

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WOMACK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WASHINGTON DEMOCRATS SHOULD NEGOTIATE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, President John F. Kennedy once said, "Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate."

House Republicans are willing to negotiate. House Republicans have been proactive in preventing a shutdown by passing four different pieces of legislation that keep the government functioning.

Unfortunately, the President and Senate Democrats have slammed the door and have refused to come to the table and negotiate until—just announced—tonight.

This sentiment is shared outside of Washington. Yesterday, I received a letter from a constituent saying:

Refusing to come to the table, Obama and Reid are counting on the media lapdogs to blame Republicans. I understand that. Washington is putting incredible pressure on the House to cave, but the American people feel differently.

We are now on Day 2 of a government shutdown. It's past time for Washington Democrats to join House Republicans and work together to find a solution.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

SCIENCE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have forced the government to shut down, and it's a disservice to the hard-working professionals in the Federal Government and to the American people.

Our Federal agencies have a long history of working hard on research and education programs that return huge payoffs to the American people, both in economic growth and societal benefits.

Unfortunately, 97 percent of NASA employees are being furloughed, and all public NASA events and activities will be ended.

The National Science Foundation will make no payments for the duration of this shutdown.

The Department of Energy will furlough nearly 7 percent of their employees, jeopardizing research done all over our national laboratories.

Most research activities at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration will be suspended. Weather research and United States Geological Survey studies will also shut down.

As ranking member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I want to highlight that our competitors in other countries surge ahead in their R&D as we shut ours down. We are closing the door to our future.

KEEP OUR MEMORIALS OPEN

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I think the American people have got to be wondering, from maybe seeing some of the news reports today or yesterday, why we are closing some of these open air attractions to the American people that are coming to Washington.

The World War II Memorial is open every day, all day long, 24/7, 365. Now it's got barriers up. And because some Members of our side of the aisle went down there yesterday to allow some of the same people that landed on the beach of Normandy to go in and to see their memorial, today they were back putting up wire against those barriers.

If you go down Rock Creek Parkway, where many people in D.C. come to exercise, to ride their bikes, to walk their dogs, every mile or so there's six or seven parking spots where people can park their car, get out, exercise, walk. They've got barricades in front of them.

Are we nuts?

They've got barricades where people can't even park to go ride.

This is amazing, and I hope that whoever has given these orders will come forward and give the American people reasons why they cannot enjoy things open.

WE NEED A CLEAN CR TO GET OUR GOVERNMENT BACK TO WORK

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, lawmakers should be the first to up-

hold and respect the laws of our land, and the Affordable Care Act is a very important law for over 30 million people in every one of our districts, for our entire country.

There are almost 700 Federal employees in my small district. Traveling yesterday, it was hard to see the CBP and TSA folks working as usual, not knowing if and when they'll be paid.

My employees, like all congressional employees, are under the same cloud and the stress that comes with it.

Complaints began early about our Virgin Islands park closures. This not only affects NPS employees, but all of our small businesses, from wedding planners to shop and concession owners to taxi drivers, the entire St. John economy. And despite our "Open Beach" laws, the beaches in the park are closed to Virgin Islanders.

In my district, already reeling from the shutdown of our largest private employer, the highest energy costs in the country, and reduced government revenues, this shutdown, if it continues any longer, can be the final nail in our economic coffin.

The negative impact of this shutdown will only hurt more people and hurt our national economy, if it continues.

The President and Democrats are willing to negotiate, but we, and the American people, say not like this. No fake, piecemeal fixes. We must have a clean CR now and get our entire government back to work.

THE MISSING ELEMENT: COMPROMISE

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, at the center of our government is a bicameral legislative branch, two separate houses specifically designed to have a different perspective on issues.

Those two houses are supposed to disagree, and yet, ultimately, they have to pass the same legislation to the President to get anything done.

Well, how does that happen?

It is because, once the House and the Senate individually exercise their best judgment, they are supposed to meet to then resolve any differences. That is the only possible way that our bicameral system can function. Without this mechanism, it's doomed to gridlock.

And yet, the current leader of the Senate, and those in his thrall, have refused to do precisely that, to sit down and resolve the differences between the two houses through negotiation and compromise. Their refusal to do so is at the heart of this impasse that's now shut down the government.

It is time for HARRY REID to meet his constitutional responsibility, or for the Senate to find somebody who will.