



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014

No. 41

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 12, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

FREE AMERICA TO PROSPER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, in 1945, at the end of World War II, America's Federal debt to gross domestic product ratio was 120 percent. Washington responded with leadership. In 1946, the Federal budget was slashed a massive 40 percent.

In 1947, the Federal budget was slashed by another 38 percent. The result? America rose to the challenge, and America prospered. By 1980, even though per-capita inflation adjusted

Federal spending had tripled, Federal debt had shrunk to 30 percent of GDP.

Since 1980, America's per-capita Federal spending has exploded to five times more than 1948 levels. The result? America faces a skyrocketing \$17 trillion debt burden.

America's Comptroller General warns that America's financial path is unsustainable. Instead of confronting our debt dependence, Washington kicks the can down the road and immorally sells our children into the equivalent of indentured servitude and poverty, while driving America's Federal debt to dangerous levels.

To preserve the liberty and prosperity our ancestors sacrificed to give us, we must free Americans to again earn their prosperity and significantly cut Federal non-defense spending to restore financial responsibility and provide the stable monetary environment needed for economic growth.

If the Federal Government will be financially responsible and stop killing job creation, America's economy will soar because we have, within our grasp, a massive new technology and energy boom.

Mark Mills, adjunct fellow, Manhattan Institute states:

By 2020 or so, the United States is expected to surpass Saudi Arabia in oil output and Russia in gas, according to the International Energy Association's best estimate.

Dan Yergin, one of the world's leading energy experts, estimates that the United States turnaround in energy has generated 1.7 million new jobs . . . and that number should almost double by 2020.

The RAND Corporation adds:

The pace of technological change—whether through advances in information technology, biotechnology, or such emerging fields as nanotechnology—will most certainly accelerate in the next 10 to 15 years, with synergies across technologies and disciplines generating advances in research and development, production processes, and the nature of products and services.

Amazing economic possibilities abound if the Federal Government will simply allow Americans to seize them.

Unfortunately, too many paternalistic Washington politicians distrust the American people to earn a better life for themselves or to take care of each other without government coercion or intervention.

Financially irresponsible Washington politicians insist on spending money we do not have, risking a debilitating American insolvency and bankruptcy, debasing our currency, punishing success, rewarding destructive behavior, and strangling job creation in bureaucratic red tape.

The Federal Government, by attempting to supply and command all things, saps America's spirit of energy and devours the financial capital needed for innovation, productivity growth, and jobs.

America must stop kicking the can down the road to a day when the debt challenge is even more daunting. The time to act is now, while America has sufficient economic strength to succeed. We cannot wait until America is bankrupt and defenseless, our currency is valueless, and we are overwhelmed by closed businesses, lost jobs, and poverty.

Congress must use the debt limit, the budget, appropriation bills, and every other means available to free America from the growing burden of crushing debt and a dictatorial Federal bureaucracy.

America ended Democrat President Jimmy Carter's economic malaise with one election in 1980, giving us the wildly successful economic policies of Republican President Ronald Reagan in 25 years of unparalleled prosperity.

America's choice is between economic depression brought about by socialist, heavy-handed, bureaucratic Big

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H2305