaction. I challenge our Republican colleagues to get to work now to start solving our Nation's problems.

THE IRS SCANDAL

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

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address an important issue, the scandal engulfing the IRS.

Lois Lerner is a central figure in the scandal surrounding the IRS' decision to target certain groups of Americans for scrutiny and other unequal treatment due to their political beliefs.

Now, we have learned emails pertinent to this investigation are missing in very suspicious circumstances involving multiple deletions of records and the physical loss of computer equipment.

The missing emails only add to the IRS' gross misconduct and raise disturbing questions about the professionalism and neutrality of bureaucrats who are supposed to enforce the law in a fair, evenhanded manner.

In May, the House held Lois Lerner in contempt of Congress and passed a resolution calling for the appointment of a special counsel to investigate the IRS. The IRS' conduct appears widespread and almost certainly harmed the right of free speech, which we cherish in this country.

It is critical that Congress discovers the full truth of what happened at the IRS and that the responsible individuals are held accountable for their actions.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, the Department of the Interior recently began the process of developing an offshore oil and gas leasing program for 2017 to 2022.

However, the development of a 5-year program isn't simply about which areas should be leased and drilled and which should not. It is about whether drilling in new offshore fields is the way of the future.

As a member of the Safe Climate Caucus, I am here to ask: How will we address the imminent and multiple threats of climate change resulting from our overdependence on carbon fossil fuels?

We could double down or triple or quadruple down on the energy sources of the last two centuries, or we could take steps to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and have a sustainable energy future.

The last few years have seen tremendous progress in harvesting the renewable energy potential of our oceans. We should oppose the unwise expansion of offshore oil and gas leasing and drilling.

IRS NOT ACCOUNTABLE

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

Mr. GIBBS. Madam Speaker, have you tried to use the excuse the dog ate your homework? Well, Lois Lerner, the former director of the exempt organizations of the IRS seems to think the excuse that she can't find her emails is acceptable to tell Congress.

When the House requested access to Ms. Lerner's emails, the IRS had known for months that the hard drives of hers and many other officials had conveniently been destroyed. Government agencies are missing accountability.

The American people have constantly been looking for answers as to why the IRS chose to harass taxpayers based on their political beliefs and restrict their First Amendment rights.

The IRS is currently tasked with enforcing the failing health care law, and now, they are attempting to regulate free speech. The double standard that plagues the IRS must end. Asking Americans for years of paperwork regarding their taxes is simply hypocritical when the IRS is unable to produce information required of them.

I know the investigations conducted by the various House committees will help to expose what really happened and work to prevent this kind of government overreach from occurring again. Government needs to be transparent and accountable to the American people.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, today, some of my colleagues from across the aisle unveiled their proposal to address poverty in America. It is ironic because, tomorrow, they will vote to push 6 million children deeper into poverty by excluding their low-income families from the child tax credit.

I just wish they would explain what they will do differently from their current budget, which is a hard-hearted and direct attack on the poor.

Two-thirds of the cuts in the Republican budget come from our social safety net, including Medicaid, nutrition assistance, and education. Their budget ends the Medicare guarantee and raises prescription drug costs for seniors.

It raids Pell grants, raises the already overwhelming cost of college, and slashes investments in jobs to rebuild our national infrastructure, and it does this to cut taxes by one-third for the well-off and well-connected, while continuing to reward companies that ship our jobs overseas.

Madam Speaker, cutting services for low-income Americans, blocking a livable wage, and increasing health care costs isn't a path to prosperity. It is a promise of poverty.

If we expect to have any hope of reducing poverty in generations to come, we need a strong safety net today, and we need to invest in quality education and good jobs to create opportunities for the future. Democrats promise to do that.

WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

(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. Madam Speaker, the IRS plays an essential role in the Obama administration. They are responsible for enforcing the failing health care law, interfering with free speech, and handling finances for the government.

Sadly, it has become apparent this organization is corrupt and, therefore, is unable to fulfill its duties to the American people.

The House has revealed a clear record of IRS harassment based on political belief, threatening jobs. Claims of missing emails are inexcusable. Proof of deliberate delinquency are apparent. The IRS is entrusted with great responsibility, yet their actions disrespect the American people they are supposed to serve.

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

My sympathy to the family and friends of Earl Brown, a dedicated patriot of Brookland Baptist Church.

TRANSPORTING LIQUID NUCLEAR WASTE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my serious concerns with the Department of Energy's proposal to transport liquid nuclear waste from Ontario's Chalk River Research reactor to the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, across several States and over the Peace Bridge, which is located in my western New York congressional district.

Unlike spent nuclear fuel, which can be safely transported in solid form, in liquid form, it is more radioactive and complicated to transfer. Most concerning is that in the event of a spill, liquid highly-enriched uranium would be difficult to contain.

A major contamination in the Buffalo-Niagara region could potentially have dire consequences on the Great Lakes, the Niagara region, and the greater Buffalo-Niagara population.

Madam Speaker, a plan that carries this level of risk should not be done without a thorough review. The Department of Energy must undertake a formal environmental impact statement before proceeding.

THE IRS SCANDAL

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, they say where there is smoke, there is fire, and as far as the IRS is concerned, with their credibility, they are engulfed in flames.

Just this week, IRS staff testified to the Oversight Committee that they may still have some of Lois Lerner's missing emails, despite earlier claims they were lost forever.

On Tuesday, the Ways and Means Committee discovered Lerner's hard drive was only "scratched," information that conflicts with their earlier statements that the data was unrecoverable.

It is clear the IRS refuses to be fully forthcoming, and their behavior continues to raise serious questions about potential criminal wrongdoing and the targeting of conservative groups.

Here in the House, we are committed to oversight, transparency, and ensuring we get the answers we need in the pursuit of understanding what really happened.

THE RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak out against the misguided efforts to reduce or repeal the Renewable Fuel Standard. The RFS was enacted in 2005 to improve our economy, our environment, and our energy independence.

However, it is currently threatened by an EPA draft proposal that would roll it back, and as highlighted in a recent op-ed by Senators CHUCK GRASSLEY and AMY KLOBUCHAR, by Big Oil's attempt to protect its market share and profits at the expense of American consumers.

As they wrote, "The Federal law has helped to displace oil imports, increase domestic energy security, create jobs in rural America, curb pollution with cleaner-burning fuel, and lower prices at the pump for consumers."

In Iowa, biofuels have created 73,400 jobs, pumping \$5 billion of wages annually into our economy, and \$19.3 billion of economic activity annually. In the United States, it has created 852,000 jobs, \$46.2 billion in wages, and \$185 billion in economic activity.