

SHOUT OUT TO MEMPHIS MUSIC

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio mentioned the concert that the President hosted with PBS and the Grammys on Tuesday, and did a poor imitation, I guess, of Justin Timberlake on “(Sittin’ on) the Dock of the Bay.”

It was a phenomenal shout-out to Memphis music; and while there were a lot of great performers there, I want to put a particular shout-out to Ms. Cyndi Lauper because she’s special. She did another Otis Redding song, “Try a Little Tenderness,” and it was a phenomenal performance.

I would suggest to some of my colleagues on other side of the aisle that they ought to try a little tenderness on occasion.

Ms. Lauper is special. She did an album called “Memphis Blues” in 2010. It was one of the best albums of the year. It brought blues back. She had Memphians B.B. King and Ann Peebles and Charlie Musselwhite on the album. She’s a phenomenal lady, and I give a special shout-out to Cyndi Lauper and Memphis music.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, after decades of Washington irresponsibility, Americans are facing nearly \$17 trillion of debt and struggling through a deficit-driven unemployment crisis.

Unfortunately, this administration isn’t offering solutions. Yesterday, President Obama introduced a budget that never ever balances and will only make these problems worse. Two months after he missed the law’s deadline, President Obama introduced a reheated version of the same failed tax, borrow, and spend policies that created this mess to begin with. President Obama’s budget raises taxes by \$1.1 trillion, adds another \$8.2 trillion to the national debt, and doesn’t come close to addressing the long-term stability of our Nation’s safety net programs. Under the President’s plan, taxpayers can expect consequences of endless deficits and future downgrades.

House Republicans are offering a real solution. We’ve put forward a reasonable plan that actually balances the budget in 10 years, not because we are interested in spreadsheets and time-tables, but because Americans shouldn’t have to wait any longer for success and prosperity.

Let’s balance the budget and put our trust in hardworking Americans.

ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, elementary schools, high schools, movie theaters, universities, and shopping malls have all been scenes of horrific incidents where innocent lives were lost, along with our sense of security. After each tragedy, we hear sermons, speeches, console survivors and loved ones, but we in Congress have done little to change the way we address gun violence. I want to change that.

While massacres such as the one that occurred in Newtown draw significant attention to the issue of gun violence, it is a persistent problem throughout the Nation. According to a recent Johns Hopkins University survey, a solid majority of Americans, gun owners and nongun owners alike, support several initiatives to slow gun violence. For example, 89 percent of all respondents, and 75 percent of those identified as NRA members, support universal background checks for gun sales.

President Obama’s plan also calls for a ban on military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, like the kind that have been commonly used in so many of the mass shootings we have witnessed in the United States.

We can never prevent all crimes or gun violence, but we can work together to find ways to limit the loss of lives with commonsense solutions.

COMMON SENSE IN COMPENSATION ACT

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, over the past 2 months, Federal official after Federal official has talked about the need to furlough employees due to sequestration, yet the government continues to hand out millions of dollars in bonuses to Federal employees. Seventy-five percent of senior executive service employees received bonuses, at an average of \$13,081. Regular, oftentimes blue-collar Federal workers are facing furloughs while senior employees are cashing in.

The FAA has been talking about 90-minute waits for passengers, but yet in fiscal year 2011, they handed out \$40,000 bonuses to more than 86 different employees. This is unacceptable, and the recent OMB guidelines don’t go far enough.

The Common Sense in Compensation Act bill that I am introducing today would prohibit those bonuses for the rest of fiscal year 2013 and cap them at a maximum of 5 percent of the salary going forward. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor my bill.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS OUR TRUE DEFICIT

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it has now been 830 days since I arrived

in Congress, and the Republican leadership has still not allowed a single vote on serious legislation to address our unemployment crisis. I have news for my colleagues: unemployment is our true deficit.

By getting Americans trained and back to work, we can increase our tax base and stop our borrowing. By reducing unemployment, we can stop our national epidemic of foreclosures. Regardless of the assistance you receive, you cannot keep your home if you do not have a job. My State is the Nation’s foreclosure State, and my hometown, Miami, is the foreclosure capital.

Mr. Speaker, unemployment is destroying families and depressing property values. It is devastating our people and dragging down our recovery. Our mantra in this Congress should be: Jobs, jobs, jobs.

□ 1230

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress have just come back now from 2 weeks of recess being at home. And group after group after group that I spoke with talked about exactly the same thing that the previous speaker and others are talking about, and that is jobs, job creation, and the opportunity for our children, and sometimes our spouses, to get back into the jobs marketplace.

I remind the people of Dallas, Texas, that there’s really a tale of two States or two cities. One is Dallas, Texas, and the other is Chicago, Illinois, the State of Illinois vs. Texas.

Texas, over the last few years, has created more jobs than the other 49 States combined. The reason why we’ve done this is because we chose not to do the path that Illinois has done, and that is, raising taxes, lowering job expectations and performance, and the ability for people to want to invest in that State and their future.

Mr. Speaker, that’s exactly the same background and philosophy that our President and Democrats are having to run jobs out of America. I stand for the Texas model, lowering taxes and making sure we have jobs.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGISLATION

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I’m happy that, finally, we are moving forward on gun violence prevention legislation in this country. And I really applaud our Senators, JOE MANCHIN and PAT TOOMEY, for coming together, finally, in a bipartisan fashion to push forward legislation to expand background checks in gun shows and for online purchases.