

and Democrats, conservatives and liberals, they will say you need a balanced approach. We need to cut spending. We need to restrain spending and we need to balance the cost of what we provide with the income that we have. Every businessperson, small, medium, and large, understands that concept. We have not followed it, and we did not follow it in the last decade.

I regret the fact that the gentleman doesn't like the President going around the country and telling the truth saying what the consequences may well be. Now, are they going to be on March 1? No. But will they inevitably occur if the sequester stays in place? The answer to that I think is an emphatic, "Yes." I think the President is going around the country saying these are the alternatives.

And saying that the Senate won't act or the President won't act—people did not elect me, I will tell you, to make the President act or to make the Senate act. They didn't think I could do that. What they did think I could do was make STENY HOYER act. And if I were the majority leader, they expected me to have the House act, even if people didn't agree with legislation I put on the floor. They expect us to do our job, not to cop out, with all due respect, to the fact that the President is not doing something or the Senate is not doing something.

We have a responsibility here in this Chamber, the people's House, as representatives of 435 districts, to do our job. And if the other folks don't do their job, we can lament that, we can criticize them, we can inform the American public of that, but we cannot say that's why we are not acting.

So I would hope that next week we would, in fact, act and bring legislation to the floor. And I would be, as the gentleman knows, my friend knows, I'm for a big deal. I'm for getting us to that \$4 trillion that Simpson-Bowles recommended, because I think that would give real confidence to our economy, really grow businesses and put our country on a fiscally sustainable path.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2013

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

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

There was no objection.

PENNSYLVANIA SPECIAL OLYMPICS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize

more than 20,000 individuals who represent the Pennsylvania Special Olympics.

The Special Olympics is about people helping people. It's a global movement that has flourished due to the commitment and passion of its local volunteers and the determination of its participants and athletes.

In March of each year, the Pennsylvania Special Olympics hosts more than 300 athletes and 100 coaches for the State Floor Hockey Tournament. This year's 2-day competition in team and individual skills floor hockey will be held at my alma mater, the Bald Eagle Area High School in Centre County, Pennsylvania, where I will have the opportunity to attend and lend a helping hand on Saturday, March 2.

I would like to commend the Pennsylvania Special Olympics for their years of hard work, from expanding an ever-growing volunteer base to providing more opportunity for athletes to develop physical fitness, courage, and the lifelong relationships that are gained as a result of these games.

I look forward to sharing these experiences with our local community and wish all of our participants the very best in this week's competitions.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, the sequester is scheduled to go into effect in less than 24 hours, and I stand today to call out a particularly objectionable concept that this is not taking effect today, that this is going to somehow not affect people today, it's going to roll out over time; and that's just not the case. Because if you're a family who is facing layoffs or furloughs; or if you're an admiral or a general who is trying to figure out how to defend the country and you've got to be spending your time worrying about what jobs you're going to stop and who you're going to lay off; or if you're that scientist, that budding scientist, who is thinking about where are you going to do your science, whether it's here in a country that invests in science or abroad, someplace where it looks like you will get better opportunity, those impacts are happening today.

And that's why, today, we should not adjourn. We should be staying here, working on the sequester, avoiding these cuts. Let's stay at work and get this problem solved.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the President seems to think that the only way for us to replace the arbitrary spending cuts, known as the sequester—the sequester which the President's own

operatives came up with—is to enact more tax increases. But should we really be talking about raising taxes when so many examples of government waste abound?

Do we need to spend \$1.2 million to have the National Science Foundation pay people to play video games?

Do we need the EPA to give away over \$100 million in grants to foreign countries like China?

Or what about bankrolling Tax TV? The IRS spends \$4 million of our tax dollars every year to run its very own full-service television studio.

Instead of raising taxes, let's get serious about cutting waste. The House has acted to replace the sequester with commonsense cuts and reforms. It's time to see a serious plan from the President.

□ 1240

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN WASHINGTON STATE

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it's a beautiful day back in my hometown of Olympia, Washington—of course it's raining cats and dogs, but that's what passes for beauty in our corner of the world.

It's a beautiful day at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge near Olympia, and it's a beautiful day at Mount Rainier National Park, which you can see from my neighborhood. But Mr. Speaker, if we don't replace sequestration, I'm worried about how many more beautiful days there are ahead.

If we don't replace sequestration, then some of the 7.5 million visitors who are scheduled to visit one of our 13 national parks aren't going to be able to. They have already announced that they are closing the Ohanapecosh Visitors Center at Mount Rainier. All of this because Congress can't—or won't—do its job.

Mr. Speaker, it is a beautiful day in Washington State, but I don't know for how long.

LAKELAND LINDER REGIONAL AIRPORT

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

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for Lakeland Linder Regional Airport.

Unfortunately, with the pending sequester, the Federal Aviation Administration announced that they may close 238 control towers, including the tower at my local airport.

Lakeland Linder Regional Airport hosts the annual 6-day Sun 'n Fun fly-in that celebrates aviation and is the second-largest event of its kind in the world. This Sun 'n Fun fly-in is also the second largest convention in the State of Florida. It provides a \$50 million economic impact to the region