

the event there is a shutdown. But then as recent as last week, we find out they definitely will not be paid until after a shutdown is over. They will get paid for sure, but it will be after a shutdown. But they will be working.

In talking to many people on active duty, I find that things haven't changed a great deal since 30 years ago when I was in the Army. There are lots of people in our military that are having to live paycheck to paycheck. They don't get paid all that much. But they are standing between us and harm to this Nation, even its very existence.

There are those who want to take this out. At the end of last week, Congressman JACK KINGSTON, JOHN CARTER, STEVE KING, MICHELE BACHMANN, a number of people involved, we wanted to ensure that if the Democrats say we don't care—for example, gee, providing Federal tax dollars to fund abortion in the District of Columbia is more important than anything else. We wanted a vehicle to make sure our military gets paid on time so while they are out in harm's way, they don't have to worry about it.

We filed a bill the end of last week, and it's H.R. 1297. I contacted Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON's office and JIM INHOFE's office, and they had it filed the first of the week. Down there it's Senate bill 724. Now we are told, well, gee, there is a procedural problem, because even though in the first two paragraphs each one starts with, "to appropriate, to appropriate," later in the bill, very short, three pages, it says, "make available funding." That can easily be remedied by a manager's amendment to change to "shall appropriate." Easily handled.

A rule was passed this week that this could be brought to the floor within 24 hours. That part is waived. There is no reason that the military cannot be paid on time. That can be wiped away from their concerns. But our leadership was good enough last week to say we are taking care of it. We are going to make sure it's taken care of.

The best solution is what was done yesterday. The military is fully paid through the end of the year. That's the best way to go. It makes sure there is no glitches at all. But if our Democratic friends down the Hall are going to stand in the way of having the military funded for the rest of the year, then we need to bring this bill, H.R. 1297, to the floor today and make sure our military does not have to worry: your pay, your allowances will be taken care of on time.

Our military that are out in harm's way, as we heard about Marcus Luttrell and other heroes, they're taken care of. Your families back home get your paycheck. They're cared for. That's the responsible thing to do. Secretary Bob Gates said, "As a historian, it occurred to me that the smart thing to do for a government was always to pay the guys with the guns first." That is a smart thing to do. Let's take care of the people that are taking care of this country's protection.

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THE PENDING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, isn't it a shame, I tell my friend who just spoke, that his colleagues objected to a unanimous consent request yesterday which would have taken care of the problem he raises today.

There's not a person on this floor that doesn't want to make sure that our men and women in harm's way and in uniform ready to be put in harm's way are paid on time. But we're playing a political game here, a game of gotcha, a game of my way or the highway, not a game of coming together from all over the country and trying to make laws for our country that require compromise.

Henry Clay, one of the first Speakers of this House, from the State of Kentucky, said that if you can't compromise, you cannot govern. That's why we are on the brink of shutting down government.

We asked for a unanimous consent. I'm going to tell you we're going to ask for another unanimous consent that will accomplish exactly what the gentleman from Texas wanted to accomplish. I hope that none of you object. I hope that all of you will say, yes, enough of these games. Let's do what Republicans and Democrats have historically done when they've reached an impasse at this time. They said, well, we'll keep things in place and we'll create a bridge across which we can all pass to get to compromise, to get to an agreement. That's what the American people expect us to do.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that to some in this Chamber, shutting down the government is an ideological game or a way of making a point. That's why they've included in this bill to fund the troops some of their social agenda. That's why they want to shut down the government, because they want to force the President to do something he has told the American people he would not do.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, when the Democrats were in charge of the House and the Senate and we disagreed with George Bush, we did not shut down the government. We said, Mr. President, we understand you disagree with this so we can't do it. Not, because you won't do it, Mr. President, we're going to shut down the government. That's what's happening here.

It's not about dollars and cents and, very frankly, it's not about funding the military. That's the image that's being created because we are all sympathetic and committed to funding our men and women in harm's way. That's the right thing to do. It's the moral thing to do. It's what we ought to be doing. And I hope when I ask for a unanimous consent to do that today that, unlike yesterday, the Republicans will not object.

I want every Member to be aware of the consequences for millions of Americans of shutting down government. A shutdown would put our economic recovery, our housing market, and paychecks at risk. And yes, every person listening to me will be affected in one way or another.

It's the wrong thing to do. Who said it was the wrong thing to do? Speaker JOHN BOEHNER, who said it would cost more to shut down the government than to keep it running. He is absolutely right.

Goldman Sachs has estimated that, and I quote, "If a shutdown lasted more than a few days, it should shave 0.2 percent off the growth of the gross domestic product for every week it continued."

What's that mean? It means jobs.

Now, we've been here for 90 days. We're in our fourth month with no jobs legislation.

Goldman Sachs went on to say, "When the government shut down for 20 days in late 1995," said James O'Sullivan, chief economist, "the Nation's economic growth was slowed by as much as a percentage point." That means jobs.

This is a very inefficient political tactic and prank to play on the American people. As CQ reports, business leaders also understand that averting a shutdown is crucial to our economic recovery. That is why, again, I hope you agree to my unanimous consent to keep the government open while we continue to negotiate, while we continue to try to get to an agreement.

Congressional Quarterly also points out that "In the event of a shutdown, the Small Business Administration would not guarantee loans for business working capital, real estate investment, or job creation activities." It makes no sense to shut down the government.

And my friends, when they say, oh, well, the Democrats in the Senate, let me tell you why the Democrats in the Senate can't move things forward, because they can't get 60 votes. Why can't they get 60 votes? Because the Republican leader of the United States Senate will not let any of his Republicans join the 53 Democrats in the Senate to get to 60.

Ladies and gentlemen, we ought not to shut down this government, and I urge my colleagues to approve a unanimous consent request that I will make a little later today.

AVOID THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS) for 3 minutes.

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my colleagues, and call on Senator REID to pass a bill to avoid the government shutdown.

I've been sitting here listening to my colleagues across the aisle, and I am in