July 24, 2013

It doesn't have to be this way, but when your agenda is to do nothing, it's easy to get nothing done when you operate off of a "to don't" list. Solving problems and reaching compromise may be hard work, but it's the work the American people sent us here to do.

FIGHTING FOR AMERICAN JOBS

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

Mr. McKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, later today, the President will once again refocus his efforts on jobs. Well, House Republicans never lost our focus on jobs.

We have a plan to create jobs, grow our economy, and to secure our future for all Americans by expanding opportunity, not expanding government.

Our plan holds government accountable to hardworking taxpayers; our plan reins in runaway government spending; our plan combats waste and abuse in government; our plan promotes an all-of-the-above all-American energy strategy that will create jobs, lower energy costs, and strengthen our national security.

These are commonsense solutions that the American people deserve. It is not fair that Washington liberals keep offering up only more spending and political games. Real solutions to real problems, that's the American commitment.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, did you know that last Sunday marked the anniversary of the day in 1917 when 16 women demanded the right to vote in front of the White House? They were sentenced to 60 days in the workhouse for demanding universal suffrage for women.

Did you know that tomorrow is the day when in 1892 Doris Fleischman Bernays was born? She was to become the first married woman to get a passport in her own name and to get her name on her daughter's birth certificate.

Or did you know that the famous Ginger Rogers-Fred Astaire partnership ended in part because she was angry over gender pay standards? She grew tired of being paid half of what her male colleagues were paid in films in which she was starring.

These are the sorts of things that one day visitors will learn about at the National Women's History Museum when it opens its doors—with a goal of educating, inspiring, and empowering women.

After all, American history is her story too. That is why I have introduced with MARSHA BLACKBURN H.R. 863, a bill to create such a museum. Join it and make your mother proud.

REPRESENTATIVE STEVE KING'S IGNORANT COMMENTS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, Representative KING's recent comments about children of immigrants are a disgrace to this institution. These comments are unacceptable and just plain wrong on so many levels.

We may not all agree on the best way to fix our Nation's broken immigration system, but we can all agree that it's broken.

Comments like Representative KING's don't do anything to solve problems or bring us closer to a true bipartisan solution on immigration. They only exacerbate the problem of extreme partisanship and inject needless divisiveness into the conversation on how to best reform our immigration system.

This sort of ideologically driven and hateful rhetoric has no place in this institution, and it must stop. It is time for both parties to put down the partisan talking points and make a good faith effort to work together to have a conversation and not a confrontation.

We need to act, and we need to act now. We don't have time for this partisan gamesmanship. We must reduce our deficit by passing this comprehensive immigration reform.

CREATE JOBS AND GROW THE ECONOMY

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on the floor today we've heard some of our colleagues in the majority, starting with the Speaker of the House, demand the President work with Congress to create jobs and grow the economy. If Republicans were willing to spend time on these issues, that would really be good news.

I think it is necessary for us to have a reality check. In the 6 months of this Congress, with the Republicans in the majority, there has been no jobs bill brought to the floor; there has been no budget bill brought to the floor. The budget is the blueprint for job creation, for deficit reduction, for growing the economy, for creating jobs, for keeping America competitive, for making sure that America is number one.

At the beginning of the year, the Republicans said, we want regular order, we want to pass a budget bill—and we did—and then the Senate will pass a budget that is not a good budget and not a statement of our values, but nonetheless, a bill passed the House. They said, we want regular order, we want the Senate to pass a budget bill before we can proceed with any jobs legislation.

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Over 3 months ago—I think nearly 4 months ago—the Senate passed a budget bill—again, a blueprint for job creation, deficit reduction, growth in the economy. The minute the Senate passed the bill, the Republicans said, Never mind.

Never mind? No. It is our business to mind, to mind this Congress to make sure that we create solutions, that we get results, that we are in the business of job creation in the public and private sectors with public and private partnerships. With no budget and with no jobs bill, that cannot happen.

So when the Speaker of the House comes to the floor and makes demands on the President—and the President has made offer, after offer, after offer. He has extended the hand of cooperation so many times that I want to count his fingers to see how intact his hand is because of the reaction from the Republicans. The Republicans' response to the President's offer of cooperation? Nothing.

"Nothing" is our agenda.

Does "nothing" work for you, Mr. President?

Our timetable: "Never."

Does "never" work for you? Because that's the only time that we are going to work together with you to pass a jobs bill.

Previous speakers talked about jobs being created. Why? By giving tax cuts to the wealthiest people in our country?

I am so glad that the President is out there today, saying that we are going to build jobs and build our economy from the middle class out. It's really important that the prosperity of our country is enjoyed by many more people and, in fact, is inspired by their ingenuity, by their creativity, by their entrepreneurship; and we have to have policies that incentivize that.

Today, the President will put more ideas on the table to grow our economy. He recognizes—and I think we on the Democratic side all agree—that the economy best works when it grows from the middle out, not by the trickle down, top down.

Our friends on the Republican side said, Trickle down, what's wrong with that? If it trickles down, it could create jobs. If that happens, that's great. If it doesn't, that's the free market. If it doesn't create jobs, in their words, so be it.

So be it? No, I don't think so.

Our country has come a long way since the depths of the Great Recession, which was caused by these very same trickle-down policies. Tax cuts