

of a strong deficit reduction plan to any increase in the debt ceiling.

Congress should attach a balanced and broad-based budget plan to the debt ceiling increase. The plan should include smart cuts that would total at least \$4 trillion over the next 10 years. The budget agreement should also protect important investments in a strong economic future.

We can't delay any longer. We can't pass these tough decisions on to our children and grandchildren. The people we serve sent us here to get this done, and it is time for both sides to do just that.

GET RUNAWAY SPENDING UNDER CONTROL

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, Americans awoke this morning to the heart-breaking news that unemployment has increased to 9.1 percent. The U.S. economy added only 55,000 jobs in the last month. The American people are understandably concerned. But the numbers don't tell the tale. Beneath those numbers are literally millions of American families who meet this morning's headlines with heartbreak and heartache because the opportunities just aren't there.

The truth is more government, more spending, more regulation, and more taxes of the recent past are stifling our recovery. But nothing is stifling our recovery more than runaway spending in Washington, D.C.

Even as we speak today, Congress and this administration are locked in a debate over increasing the Nation's credit card, increasing the debt ceiling. And let me say from my heart, some people don't see the connection between the debate over debt and red ink and the debate over jobs, but they are related.

If we will take the decisive step to put our fiscal house in order, we will restore confidence in capital markets, and businesses and individuals will invest in ways that will put Americans back to work. There should be no debt ceiling increase without real and meaningful cuts in the way we spend the people's money in the short term and the long term. Get spending under control in Washington, D.C., and we will get this economy moving again.

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THE PRESIDENT: WRONG ON ALL COUNTS

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

Mr. GOHMERT. The Speaker is to be commended for bringing these two bills to the floor. Unfortunately, we have a President who cared more about what the Arab League and the U.N. thought

than he did his own elected Congress. We've been kept in the dark about the basis for his decisions, and I voted "no" on our Speaker's bill because he didn't need any more time.

The President should be aware, Madam Speaker, that there are an awful lot of people who are ready to switch their votes and to vote "yes." I would prefer that we not do it through the War Powers. We could do like the Democrats did in '74 and just cut off the spending.

It is ridiculous. He said we'd enforce a no-fly zone. That's it. We wouldn't put ground troops in Libya. He said that NATO was going to take over and that we wouldn't be that involved.

Wrong on all counts.

We know from the rules of the House the President wouldn't lie, but he sure is misrepresenting things.

LIBYA: THE PRESIDENT'S WAR

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, every Member of this body, every elected official in the United States, every member of our military takes an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America. We do not take an oath to the President of the United States.

The war in Libya is the President's war. The Constitution requires that Congress declare war. The War Powers declaration requires that Congress be authorized and notified if the President leads us into war. This has not occurred. The President's war in the name of humanity, although it may be a good idea in the moral sense and Qadhafi is a rotten person, violates the Constitution of the United States. It violates statutory law that we have passed.

It is incumbent upon this body to stop the war in Libya. That is the President's war and not the war of the people of the United States.

OUR DEFINING MOMENT: RECLAIMING THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, this House has just had a great constitutional debate about the meaning of article I, section 8, where the Founders made it very clear that the war power is placed in the hands of Congress.

This debate that occurred today is not an end. It is a beginning. It is a beginning because we have seen one resolution which derived its presence from a resolution that I put forward on a bipartisan basis. One resolution passed which put the White House on notice that Congress is beginning to take a more appropriate role with respect to the Constitution, and that's a good thing.

But make no mistake that this issue of liberty is not going to go away. With the spending soon approaching \$1 billion and with NATO openly talking about the commission of ground troops, we'll be back here another day to consider further what our appropriate constitutional role is.

I want to congratulate Members on both sides of the aisle no matter how you voted. This is our moment to begin to reclaim the Constitution.

PUTTING THE U.S. ECONOMY BACK ON TRACK

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

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, just today we got the bad news again that the jobless numbers have gone up, that our unemployment numbers have gone up and that much smaller job increases were created than were expected.

I think, as we continue to see unemployment going up over 9 percent—9.1 percent now according to the latest numbers—it is very clear that the President's spending and borrowing agenda has been a dismal failure. Yet the President continues to go down that path.

It is time for the President to start working with the House Republicans, who have sent jobs bill after jobs bill over to the Senate. For whatever reason, the President and the liberals in the Senate don't want to address the ability that we have presented to create jobs.

One real clear example is in our State of Louisiana where we have lost over 13,000 jobs because of the President's policies, where they won't let our people get back to the work of drilling safely for energy in America.

We don't want to get our energy from Brazil or from the Middle Eastern countries, many of whom don't like us and who use the billions we send to them to do us harm. We could keep that money here. We could keep those jobs here. There is a plan to do it. Plan after plan has been sent to the Senate, and for whatever reason, the Senate and the President continue to ignore them. Let's finally get our economy back on track.

THE MANY CHORDS OF MAKING IT IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

When we finish what sometimes may seem a complicated debate, where both sides can seemingly make sense when we have the time to reflect upon the week's work or the work and philosophies of the different political perspectives in this House, I believe it is very