

been screaming in January after everybody—many people on that side of the aisle—voted for extending the Bush tax cuts. They were shocked, shocked, shocked that we had a record deficit this year. Huh? You just voted to reduce revenues by \$400 billion and you're shocked that that increased the deficit? And has it been putting people back to work? Not much that I've seen in my district, I'll tell you that.

Then comes the Ryan budget. A serious budget. Destroys Medicare. Ends Medicare as we know it. Cuts Medicaid. Most people just think that's for poor people. Well, actually, most of the money goes to either kids or seniors in nursing homes. So that's going to be kind of a tough one. So, huge, devastating cuts. More tax cuts. More of the joke economic policies. Let's cut taxes and that will help us deal with the deficit. More tax cuts for rich people and big corporations. And he doesn't balance the budget—even under his rosy scenario written by the Heritage Foundation—until 2040. That's a serious attempt at dealing with our debt and deficit? That's the Ryan budget. The Obama budget is even worse. I don't know if it gets there by 2050.

Neither side is dealing seriously with these issues. We need to focus people's minds, and a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution is the best way to do that.

RAISING THE DEBT LIMIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's important to be able to discuss with my colleagues just what we're doing in this House and what is considered important and urgent and what is the impact on what we're doing.

As my friends, the Republicans on the other side of the aisle, are now spending time with the President, I hope they will have visions of President Ronald Reagan, because in 1983 Ronald Reagan begged and asked the Congress at that time to raise the debt limit. This is not a 2011, 21st century phenomenon never to be heard of in the history of this country. Raising the debt limit, my friends, is not evil or sin. It is an actuality that requires us to be responsible adults.

I want you to eye this picture and to continue to keep your eyes on it continuously as I explain to you what we are doing when we ask for the debt limit to be raised.

Does anyone care about our men and women on the front lines? Do we care about their families? Do we care about veterans? Oh, we wave the flag, and many of us emotionally were drawn to commemorate and honor those who had fallen this past Monday. We inter-related with families, some of whom came up to me and asked me why veterans are discriminated against and can't get work or disabled veterans are

chastised by their employer. And I made a commitment to them that we will work to have jobs and end the discrimination, and that the soldiers who are coming back to 10 percent unemployment—do you realize that, that there is a 10 percent unemployment among Iraq and Afghanistan returning soldiers, soldiers who are in their twenties and thirties or maybe forties, soldiers who may be disabled, who may have come back from a catastrophic injury but they want to work and support their families? These very men and women, do you know what the debt limit not being lifted will do?

And so, yes, this was put on the floor of the House to make a mockery and a joke, but I came here to be a serious legislator and I voted "yes" because it was a serious statement on behalf of my constituents and the American people, and I could not, within 24 hours of being around military families, abandon them with the frivolity and the foolishness of putting something up on the floor just to put it in the eye of the President.

Let me tell you why it partly was done as trickery. Listen to the words of a bond dealer: "I didn't even know they had a vote tonight, to be honest with you," a senior government bond strategist at CRT Capital Group in Stamford, Connecticut said. "The only real event that the market is focused on is the point at which they run out of money and have to shut down the government."

Well, let me tell you the reason why this was just a joke, since those of us who voted "yes" didn't take it as a joke. Because the Secretary of the Treasury has extended the time to August 2. But if we do not raise the debt limit, like Ronald Reagan asked and other Republican Presidents asked with no fanfare, let me tell you what will happen to our soldiers. It will be 20 percent unemployment.

What will happen to Medicare? We won't be making it solvent. We'll just end it and implode it like the Ryan budget wants to do. We will eliminate Medicare for disabled persons and children and seniors in nursing homes.

No, we won't have any veterans benefits, but our cities that now are grappling with disaster, that funding will dry up as well. And we are the rainy day umbrella for the American people.

But you know what else? Summer jobs for our young people who are struggling to get themselves back in school in the fall. In the city of Houston, how—I don't know—unthinking can you be when you close down city pools, the meager opportunity for recreation that a child has in the inner city area or maybe a rural area.

□ 1030

Summer pools totally closed down. And parks. So what are they supposed to do besides having one person that can monitor the pool? You just have them running the streets. What sense does that make?

Or the school districts in the State of Texas now losing \$4 billion. HISD, the Houston Independent School District, one of the largest in the Nation, \$200 million, or AISD, \$30 million.

It's time to wake up and understand that we must recognize the responsibility we have, Mr. Speaker. We can end the war in Afghanistan, bring them home from Iraq, and we can do our job and raise the debt ceiling. This is ridiculous, but I'm not going to be part of it.

DEBT LIMIT

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

Mr. STEARNS. Lost in the hyperbolic statements and calls of doom—"if Congress does not raise the current debt ceiling"—is the real problem that our Nation faces: the out-of-control spending that has become epidemic here in Congress. No doubt a technical default in August surely would be problematic. But much worse would be the results if Republicans caved to Democrats and no significant spending reforms are implemented.

Today, my colleagues, 68 cents of every dollar is spent on entitlement programs. By the year 2025, the government will spend 100 percent of every dollar of revenues on entitlements.

The United States is over \$14 trillion in debt, and without spending cuts in the deficit, our national debt will continue to grow. We must begin to rein in spending and bring about the fiscal changes to protect our children from this growing burden of debt.

Mr. Speaker, importantly, markets understand the difference between a technical default in which investors may have to wait a short period of time for an interest payment and an actual default in which a country is unable to repay its debt. If Congress does not act appropriately now, very soon the country will not face merely a technical default, but instead a real default. Then the calls of doom will be appropriate.

Investors have every incentive to want Congress to balance its budget and get its house in order finally. If this means investors will have to wait a few days for an interest payment to be repaid, then so be it. Because fixing the real problem now guarantees to investors that this government can make its payments 10 years from now, a realization that will comfort investors much more than preventing a mild delay—particularly if that mild delay means future delays, future debt limit debates, and future possible defaults.

The best solution, of course, is no default at all, not technical and not actual. Congress must quickly come together and make some tough decisions that will forever affect the future of our country. But we will not be coerced into a position that fuels the spending addiction that has landed us in this situation where we stand today. We will

not succumb to a vote to increase the debt limit if we are not compensated with significant spending cuts.

As our Speaker JOHN BOEHNER has said, "It's true that allowing America to default would be irresponsible, but it would be more irresponsible to raise the debt ceiling without simultaneously taking dramatic steps to reduce spending and reform the budget process" itself. And it can be done.

We can look back to understand what will happen next. Several years back, Russia had a real default, yet within 2 or 3 years they reached all-time low interest rates. Earlier this year, the House passed a budget resolution for fiscal year 2012 which set non-security discretionary spending to below 2008 funding levels. It calls upon repealing the costly and burdensome health care law and envisions reforming some entitlement programs to contain costs and pay down the national debt.

My colleagues across the aisle have criticized portions of this legislation. But the question is asked, where is their alternative? There can be no debate if the other side cannot produce a logical document that seriously sets out to solve our Nation's crisis, the real crisis. Just like the solution to a drug addiction is not to increase one's intake, the solution to our Nation's spending addiction is not to increase one's capacity to continue to accumulate debt.

The time is now for real reform. Only after we have curbed the trillions of dollars of debt that we continue to pile up can we then consider raising the debt limit.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. We pause now in Your presence and acknowledge our dependence on You.

We ask Your blessing upon the men and women of this, the people's House. Keep them aware of Your presence as they face the tasks of this day that no burden be too heavy, no duty too difficult, and no work too wearisome.

Help them, and indeed help us all, to obey Your law, to do Your will, and to walk in Your way. Grant that they

might be good in thought, gracious in word, generous in deed, and great in spirit.

Make this a glorious day in which all are glad to be alive, eager to work, and ready to serve You, our great Nation, and all our fellow brothers and sisters. May all that is done this day be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIRE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SIRE 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

RAISING THE DEBT CEILING MEANS SERIOUS CHANGES

(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, over 750 days have passed since the Senate passed a budget. Now, liberals in Congress are leading the charge to increase the current debt limit. The Federal Government officially reached its \$14.3 trillion debt limit in May. America's finances are now borrow, tax, and spend—killing jobs.

Congress should not raise the debt limit without making serious changes in the way the Federal Government spends money. Recklessly raising the debt ceiling without exercising fiscal restraint will lead to a lower international credit rating, higher borrowing costs, and an increase in the cost of the Nation's imports.

This is a threat to senior citizens by risking the value of the dollar. It's a threat to young people, saddling them with overwhelming debt.

Washington must change its way, which is now killing jobs.

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

A TRIBUTE TO DENISON DOVER GARRETT

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Denison Dover Garrett, a towering giant who has passed away at the age of 97. A lifelong resident of Greenville, North Carolina, we affectionately referred to Mr. Garrett by his initials, D.D.

D.D. Garrett was a man of great courage who led by example. He worked tirelessly to ensure that the African American community had a voice in public policy. Through his work in the AME Zion Church and the Pitt County Branch of the NAACP, D.D. constantly exposed injustice. He insisted that the American Dream must be a reality to every American regardless of their station in life.

As the first African American county commissioner, D.D. led the way in African American political participation in his community. As the founder of a substantial insurance and real estate firm, D.D. was a successful businessman and mentor to many.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this great life. We extend condolences to his wife, Mrs. Clotea Williams Garrett; their sons, D.D., Jr., and Michael; and the entire Greenville community.

Greenville, North Carolina, is a better place to live and work because of the enormous contribution of Denison D. Garrett.

CONGRATULATING THE MARIETTA COLLEGE BASEBALL TEAM

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the economy, the national debt, high gas prices, and the need for jobs, those are still the important issues to the people in my district in southeastern Ohio; but today, I rise to congratulate the Marietta College baseball team for winning their record fifth Division III College World Series title yesterday. Our people have something to cheer about.

The Pioneers, led by coach Brian Brewer, won the deciding game in convincing fashion with an 18-5 victory over Chapman University.

The 'Etta Express was led defensively by a strong pitching performance from All-American honorable mention pitcher Austin Blaski. Blaski pitched a nearly perfect six innings, allowing only two hits and one earned run.

On the offensive side, the Pioneers were led by right-fielder Aaron Hopper, who had four hits, four RBIs, and a stolen base. All-American senior center fielder John Snyder added three hits, two runs scored, and an RBI to end his college career.

The Pioneers finished the season with an amazing record of 47 wins and