

in America's priorities. Instead, interest payments are a significant tax on all Americans, a debt tax that Washington doesn't want to talk about."

Senator Obama abhorred a debt tax that Washington didn't want to talk about, and now he refuses to talk about his new debt tax.

Senator Obama closed by saying:

"Increasing America's debt weakens us domestically and internationally. Leadership means that 'the buck stops here.' Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better. I, therefore, intend to oppose the effort to increase America's debt limit."

If Senator Obama thought that a national debt of \$8.6 trillion with a T is a "failure of leadership," what has changed? Why is President Obama okay with a new debt tax of over \$20 trillion, trillion with a T?

Clearly, President Obama has forgotten Senator Obama's words, but the American people remember. On their behalf and on behalf of all young Americans who will be crushed by this new debt, I ask President Obama to decrease our debt by working with Congress to stop his new debt tax.

DONALD TRUMP HOSTING "SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE"

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, did you hear that "Saturday Night Live" has invited Donald Trump to host the show in November? Now, let me get the exact quote from July when Donald Trump launched his "make America hate again" campaign. He said:

"When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best . . . They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing us those problems. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."

"They're sending us not the right people. It's coming from more than Mexico. It's coming from all over South and Latin America, and it's coming probably from the Middle East."

While much of what Donald Trump says is hilarious, intentionally or otherwise, bald-faced racism for political gain isn't funny. His statements should disqualify him from being able to take the stage in any entertainment venue and speak to the American people as if what he said was no big deal.

It is not that I don't get the joke—I haven't been kidnapped by the politically correct police—but when public figures cross certain lines, they should lose their privileges to host TV shows, at least until they have apologized for their unacceptable behavior. To put Donald Trump on the air in America's

living rooms on the signature comedy show of one of the most important national networks after saying that Mexicans are rapists, drug dealers, and criminals, that is a corporate blunder too big to be ignored.

What happened, NBC and Comcast? Within a couple of weeks after Trump launched those racist bombs, you dumped Trump. You dumped his TV show on your network. You dumped his pageants and other ventures on NBC and Universal networks like Telemundo.

In July, NBC said: "Due to the recent derogatory statements by Donald Trump regarding immigrants, NBCUniversal is ending its business relationship with Mr. Trump."

NBC said: "Respect and dignity for all people are cornerstones of our values."

NBC, you were not alone in dumping Trump. Macy's Department Stores dumped Trump's clothing line. Serta dumped Trump's mattresses, chef Jose Andres pulled his new restaurant from a Trump hotel, and Univision dumped a Trump pageant. Even NASCAR and ESPN dumped Trump. Corporate America stepped up to the plate and dumped Trump, and we all applauded.

Let's be clear: the goodwill that corporate America earned from dumping Trump didn't just come from the Mexican-American community. No, when Trump says Mexicans are murderers, rapists, and drug dealers, Puerto Rico knows he is talking about us, too, and Colombians and Salvadorans, and pretty much everyone in the Latino community.

Look, Americans aren't very good at telling us apart; so when we are under attack by a tycoon running for the Republican Presidential nomination, we can't tell us apart either. We are all family.

What happened, Comcast, Universal, and NBC? Now, 3 months later, have Donald Trump's words been expunged? Did I miss an apology on one of his almost nightly television appearances? Has he confessed his racist and hateful call to action?

Well, NBC installing Trump as SNL host may be good for ratings, but it is a bigger deal than a cameo or being a guest on "The Tonight Show." I am calling you out.

If Donald Trump had said gays and lesbians were murderers and raping Americans, would he get to host a show? It is every bit as much a fiction and a lie.

Donald Trump has said some pretty awful things about women individually and collectively. But what if he said most women were criminals? Would the writers be thinking up sketches for Trump if he had slandered an entire gender rather than an entire ethnic group?

Trump says he wants to do away with the part of the Constitution that allowed freed slaves, freed African American slaves to be treated fully as American citizens. Yes, Trump thinks we do

not need the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

But what if he said that Black people were murderers, rapists, drug dealers? Would you still pitch skits with Donald Trump and some lighthearted banter?

What if all the Latino cast members all walked off the job at "Saturday Night Live"? Oh, wait, you don't have any Latino cast members.

I do seem to remember Comcast spending a lot of time on Capitol Hill when they had a merger deal with Time Warner and they wanted support from Members of Congress. Comcast said Latinos were so important to them, and they had plans to do this and that and the other thing to support the Latino and immigrant community.

What happened? The merger didn't go through, so you no longer feel the sense of corporate responsibility to the 55 million Latinos that live in the USA? Giving free airtime to people who insult and malign them is now part of your business model?

I just want to say one last thing to producer Lorne Michaels. I wonder if he had said that Canadians were rapists, murderers, and drug dealers, would you be inviting him on SNL?

Mr. Speaker, I place in the RECORD a letter that I sent NBC Comcast yesterday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 20, 2015.

Mr. BRIAN ROBERTS,
Chairman/President/CEO, Comcast Corp,
Philadelphia, PA.
Mr. STEPHEN B. BURKE,
President/CEO, NBCUniversal,
New York, NY.

DEAR MESSRS. ROBERTS AND BURKE: Having Donald Trump as a guest on every news and entertainment program is one thing, but allowing him to host Saturday Night Live is another. It is a level of endorsement that says to America that every hateful and racist thing Donald Trump has said since the moment he launched his campaign is acceptable and no big deal.

Well, it is a big deal. He said Mexicans are rapists, criminals and drug-dealers, and to be clear, when he said Mexicans are those things, he was tarring all Latinos and all immigrants. His exact words were, "They're sending us not the right people. It's coming from more than Mexico. It's coming from all over South and Latin America, and it's coming probably from the Middle East."

The reaction in July from NBC was swift and clear: "Due to the recent derogatory statements by Donald Trump regarding immigrants, NBCUniversal is ending its business relationship with Mr. Trump." And NBC said, "Respect and dignity for all people are cornerstones of our values."

Serta, Macy's, NASCAR, Univision, and ESPN were among the others that also acted to dump Trump.

Three months later, because he is a ratings and comedy bonanza, Lorne Michaels and Saturday Night Live (SNL) are giving the Trump campaign 90 minutes of free network airtime.

I think I speak for a lot of Americans, especially immigrant Americans and Latino Americans, when I say that if SNL is allowed to proceed, it would be a huge corporate blunder.

When Comcast sought a merger with Time Warner, I and a lot of my Congressional Hispanic Caucus colleagues heard from you

about your commitment to the Latino community and the level of corporate responsibility you pledged to your diverse audience. I certainly hope that your commitment to “respect and dignity for all people” was not some hollow promise and is in fact a cornerstone of your values.

Please disinvite him. Make a statement: Derogatory statements of the nature trumpeted by Trump about any group disqualifies someone from hosting shows on your network. Send a message that racism is not funny and that responsibility to your viewers and the public is more important than ratings. It is a chance for your company—again—to show you are committed to your audience in more ways than just the ad revenues they provide you.

Please do the right thing and dump Trump.
Sincerely,

LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

WEST VIRGINIA'S DRUG CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, President Obama is coming to West Virginia today to talk about our State's and Nation's drug crisis. What I hope he will also talk about on his visit to our capital city, Charleston, what I hope he will acknowledge, is our State's jobs crisis. West Virginia has lost good jobs: jobs in our coal mines, jobs in our schools and small businesses, jobs in our small towns and communities throughout southern West Virginia.

Regulations from the President's own Environmental Protection Agency are forcing coal mines to close. Our coal miners are out of work. Our coal families are facing an uncertain future. We have lost an estimated 43 percent of our coal jobs in just the last 6 years under this administration's policies.

Eighteen percent—18 percent—of unemployed people reported using illegal drugs. That is more than twice the number of people who used illegal drugs who were employed. The best antidrug policy is a good jobs policy.

West Virginia has the highest overdose rate in the country. We also have the highest unemployment rate in the country. Nearly every family in this State has been touched by drug abuse and, tragically, far too many families. There are those who have suffered and actually buried a loved one due to the horrible disease of addiction.

The President will announce several initiatives to help address the heroin and opioid crisis. He is going to talk about prescriber training. He is going to talk about access to naloxone, a powerful antidote to an overdose. He is going to talk about public education.

□ 1045

He is going to talk about public education. These are all excellent steps. These are actually things we already

are doing in West Virginia. We have taken great strides on many fronts, including these in West Virginia, to arrest this problem.

These proposals, however, I am afraid, do not go far enough to really make a difference and treat those battling addiction. The President needs to propose a strong plan to get people real treatment to address their addictions and become healthy and productive members of society again.

Many West Virginians who want treatment don't have anywhere to go. Those suffering from addiction are forced to leave West Virginia to find help, treatment, and their families are falling apart.

To improve West Virginia, to give West Virginians hope for a better future, to give them an alternative to destructive lifestyles, we have to get people back to work.

Mr. President, a good job solves a lot of problems.

West Virginians are a proud people. We are not asking for a handout. We want to do a full day's work for a full day's pay.

The administration is crushing West Virginia's coal miners, machinists, healthcare workers, truckers, small business owners, and Main Street.

Mr. President, if you want to help win the war on drugs, stop your war on coal. What we need is the Federal Government to get out of the way of West Virginia, and let us get back to work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OLSON). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

WE CANNOT RUN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, over the past 15 years, we have had thousands of young Americans killed and thousands more maimed and trillions of U.S. taxpayer dollars spent in our failed attempts at nation building in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the Middle East.

Surely, surely, we have learned a very expensive lesson, that we cannot run the Middle East. In fact, in some ways, our good intentions have made things worse.

Now some companies and people who make money off of an interventionist foreign policy are clamoring for us to get in an even bigger way in bloody Syria.

Mr. Speaker, this is not true conservatism.

Mr. Speaker, the conservative columnist Thomas Sowell wrote recently and said: “What lessons might we learn from the whole experience of the Iraq War? If nothing else, we should never again imagine that we can engage in ‘nation-building’ in the sweeping sense that term acquired in Iraq—least of all building a democratic Arab nation in a region of the world that has never had

such a thing in a history that goes back thousands of years.”

David Keene, the conservative opinion editor of the Washington Times, wrote:

The concept of U.S. national interests was stretched beyond any rational meaning. America took on more than we could possibly handle. The result is a generation of young Americans who have never known peace; a decade in which thousands of our best have died or been maimed, with little to show for their sacrifices; our enemies have multiplied; and the national debt has skyrocketed.

Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy said in one of his most famous speeches at the University of Washington in 1961:

We must face the fact that the United States is neither omnipotent nor omniscient, that we are only 6 percent of the world's population, that we cannot impose our will on the other 94 percent of mankind, that we cannot right every wrong or reverse each adversity, and that, therefore, there cannot be an American solution to every world problem.

The only difference now, Mr. Speaker, is that we are 4 percent of the world's population instead of 6 percent that he mentioned. But I would repeat those words of President Kennedy: “We cannot right every wrong or reverse every adversity and that, therefore, there cannot be an American solution to every world problem.”

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 10 o'clock and 49 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

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We continue to ask Your blessing on all those who are discerning significant options about leadership here in the people's House.

You endow all Your people with gifts of various designs, meant to be used in service to others. May the pressures that come to bear not obscure honest self-reflection and evaluation of the gifts that each has to bring to the needs of this time in the people's House.

Bless all Members with a sense of their collective responsibility to our Nation and to this assembly so that the American people might look forward to the coming months with hope and a renewed respect and trust in those whom they have elected.