

same and guard against unfair, undisclosed contributions. Corporations would be required to disclose if they had received more than 15 percent from any corporation or from donors who had contributed more than \$100,000 regardless of the number of members or whether they are on the right or the left. We shouldn't draw these arbitrary lines. We should be looking at the corrupting influence.

The question is "Who owns our elections?" Yet, before we answer that, we need to know who owns us—the NRA or the American people. You decide.

BUDGET

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, we heard Washington won't have a budget blueprint this year. For the first time in modern history, Congress will not perform one of its primary responsibilities.

I believe it is simply not acceptable to pass the buck at a time when families are feeling uncertain about what comes next in this economy. All across this Nation, families are making tough choices. Is this decision to forgo a budget simply to pass on making tough choices? Without a budget, Congress is avoiding the tough choices American families and small businesses must make every day.

This failure to govern and to lead is especially alarming as spending deficits and debt continue to spiral out of control. The Treasury Department reported recently that the Federal Government is now \$13 trillion in the red, marking the first time the government has sunk that far into debt.

The United States simply cannot continue on an unchecked spending spree that will put the future of our economic strength in jeopardy in the short term and for the next generation. We have to control spending in Washington. It must start now. American individuals and families are looking for leadership.

I ask leaders of this House today to reconsider this decision and to perform the duties we are elected to do.

ENERGY REFORM

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I understand the Republican party's love affair with fossil fuels. After all, the fossil industry has dominated the direction of energy policy in this country for the last generation, but the American people know that our future is not with fossil fuels, that it is not with oil and that it is not with coal. It is with alternative and renewable energy. They know also that this is the way we will help create new jobs in the economy.

In a recent poll, almost 70 percent of the people said they thought an emphasis on alternative renewable fuels, just like we have done in our ACES Act, will create jobs for the American economy—in one estimate, up to 2 million jobs. In my own district, General Electric is bringing back 800 jobs to build energy-efficient appliances—400 of them coming back from China.

Energy reform is a job creator. The American people know it. I hope the Republican Party will join us in bringing the energy situation in this country into the 21st century and will join us in creating new jobs for a new American economy.

BP OIL SPILL

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, the difference could not be any clearer. As tar balls continue to roll onto the beaches of the gulf coast States, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are apologizing to BP for the government's holding them accountable. While they continue to chant "drill, baby, drill" and to put forward ideas that benefit Big Oil, Democrats are moving America in a new direction.

I rise today to stand with the families, the small businesses, the communities, and the economy of the gulf coast and our country to say that we can no longer be held hostage by our gluttonous dependence on dirty oil, most of which is imported from our enemies around the world. Instead, we must change our priorities and stand up to special interests by continuing to promote a clean energy economy and to create good-paying American jobs for American families. In fact, 87 percent of Americans support requiring utilities to produce more energy from renewable sources, sources that cannot be outsourced or imported.

A clean energy economy will make our country safer, more energy independent and will create jobs. In the meantime, let's be strong and steadfast and hold BP accountable.

DUMPSTER DIVE

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of disgust over recent comments by Rush Limbaugh about child hunger.

A few days ago, I was sent Mr. Limbaugh's response to the news that more than 16 million children will face "a summer of hunger" because they won't have access to free or discounted meals they usually get at school.

Mr. Limbaugh ultimately recommended these children dumpster dive—dumpster dive to find food until school starts back up. In the midst of a

deep recession that has forced millions of Americans to face the daily fear of losing their homes and of failing to provide food for their kids, all Mr. Limbaugh can contribute is another awful example of shameless and callous commentary.

Ask yourselves: When is the last time that Rush Limbaugh missed a meal? Take a look. You judge for yourselves.

FELLOW AMERICANS, LET US REMEMBER OUR OWN BASIC DIGNITY AS A PEOPLE

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to put something on our minds.

When President Obama, head of the executive branch of our Federal Government and as an invited guest speaker of the House of Representatives, has his remarks interrupted in defiance of the rules of the House by a Member of this House, shouting "you lie"—and no amount of apology can remove the scar on this House's dignity—when the commander of the United States forces in Afghanistan—General McChrystal—and his subordinates feel free to make mocking criticisms of their Commander in Chief, Barack Obama, to the national media and when these acts of disrespect and insubordination are openly directed at President Obama, our Nation has entered into an era of negativity and cynicism unprecedented in this Republic's history.

Only one question comes immediately and painfully to mind with these outrageous words and accusations, which would once have been universally deplored and which would have been far beyond and beneath the pale of what Americans and America are all about.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

REQUIRING CERTIFICATION FOR SMALL BUSINESS LENDING FUND

Ms. KOSMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5551) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to make a certification when making purchases under the Small Business Lending Fund Program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5551

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,