

some type of resolution on issues surrounding the farm bill prior to leaving this year.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that response; and I am hopeful that we can, in fact, proceed on that for the farmers of America.

Obviously if we don't pass something by December 31, on January 1 prices for the Federal Government will go up very dramatically, as the gentleman knows; and it will have an impact on spending. And I know the gentleman and I are both concerned about that.

The next to last issue—just two more issues, if I can, Mr. Leader.

As you know, we've talked about the Violence Against Women Act. We've passed a bill through this House that was passed essentially on a partisan basis. They passed a bipartisan bill in the Senate, Violence Against Women. And domestic violence is an epidemic, in some respects, in this country.

I am hopeful that we might consider taking up the Senate bill again because it got passed on such an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis in the Senate. I would suggest to the gentleman that it may well pass on a bipartisan basis here as well.

The problem, as you know, from my perspective and from our side, with the House bill is that you exclude a number of people. The problem with excluding people—for instance, undocumented immigrants from being able to come forward and having a sense of safety and security in doing so—is that the abuser of the undocumented immigrant, left unaccountable, may well be the abuser of a citizen or a child in this country, either as a citizen or here illegally; and, therefore, we think there ought to be broader coverage. Apparently, the Senate shares that view. As you know, every Republican woman and Democratic woman voted for that bill in the Senate.

Does the gentleman have any idea whether we could either go to conference on that bill or whether or not we might bring the Senate bill up for passage?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. CANTOR. Well, I would tell the gentleman, Madam Speaker, that the Chair is actually the author of the House bill.

The House bill was passed out of this House. It had broad support. It was a bill that did not intend to target any specific group. It tried to streamline the grant-making process so that the benefits designed to address the needs of abused women and others could reach the victims; and I am committed to seeing if we can get this bill done.

The gentleman knows, Madam Speaker, that the Senate bill has a blue-slip problem. The Senate bill is not over here. So we continue to negotiate and discuss ways for us to resolve this by the end of the year. The Vice President and I have even spoken, because it's an issue very near and dear to his heart, to try to see how we can resolve this.

So I commit to the gentleman that I am looking to see this resolved and passed by the end of the year and to see where we can land in a way that preserves most of what that bill is about that we can have in common rather than emphasizing the areas of difference.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman, and I thank the Speaker for her leadership on this issue.

But I thank the gentleman for his assurance that he's focused on this and is going to work on it. I look forward to working with him on this bill, which I think is a very important bill for us to get passed before we leave here.

Lastly, obviously all of us know that Hurricane Sandy visited extraordinary damage on a large portion of the Northeast. I come from Maryland, and we were not very substantially damaged; but obviously New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut, in particular, were.

Can the gentleman tell me—I know the administration has not come down with a number. That number, I presume, is going to be well north of \$50 billion. In terms of the estimates that are being made, this is one of the five most damaging storms to hit the coast of the United States of America.

I am wondering whether or not the gentleman might have in mind doing some interim figure in the next 3 weeks, before Christmas, substantially below what we know is going to be the ultimate figure. And then would the gentleman tell me whether or not, if we could do that, whether or not the gentleman would require that it be off-set.

And I yield to my friend.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I will tell the gentleman I think he would agree that the best policy is to allow the administration of FEMA to come up with the estimate and the most accurate prediction of what the costs are before we move. So that would be in response to the first part of his question.

Secondly, as the gentleman knows, when we passed the Budget Control Act last year, it had in it the mechanisms to actually budget for disaster relief and imposing a formula for a 10-year rolling average, allowing for the preservation, if you will, of those dollars dedicated to disasters was what we accomplished there. And it is that process that is much different than prior to the BCA, and I think it obviates the need for us to engage in this discussion that he wants to engage in regarding offsets.

Mr. HOYER. Lastly, let me ask you: Mr. NADLER has a resolution. I'm not sure if Mr. GRIMM and Mr. KING are on the resolution, but I presume they're on the resolution as well. It's a bipartisan resolution expressing condolences to those who were devastated not only in terms of property but some, of course, lost family members and life, whether or not that resolution might be brought to the floor so that this House can express its regrets and con-

dolences and sympathy with those who were so devastated.

Mr. CANTOR. I will tell the gentleman, Madam Speaker, that we did, as he knows, observe a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives in that horrific storm to hit the east coast of the United States. Certainly all of us, our thoughts, our prayers, our sorrows go out to the loved ones who have lost family members, friends in that awful tragedy of a storm. I have not looked at Mr. NADLER's bill but will do so, I will tell the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. I thank my friend.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1220

#### ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2012

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. ADAMS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

#### THE FISCAL CLIFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, we would like to discuss the fiscal cliff and our position on the ongoing negotiations.

We didn't get here, Madam Speaker, by accident. I was elected in 1992. In the 1993 budget, we addressed fiscal responsibility by passing the Clinton budget. It was very controversial. In fact, it only passed by one vote of the House, and the Vice President had to vote in the Senate to break the tie. That budget put us on a trajectory toward fiscal responsibility.

That was interrupted by a controversy in 1995, when the Republicans, using the votes on that budget, picked up a majority in the House and tried to dismantle that budget. President Clinton allowed the government to get shut down rather than dismantle the budget. That budget stayed into effect until 2001.

In 2001, Chairman Greenspan was answering questions like: Are we paying off the national debt too quickly, and should we pay off the national debt? The projections were that, by 2008, the entire national debt held by the public would be paid off with no money owed to China, Japan, or Saudi Arabia. We would have paid off all of those debts. All the money would have been back in the trust funds by 2013.