

clearly shows, voted for all the spending that they complain about: two wars that took \$1 trillion out of the American economy, unfunded tax cuts that created the worst economy in 60 years, and an unpaid drug prescription program that will cost \$730 billion over the next 10 years.

Moreover, the House Republican budget for 2013 spends \$900 billion more than it takes in in revenues. That Republican budget imbalance will require raising the debt ceiling early this year. Raising the debt ceiling does not authorize you to spend more money. It authorizes you to pay back the money that you've already spent. Republicans in this House voted for it, and they have a moral obligation to repay that money.

Mr. Speaker, the American economy needs to grow much more than the projected 2 percent for 2013. Two percent growth is not enough to sustain the current level of employment. The American economy needs robust growth at 3 to 4 percent, growth that can only come from investments in education, road and bridge building, research. We need to do nation-building not in Afghanistan, not in Iraq, but nation-building at home, here in America.

LET'S FIND A BETTER WAY FORWARD

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

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, what do we know with certainty about the bill which passed the Senate? We know it has bipartisan support, and that's encouraging. I'm a Republican who has been making the case that revenues must rise. This bill does that; and if it becomes law, it provides some certainty to our Tax Code, which would surely help our economy.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, we also know with certainty that it fails to address the mortal threat facing our country—uncontrolled spending. It fails to reflect the balanced approach that was advocated by our President. So we find ourselves again with a bill that reflects not financial wisdom but the seductive spirit that pervades this town. The time to confront our spending addiction is not now. It's later, they say—we'll do the right thing then.

In lacking knowledge, political courage—or both—leaders in Washington continue to overpromise. They're like salespeople who tell their customers they can have a \$30,000 car but only pay \$18,000 for it. Who doesn't like that deal? The truth—and what we know with certainty—is that the full cost, indeed, will be paid by their children, the next generation of Americans.

There is a better way forward, Mr. Speaker, for Americans. Let's find it.

E PLURIBUS UNUM

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

Mr. COHEN. We've heard from a colleague of mine on the Democratic side who sounds like he's not going to vote for this bill, and we've heard it from a couple of folks on the other side. Well, I'm going to vote for it, not because I think it's all the best sugar and spice and everything nice, but because, for one thing, I believe our President and our Vice President know what they can get in a negotiated deal with the Republican side in the Senate and what might pass this House as well, and they know what our country needs.

My district can't afford to wait a few days and have the stock market go down 300 points tomorrow if we don't get together and do something, and the people in my district need unemployment compensation and need to know in the future that they're going to have the low-income earned tax credit and college credit.

It's important that we keep this country moving in the right direction and away from another recession. "E Pluribus Unum" is not just on our bills, but it's what we are as legislators. We are one of 435 and one of 535, including the Senate. We need to come together and work together for the betterment of the country.

This isn't the perfect deal, but it's the deal we got, and it's the deal I'm going to support. I hope that my colleagues will resolve to give the President and the Vice President the benefit of the doubt as the year goes on and as I do today.

FUTURE GENERATIONS DESERVE BETTER

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Last night was the first time in my life that I've sat at my desk as we went into a new year, but it gave me a chance to contemplate what we're about.

We're going into a new year as the first generation who did not ask the question: What can we do? What can we sacrifice to make future generations have a better life than we have? Instead, we asked: How much can we eke up taxes a little bit so that we can keep spending 58 cents to get a dollar's worth of wasteful, bloated government so that our children and grandchildren can pay 42 cents of every dollar that we waste on ourselves?

Is that any way to start the new year?

We're taking up a bill that will not do anything to cut spending. I am embarrassed for this generation. The future generations deserve better.

A HOUSE DIVIDED WILL NOT STAND

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

Mr. FATTAH. It's a new year. For my youngest children, both will grow 1 year older this year. My daughter Chandler will turn 10, and my teenager, Cameron, will turn 15. Today, we know the birthday of the Emancipation Proclamation as we celebrate it here in Washington. Our country, hopefully, gains maturity as we go forward.

We were reminded a long time ago that a House divided would not stand. We have to come together, and we should put away some of the nonsense of attacking the President for spending when our Founders when writing the Constitution gave the Congress control over the spending. In article I, section 9, clause 7, we control the spending. So if we want to back away from spending, we need to look in the mirror. In terms of this agreement, rather than curse the darkness, we should look at those who have lit the candle. When we can have a bipartisan vote of 89 Senators start this year off and move our country forward, we should rally behind them.

I ask my colleagues to vote in favor of the agreement in order to move away from the cliff and continue to move our country towards greatness.

A SMALL FINGER IN A DIKE WITH HUNDREDS OF HOLES

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

Mr. ISSA. I wish I could say that this was a proud moment, a moment in which we started the year off right, in which the 1st of January was the first of a great many good things. It isn't. We're kicking the can down the road. Worse than that, when faced with a mountain of debt that we were heading for, like an airplane, did we climb over it? No. What we're going to do in the present plan is put another nearly trillion dollars' worth of debt on the American people.

Time is running out to change the direction because that trillion dollars isn't just a problem for the next generation. It's a problem for corporate America, and it's a problem for every American. The trillion dollars we spend and waste this year is \$1 trillion that we will have to bear for the rest of our lives.

Mr. Speaker, I may vote for what comes on the floor. I certainly will vote for a bill, which I'm going to manage in a few minutes, to hold down the growth of spending in the government; but I'll tell you, I won't do it thinking we've accomplished anything here today other than the smallest finger in a dike that, in fact, has hundreds of holes in it.