

that is acceptable in a democratic government. We reject that emphatically and proudly.

We have passed bill after bill after bill after bill that would open up this government, and Mr. SCALISE, Mr. Speaker, and his colleagues have almost to a person—not always unanimously—rejected that effort.

So I tell my friend: open up the government and we will talk, but we are not going to talk while you hold hostage the employees of this government—not all of them, but 800,000 of them—who are worried about whether they can put food on the table.

There are food lines. Our people at food lines—public employees—do we have no shame?

Do we have no moral commitment to those whom we ask to work to protect this country and to serve these people?

What is it that the President and his party refuse to open up the government?

This is historic. Never in the history—he talked about going back to George Washington in 1799—has this ever happened before that we kept the government shut down. The longest before that, of course, was the Republican shutdown of 2013.

It is not a tactic I tell my friend that we accept. We reject it emphatically, and we are not going to subject ourselves tomorrow to the same kind of blackmail or the day after to the same kind of blackmail or the day after that to the same kind of blackmail.

I will tell my friend: we will have a Democratic President at some point in time. And he ought to reject this tactic as well because it is bad for the government. Much more importantly, it is bad for the people of this country, the economy of our country, and the national security of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I have nothing else to say.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, once again, we are in a government shutdown. I could clearly argue that the gentleman from Maryland voted to shut the government down in December before we had hit an expiration of funding. Before there was a shutdown, we had a bill to fund government and secure the border. My friend can say it was dead on arrival in the Senate. The reason it was dead on arrival in the Senate is because Senate Democrats refused to negotiate over securing the border.

So here we are. We could talk about 2013. We are in 2019, and we are in the middle of a government shutdown that could end tomorrow. The majority just voted to adjourn again. Literally—and here is the quote my friend just said—the gentleman from Maryland said: “We are not going to talk until the government is open.”

So during the shutdown, the gentleman is not going to negotiate how to get out of a shutdown.

The gentleman wonders why people look and say: why can't you figure it out?

The President has offered idea after idea, and eventually you are negotiating against yourself when the other side says: we are not going to talk until we get everything we want.

Well, do you know what, Mr. Speaker? In divided government, Mr. Speaker, nobody gets everything they want, but you have to start talking today. The 800,000 people who are working or not working and not getting paychecks—which, by the way, we voted again today to pay all of them, we had a vote on the House floor to pay all of them, and we got 13 Democrats to vote for that. Last week it was only six. A growing number of Democrats are recognizing stop all this foolishness of saying: we are not going to talk to you when the President is trying to talk. We are going to reject your offer before you put it on the table. At 4 o'clock Saturday the Speaker rejected an offer that wasn't even proposed until 4:07.

So to say: we are not going to talk while we are in the shutdown, how do we get out of the shutdown unless people are talking?

I think the gentleman from Maryland and I could solve this problem. He quoted: Physical barriers are part of the solution.

I agree with the gentleman from Maryland on that. Unfortunately, the Speaker of the House doesn't agree with that. So rank-and-file Democrats who want to solve this problem are invited to the White House, but told by the Democrat leadership: you are not authorized to negotiate.

So I ask the gentleman from Maryland: Who is authorized to negotiate? And the gentleman from Maryland says: we are not going to talk until the government is back open.

But the government is not open because we are at an impasse, and the way you solve an impasse is to talk. You can't say: “We are not going to talk” and expect it just to solve itself and expect the President just to keep offering and offering and offering and the Speaker of the House say: we are not even going to let you come talk to the country; we are not going to let you have a State of the Union; my way or the highway.

That is not how you solve this problem. You have to talk to solve this problem. The country expects you to talk to solve this problem.

It is divided government. Sure, we are not going to agree on everything. Our experts—it is not the Republican Party saying \$5.7 billion is what it would cost to secure our border—it is the experts who secure our border who say it is going to cost \$5.7 billion.

Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman disagrees with that number, if he doesn't like the color of the wall or the style of the slats and the steel, if he wants to make it out of bamboo, I don't know what the gentleman's offer is because he has never put an offer on the table. But at some point the gentleman has to. He has to put a counteroffer on the table if we are going to get out of this.

I want to get out of this. I voted multiple times to get out of it and to pay people. The gentleman from Maryland can show votes, and I can show votes. Ultimately we need to talk to get an agreement.

So I continue to stand ready, the President stands ready; our minority here in the House and our majority in the Senate stands ready. But if only one side is saying: “We are going to talk,” and the other side says: “We are not going to talk,” that is not going to resolve itself.

We have to talk if it is going to resolve itself, and, hopefully, Mr. Speaker, we do.

I stand ready, and I yield back the balance of my time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, is a motion to recess in order or is the Speaker empowered to recess on his own?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker has the authority to declare a recess.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. UNDERWOOD) at 4 p.m.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Ms. FRANKEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FRANKEL. Madam Speaker, this week I met with south Floridians to talk about the impact of the cruel Trump shutdown, so many sad stories.

I learned about a TSA agent who just came back from maternity leave who had to send her baby to her mother in Massachusetts because she didn't have the money for daycare or Pampers.

The air traffic controllers told me that their stress level is so high now, it is a danger to all of us. And I heard from the service providers of victims of domestic violence who are worried that their shelters are about to close.

Now, Democrats, we support smart border security, not an ineffective, wasteful wall. But, listen, we can debate that at another time.

Right now, we have to open our government so that we can get back to the business for the people.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to come to the table and urge Speaker PELOSI to come to the table to negotiate an end to this shutdown.

This week, Democrats called us back to Washington to solve this problem, but they voted against paying Federal workers three times over the past week, while Republicans have been standing up for those who have now missed paychecks.

It has been 15 days since the Speaker has sat down to negotiate with the President.

Last week, I went to the White House for what was supposed to be a bipartisan meeting to discuss ending this shutdown and, unfortunately, none of my Democratic colleagues showed up.

Before Democrats even heard President Trump's proposal offering a solution for DACA recipients and TPS individuals in return for border security, they rejected it.

Speaker PELOSI gave the longest speech ever in this Chamber, on protecting DACA recipients, but now she is refusing to provide certainty for them.

We have an opportunity to get real border security and protect DACA recipients. It is time to set politics aside and for the Speaker of the House to go to the table, end this shutdown, and negotiate a deal with the President.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I was in my district over the weekend. We had a couple of marches. We had a Women's March. We had a march for MLK Day.

A man approached me, and he said: Representative KIRKPATRICK, I work for the National Park Service. I am furloughed. I have no income. I have missed two paychecks.

He said: My 9-year-old son gave me his Christmas gift card to help our family get by.

He had tears in his eyes, and I am tearing right now just telling that story, because this shutdown is affecting families, children.

The instability that these children are feeling—and we don't talk about that enough—is going to affect them for the rest of their lives.

We have got to open the government, and we have got to do it now.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I received an email Friday night from a young lawyer I know in northern Virginia. I met him last year when he had just hung out his shingle for a solo practice.

He was desperate. His one big client is a Federal Government contractor who told him he would not be paid for December or for January because of the government shutdown.

He wrote me because he had just received an eviction notice from his landlord: come up with the rent for January by Wednesday, noon, or face immediate eviction.

I connected him with our local government office on emergency assistance. He got some meaningful help. He reached out to a few nonprofits and got some more. He was only \$800 short yesterday, and the landlord agreed to wait another month.

Yes, the shutdown has left 800,000 Federal employees without the money for life's necessities, but it is also harming American citizens far and wide, cruelly and unnecessarily, victims of the inevitable multiplier effects of a Federal Government failing its fiscal responsibility.

This should be the last ever Federal shutdown. We must never again give a President the power to hold the most powerful and best managed government hostage to his whims, obsessions, and political knavery.

Mr. President, let our people go.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, to all my colleagues, I apologize. I may speak just a little longer than 1 minute—not much.

Madam Speaker, I was sitting in my office just a few minutes ago and Representative MICHAEL WALTZ, whom I do not know, from the State of Florida rose and said he was here in an empty Capitol.

Scores of my fellow Democrats are here because they are outraged that we have shut down the people's government, and they are here, Mr. WALTZ, to urge the President of the United States and MITCH MCCONNELL to open up the people's government. That is why they are here. They haven't gone home, Congressman WALTZ. We are here.

I don't see anybody over here.

Madam Speaker, I rise to join with my colleagues in highlighting the absurdity of the Trump-McConnell shutdown and share some of the ways, just some few ways, it is affecting Americans in my district.

Now, you can go to this website, trumpshutdownstories.us, and get scores more stories than I will be able to tell on this floor in this short time I will speak.

Maryland's Fifth District, which I have the great honor of having rep-

resented for the last 38 years, has 62,000 Federal employees, tens of thousands of whom are not getting paid, and some who are being forced—no, who are voluntarily working because they love this country and they love their jobs, and they are working without pay.

Is that any way to treat any employee, much less an employee working for their government?

One woman from Prince George's County, Maryland, wrote to tell me that her husband, an astrophysicist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, is furloughed. She isn't working because they have an infant, and he, the only source of their income.

Another constituent wrote to tell me that he serves in the Coast Guard. He said:

As I was putting my 9-year-old son to bed last night, he asked me, "Dad, how come they are making you work without pay?"

He went on to say:

I gave him an answer about having taken an oath and that it is my duty to serve, but he was still confused.

I share that young child's concern and confusion. Why would we do this? What would lead us to show such disrespect for those who carry out our policy?

All Americans should be confused about why our hardworking public servants would be forced to work without pay or be told to go home and wait while a paycheck doesn't come.

It is not just Federal employees and contractors who are affected.

And, by the way, we are going to repay the Federal employees, as we should. But the contractors, the small business people, the small shop owners in my district who have thousands of their customers who aren't being paid and, therefore, are not customers.

One woman from St. Mary's County, the county in which I live, said:

We were scheduled to close on our home on January 11, and we received a phone call 3 days before that we would not be going to closing because our loan was on hold due to the government shutdown. A time that is supposed to be the happiest, and here we sit with our house in boxes and living week to week with a landlord. We don't know if we will lose our home.

Madam Speaker, I would tell President Trump to listen to these stories, listen to the humanity that must be in you, be sympathetic, be empathetic, be caring about these people who are your constituents, whom you are pledged to protect.

Madam Speaker, I would ask the President and Senator MCCONNELL to hear the voices of men and women their shutdown policies are hurting. They are going to hear many more stories.

Democrats have voted now 11 times to end this shutdown, and Republicans and the President have blocked these measures again and again.

Let me say, Madam Speaker, to those who might be listening: We passed Republican bills to open up this government—not our bills, not partisan bills,