

than 1 percent of its citizens. It is this top approximately 1 percent the Republicans are determined to protect. Republicans walked away from the negotiations to protect them. Meanwhile, the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer, and all that the middle-class Democrats have worked to make stronger is disappearing. Middle-class families are struggling to make ends meet.

That is why I brought to the floor legislation demanding millionaires and billionaires contribute their fair share to this crucial deficit reduction struggle. When Republicans talk about shared sacrifice, they mean the sacrifice should be shared by those who can least afford it. Democrats believe that sacrifice should be shared by the richest 1 percent as well. The others have all sacrificed too much already.

As we debate in the Senate this week, negotiations with the Vice President and the President should continue. The invitation to Republicans to help prevent a catastrophic default remains out there. To become part of the solution rather than part of the problem, all Republicans have to do is accept our invitation. The time is here for my Republican colleagues to put politics aside. Simply put, we are out of time. But Democrats cannot negotiate with ourselves. When one side comes to the table and the other refuses, it is impossible to negotiate. So this week we will debate the solution to this crisis with the Republicans, like it or not.

Democrats will be clear about what is at stake: the fate of our country and the global economy. We will be clear about our priority: to avert a catastrophic default and protect our fragile economic recovery. We will be clear about the middle ground we have already found: We must cut the deficit in order to get our fiscal house in order.

Democrats are willing to compromise, but compromise does not mean allowing our Republican colleagues to put the wants of a few millionaires and billionaires ahead of the needs of the Nation and the world.

I repeat the words of T.S. Eliot: "Hurry up please. It's time."

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. When we subsequently go on the motion to proceed, I ask unanimous consent that the speakers on the Republican side be limited to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, Washington is engaged in a debate

right now over the kind of country we want to be. The specific issue is this: At some point over the next several weeks, the Federal Government will no longer be able to borrow the money it needs to cover the cost of promises it has already made. So the President wants Congress to raise the statutory debt limit set by Congress. He wants us to raise the limit on the national credit card.

Now, what Republicans have said is that the only way we will do it is if Democrats agree to change their ways so we don't end up with the kind of situation that we are witnessing over in Greece. Make no mistake, that is exactly where we are headed if we don't do something significant and do it now. Democrats so far have refused. Instead, they are making what can only be described as a bizarre request under the circumstances.

In the middle of what we all agree is a debt crisis, they would like to spend even more. They want a second stimulus, more deficit spending. In the middle of the jobs crisis, they want to raise taxes that we know would kill even more jobs when even the President has said raising taxes would leave job creators with less ability to hire. These are their solutions. This is what the President came off the campaign trail to defend last Thursday, and this is what Republicans oppose.

Our view is that the way to solve a debt crisis is to go on a diet, not a shopping spree. Our view is the way to create jobs is to make it easier for businesses to hire, not harder. Frankly, we don't think the voters sent a wave of Republicans to Washington last November because they wanted us to raise taxes. They sent us here to restore some sanity. But the President and his Democratic allies in Congress don't seem to get it just yet.

Right now they are calling for a tax on aircraft manufacturers because they think it is good politics. It is their cheap attempt to try to make anybody who opposes it look bad. What they forgot is many of them voted to repeal a similar tax during the Clinton administration because of the devastating effect it had on jobs. They made the same arguments then, that we need to raise taxes on luxury goods to get more money, and it backfired. The shipbuilding industry alone lost tens of thousands of jobs.

Our Democratic colleagues surely must remember this, but apparently they would rather have fun trying to caricature their political opponents than working out a bipartisan solution that would actually enable us to balance the books.

Here is the point: Washington needs to find a way to spend less. Taxing more is their easy way out. They will start with aircraft manufacturers. Then when that is enough, and it never is, it is some other industry. Then another, and before we know it we are going after absolutely everybody. Why? Because it is easier to find a bill than

it is to make tough choices. But most Americans know what it is like to make tough choices, and they want to know if they have to do it, why can't Washington.

That is why I invited the President over here last Thursday to talk with Republicans. My hope, as I made clear, is that he would listen to Republicans and hear firsthand why we think raising taxes in a weak economy is a bad idea and what the realities are over here.

My goal, as I said on Thursday, was to get together and talk about what is actually possible. The Obama administration said it wasn't a conversation worth having. Republicans in Congress believe finding a way to reduce the deficit and put Medicare on a more secure footing is a conversation worth having.

So today I would like to reextend the offer. I think the best way to solve this impasse is for the President to hear what needs to be done and how we can do it; hear what can actually pass in Congress. He needs to understand the principles at stake from our point of view.

It is not about rich and poor. It is not about an election. It is about Washington taking the hit for a change. It is about having Washington make some tough choices for a change.

Americans want to see accountability here in Washington. They have seen Democrats spending trillions of dollars we don't have, and they have seen the economic situation get worse in many respects than it was several years ago. The facts speak for themselves.

Since the President took the oath of office, nearly 2 million more people are unemployed. That is a 17-percent increase in the unemployment rate under President Obama. Gas prices have nearly doubled—up 86 percent since January of 2009. In the past 2 years, the Federal debt has increased 35 percent. Debt per person has increased by over \$11,000. Health insurance premiums for working families have shot up 19 percent. All this while home values across the country have declined by 12 percent. They have clearly made the economy worse.

Americans get this. They think Washington, DC, should find a way to pay its bills or scale back its commitments, as everybody in the country is doing. Americans have made enough sacrifices the past few years. It is time for Washington to learn to make some sacrifice of its own.

Hopefully, the President will agree that reducing the debt is indeed a conversation worth having. I think we can do it. But I think he needs to understand what the legislative realities are and why and we are committed to a result that will restore the people's confidence not only in our economy but in our government.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand the clerk is about to report a motion to proceed.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

AUTHORIZING THE LIMITED USE OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES IN SUPPORT OF THE NATO MISSION IN LIBYA—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 20, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A motion to proceed to the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 20) authorizing the limited use of the United States Armed Forces in support of the NATO mission in Libya.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I withdraw my motion to proceed to Calendar No. 88, S.J. Res. 20.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The motion is withdrawn.

SHARED SACRIFICE IN RESOLVING THE BUDGET DEFICIT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 93, S. 1323.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the bill (S. 1323) to express the sense of the Senate on shared sacrifice in resolving the budget deficit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion at the desk in that regard.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 93, S. 1323, a bill to express the sense of the Senate on shared sacrifice in resolving the budget deficit.

Harry Reid, Richard J. Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Frank R. Lautenberg, Al Franken, John D. Rockefeller IV, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Bernard Sanders, John F. Kerry, Jeff Merkley, Debbie Stabenow, Daniel K. Akaka, Daniel K. Inouye, Patrick J. Leahy, Benjamin L. Cardin.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I now withdraw my motion to proceed to Calendar No. 93, S. 1323.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The motion is withdrawn.

AUTHORIZING THE LIMITED USE OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES IN SUPPORT OF THE NATO MISSION IN LIBYA—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 88, S.J. Res. 20. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The motion is before the Senate.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 5 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees and that any time spent in a quorum call be equally divided. There is already an order in effect that Republicans will be limited to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, international trade is one of the best ways to create more good-paying jobs for our people—as long as our workers and our companies are treated fairly in the tough global markets in which they compete.

That is not the case today. Chinese trade cheats, after being found guilty of dumping their goods in America, now launder these goods by illegally shipping them through Korea and other countries. This illegality is undercutting our workers, undercutting our companies, and is driving hard-working Americans out of jobs. All this is taking place under the sleepy eyes of America's so-called trade enforcement agencies.

Because this trade rip-off is growing and the Senate will soon take up trade agreements that could fix this problem, I wish to take just a few minutes this afternoon to make clear how this scam actually works. The reason I have this information is because as chairman of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on International Trade, my staff set up a dummy company that intervened directly with suppliers in China in order to learn firsthand how the Chinese firms brazenly shirk America's trade laws.

First, after a thorough and substantial investigation, what happens is that the U.S. Department of Commerce imposes antidumping duties on certain Chinese merchandise that was shown to be dumped, which is to say the merchandise is being sold at below-market prices. The next thing that happens is the Chinese supplier of the merchandise is tagged with the antidumping duties. Rather than stop selling and dumping goods into the United States, the Chinese essentially shore up their American buyers by soothingly conveying that these duties are not going to impact their prices. The suppliers

sometimes characterize complying with U.S. trade law as merely a political issue.

After that, the Chinese goods are shipped into Korea, for example, where the goods are repacked into boxes that say "Made in Korea." The documentation then follows the merchandise that is also going to be altered or forged to suggest that the merchandise indeed originates in Korea rather than China. From there, the merchandise enters our country, often at the Port of Long Beach in California, and U.S. Customs officials declare the goods to not be subject to antidumping duties because, purportedly, if one looks at all the labeling, they don't originate in China.

This transshipment is laundering, plain and simple, and it is a rip-off of the American worker.

My concern is once the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement goes into force, Korea would become a supermagnet for this kind of merchandise laundering. Why would any Chinese supplier launder merchandise through Singapore, for example, when doing so through Korea would bless their merchandise with the duty-free status that the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement provides? The answer is obvious. They wouldn't.

That is why the Congress needs, through legislation, to send clear instruction to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection—and these are our cops. They are the commercial cops at America's ports. They need to be instructed about how to identify and combat the invasion of America's trade laws. In my view, this is absolutely critical to ensuring the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement is not a tool that further empowers unscrupulous Chinese exporters.

For almost a century, our trade laws, the antidumping and the countervailing duties, have been enforced by Democratic and Republican administrations. They represent the frontline defense that protects our American workers. They are the laws that protect our businesses and our families from unfair and unscrupulous trade practices employed by foreign competition. But what we are seeing around the country is that these antidumping and countervailing duties are being evaded, and the problem is growing. What we have seen is, it takes years for the government to look into and conclude investigations on merchandise laundering. During this period of foot-dragging, our companies get hammered by foreign trade cheats, and when the cheats get caught, the enforcement agencies have almost never taken the steps necessary to ensure that the duties that are owed are actually collected.

The discrepancy between how much the U.S. Government is owed by these foreign trade cheats and how much is actually collected is embarrassing. We are collecting something on the order of 20 percent of what is owed to our government, and that is only from the companies that actually got caught