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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

FISCAL CLIFF UPDATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, last week, Republicans made a serious offer to avert the fiscal cliff, and most of it was based on testimony given last year by President Clinton's former Chief of Staff, Erskine Bowles. As Mr. Bowles himself said on Sunday: "We have to cut spending." Well, he's right. Washington has a spending problem. Let's be honest: we're broke. The plan that we have offered is consistent with the President's call for a "balanced approach."

A lot of people know that the President and I met on Sunday. It was a nice meeting, it was cordial; but we're still waiting for the White House to identify what spending cuts the President is willing to make as part of the "balanced approach" that he promised the American people. Where are the President's spending cuts? The longer the White House slow-walks this process, the closer our economy gets to the fiscal cliff.

But here's what we do know: we know that the President wants more

stimulus spending and an increase in the debt limit without any cuts or reforms. That's not fixing our problem. Frankly, it's making it worse. On top of that, the President wants to raise tax rates on many small business owners. Now, even if we did exactly what the President wants, we would see red ink for as far as the eye can see. That's not fixing our problem either; it's making it worse and it's hurting our economy.

I think the Members know that I'm an optimist. I'm hopeful that we can reach an agreement. This is a serious issue, and there's a lot at stake. The American people sent us here to work together towards the best possible solution, and that means cutting spending.

Now, if the President doesn't agree with our approach, he's got an obligation to put forward a plan that can pass both Chambers of Congress. Because right now the American people have to be scratching their heads and wondering: When is the President going to get serious?

RECOGNIZING VICTOR DICARLO

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Victor DiCarlo for receiving the National Order of the French Legion of Honor, the highest decoration that France bestows for meritorious service. I also want to commend Mr. DiCarlo for his unwavering service to his country during World War II. It's truly a privilege to be able to honor a constituent who so exemplifies patriotism and the American spirit.

Established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the National Order of the French Legion of Honor is a merit-based distinction awarded for excep-

tional civilian or military service. The Order's motto, "Honor and Fatherland," reaffirms a celebration of patriotism and service for its recipients.

Victor DiCarlo was drafted into the Army 2 months after he graduated from Pittsburgh's Schenley High School in 1944. He arrived in France in 1945 and was assigned the responsibility of aiding the Allied Forces in reversing gains made by the German Army. He first saw combat in the Moselle region, helping the Allied Forces by breaking through the heavily fortified infamous Siegfried Line, a 390-mile defense system set up by the German Army along the country's western border that contained a series of tank traps and manned bunkers.

After successfully breaking through the Siegfried Line, Victor headed north in order to provide assistance to the undermanned and underequipped Allied Forces during the famous Battle of the Bulge. He also saw combat in the Rhineland region and all around central Europe throughout the duration of World War II. His division also helped to liberate two concentration camps, one in Austria and one in Germany.

Upon receiving an honorable discharge from the service, Victor was awarded the Bronze Star by the United States for his committed, meritorious service to his country during World War II, a fitting honor for a patriot of Victor's caliber. This year, on September 27, 2012, Victor added another decoration when he was awarded the French Legion of Honor during a ceremony here in Washington, D.C. at the French Embassy. He was given the honor for his military service in helping to secure the liberation of France.

The determination, bravery, and selflessness of Victor DiCarlo and so many like him is why we consider his generation the greatest. After the war, Victor returned home, earned an engineering degree from Tri-State College in Indiana, and worked as an engineer until

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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