

Mr. Speaker, I ask, if the President has the power to tell illegal immigrants that they can stay in the country, does he have the power to tell legal citizens to leave the country? If the President can delay part of a law, does he have the power to delay the entire law? Where does his authority begin and end?

The President's immigration policies are causing every town to be a border town, every State to be a border State. And not only is it turning America into a country without borders, it is turning it into a country without laws.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama's inability to secure the southern border is also placing America's national security in a pre-9/11 posture. The Department of Homeland Security estimates that 90,166 unaccompanied children will arrive in the U.S. in 2014. If 90,000 unaccompanied children can sneak into our country, how difficult will it be for a terror cell to infiltrate America and plan an attack?

We need to be concerned about securing our borders. We must secure our border. We must end the cruelty of providing children with false hope, and we must stop the lawlessness of this President.

#### WHAT HAVE REPUBLICANS DONE FOR YOU LATELY?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk about the issue of impeachment; and in connection with that topic, I would use as my text the song some of us may remember by Janet Jackson, "What Have You Done for Me Lately?"

That is what we should ask the House Republicans: What have you done for me lately?

Well, I will tell you what Congress has been doing. Congress has been wasting your time and your tax dollars. At a time when Congress should be working on the issues that matter most to the pockets and pocketbooks of America's citizens, instead we have, for the last 3 weeks, been wasting taxpayer time and money.

During that 3-week period, over \$800 billion in tax cuts have been awarded to the rich people of this country. And guess what. The Republicans have once again violated their own rule and failed to find an offset in the budget to pay for this gift to the wealthy. This means that Republicans have just added—just like that—almost \$1 trillion to the Nation's debt.

What have you done for me lately?

This session of Congress, the 113th Congress, which threatens to go down in history as the least productive Congress in the history of this great Nation, this Congress has produced a government shutdown, which cost the American people \$24-plus billion. And we have spent in this House of Representatives \$79-plus million shuffling

paper and voting 50 times to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

And how much is it going to cost the American taxpayers when the Republicans embark upon this effort to impeach President Obama? How much will it cost? Well, they won't let you know that. I will tell you, shutting down the government and repealing ObamaCare did not work, so we just wasted money. The Republicans came up empty-handed.

So what are they doing now? In fact, working people should ask their Representatives during this upcoming 5-week August recess which we have worked so hard to earn, you should ask your Representative: What have you done for me lately?

Congress has spent the last 3 weeks preparing to impeach President Obama. You see, over the past 3 weeks, the Republicans in the House have been talking up and taking legislative action, at the same time mounting a FOX TV and hate-radio campaign in support of their effort to file a lawsuit against the President of the United States. Now, is this lawsuit simply an attempt to mollify and pacify those Republicans who have turned up the volume on the drumbeat towards impeachment, or, more cynically, is this lawsuit a precursor to the filing of articles of impeachment so they can remove this twice-elected President from office prior to the end of his term?

Either way, it does not look good for America if, in November, voters put Republicans in control of both Houses of Congress. Just like the government shutdown, cooler heads will not prevail. TED CRUZ and the other Tea Party Republicans who were so willing to drive America off the fiscal cliff will not hesitate to do what has never been done throughout the course of our history, and that is to pull off a coup.

So the lawsuit against President Obama should be looked upon as being synonymous with impeachment.

#### FAILED ENERGY POLICIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, President Obama told the San Francisco Chronicle editorial board in 2008, under his environmental policies "electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket."

To be even more specific, he said:

If somebody wants to build a coal-fired power plant, they can. It is just that it will bankrupt them. Under my plan, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket.

Now listen to this story from The Washington Post just last week:

Pueblo, Colorado. Sharon Garcia is stumbling around her dining room in the dark, trying to find Post-it notes.

As she has for years, Garcia wants to affix the notes, marked with dollar signs, to light switches all around her house. The message to her five kids: light is expensive.

"Why do you need to turn the lights off?" she asks her son, Mariano.

"Because otherwise there's no money," he answers, dutifully.

"And when there's no money?"

"You can't feed us or take us anywhere."

Bingo, again.

□ 1100

I am still quoting from the Post story:

It's not just the light switches, though. Ever since her power was shut off in 2010, Garcia has adopted a Depression-era obsessiveness: she doesn't use the oven in the summer, because it heats up the house, and uses only one small air-conditioner. Even the aquarium goes dark when someone's not in the room.

And yet, no matter how much she rations and cuts, Garcia cannot keep ahead of the fast rise in rates. In Pueblo, the residential rate per kilowatt hour has risen 26 percent since 2010, and on a per-household basis, is now among the highest in the State.

But in Pueblo, it happened in a way that has left poor consumers gasping for relief.

To a wealthy community, skyrocketing electricity rates might not have much of an impact. When you have a decent-paying job, what's a few more dollars a month on your utility bill?

Pueblo is not that kind of place. With a poverty rate of 18.1 percent, incomes far below the State average, and a third of the population on some sort of public assistance, those few dollars can make a big difference here.

Now, I realize that almost all environmental radicals come from wealthy or upper-income families. Perhaps they just do not realize how harmful all these environmental rules and regulations and red tape are to poor and lower income people.

As Charles Lane, The Washington Post columnist, said, climate change is "a rich man's issue."

Perhaps it doesn't matter to wealthy environmentalists that all this environmental overkill has sent millions of good jobs to other countries over the last 40 or 50 years.

Now we have ended up with the best-educated waiters and waitresses in the world as millions of college graduates or very intelligent non-college graduates are having to work at jobs far below the levels of their education or below the level of their skills, talents, and abilities.

Perhaps it doesn't matter to rich or upper-income environmentalists if utility bills or prices for everything go way up, but it sure does matter to millions of people like Sharon Garcia.

Perhaps it doesn't matter to wealthy environmentalists that their policies over the years have driven very small- and medium-sized companies out of business.

Perhaps they are pleased that their policies have helped give job security to bureaucrats and have helped extremely big businesses and foreign energy producers.

This administration even had a Secretary of Energy until a few months ago who said we need to be paying the same price for gas as they do in Europe—\$8 or \$9 a gallon.

Then, of course, all the wealthy environmentalists would have to fight a

whole lot less traffic because they would be about the only ones who could afford to drive.

We have made tremendous progress over the past many years in cleaning our air and water. I have voted for many of these laws and voted many years ago for the toughest clean air law in the world.

But as Charles Krauthammer said: If we shut our whole country down, it would make almost no difference on carbon emissions because China and India together are opening coal-fired plants at rate of almost one per week, and Indonesia is the third-largest emitter.

Some environmental groups hate to admit how much progress we have made—how much cleaner our air and water are—because it would reduce their contributions. They have to keep telling people how bad everything is so their contributors will keep sending them money, especially money and contributions from foreign energy producers.

But we need to make people realize that only a prosperous country that allows free enterprise can generate the excess funds to do good things for the environment that everybody wants done.

Communist and socialist countries have been some of the biggest polluters in the world because their economies have been barely able to feed, clothe, and house their people. And certainly they have been unable to spend the kinds of money that it costs to help the environment.

We must not allow big government environmental regulators at both the Federal and State levels to cause our country to move so far to the left that it destroys our economy.

#### HOUSE REPUBLICAN SUBTERFUGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to denounce the unprecedented political attack House Republicans are bringing to the floor of this House. This week, this body will consider a measure to bring a lawsuit against the President of the United States for doing the job that the people of this country elected him to do.

This highly partisan lawsuit is a subterfuge. It is a subterfuge by House Republicans aimed at achieving their political goals that they were not able to achieve at the ballot box. Make no mistake about it. This is not a frivolous matter. Nothing could be more serious than House Republicans attempting to get the taxpayers of this country to finance their misuse and abuse of the legal system. The ultimate goal of this exercise is to try to discover some peg upon which they can hang an impeachment resolution.

This is very simple. Republicans could not defeat this President in back-

to-back elections, and now they are looking for other means to their ends. This wasteful Republican lawsuit is their prelude to impeachment. It is a vendetta, a direct attack on the heart of our democratic form of self-government launched by House Republicans who got over a million less votes from the American people in the last national elections than their Democratic counterparts. Nothing could be more serious.

This lawsuit is a measure by House Republicans to use taxpayer money to further their partisan attempts to besmirch and destroy a President they couldn't beat in the elections. It is unfair to the American people, it is undemocratic, it is un-American.

Mr. Speaker, the American people need to know what is going on here. Rather than focusing on creating jobs, fixing our broken immigration system, rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, and other sensible measures that can help hardworking families struggling to make ends meet, House Republicans are obsessed with political gamesmanship on a historic scale. Nothing could be more serious.

#### LET'S NOT WASTE PRECIOUS TIME SUING THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, with 3 legislative days left before Congress leaves for a 5-week vacation, Democrats are working to advance the priorities of the American people: creating jobs, jump-starting the middle class, and working to reform our broken immigration system. The majority, however, seems only interested in advancing a lawsuit against the President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this is wrong, very wrong. Suing the President—for what, for doing his job? This is the first time in the history of our Nation that one branch of government is bringing a lawsuit against another branch of government. What an incredible way to uphold the separation of power among branches of government.

Mr. Speaker, the American people sent us here to tackle big problems and do real work on their behalf. This lawsuit is only further proof that House Republicans have lost touch with the American people.

Not only is this lawsuit a waste of time, but it is a serious waste of taxpayers' money. Just as House Republicans spent \$2.3 million defending discrimination during the DOMA case, and the \$3 million they are spending on the Select Committee on Benghazi, they are now poised to waste yet more money on a political stunt that is deeply unpopular with the American people.

Mr. Speaker, we have critical work to do. I strongly urge my colleagues to do what is right. We should stay here

in Washington to deal with issues like immigration reform, veterans' health care, and the economy. Let's not waste precious time and money on political stunts like suing the President. We owe it to the American people.

#### 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 10 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

Reverend Jeff Parish, First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks, Largo, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Lord, we come before You today and pray for our elected officials.

God, I pray for wisdom for them in areas that they need it and guidance to follow You, Lord, in all things.

God, we do pause today and ask You to use us as Your servants.

We realize our dependence on You and look to You for answers to the problems that face our country. I pray that the discussion and the decisions made in this Chamber today, God, will reflect Your heart and Your direction.

Lord, we pray in Jesus' 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. MESSER. 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 Maryland (Mr. HARRIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HARRIS 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.