

to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

POLITICS: THE "ART OF COMPROMISE"

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Senate leader HARRY REID has been the most ardent proponent of his party's no-compromise, no-negotiation stance. The leader has even been unwilling to discuss a compromise to prevent a prolonged government shutdown.

We are moving into the second week of this shutdown. In an effort to avoid being labeled as an "obstructionist," the Senate leader has ordered a stance—at least rhetorically—and now claims there has already been compromise.

I would say to the Senate leader that there has been some compromise, but not in the Senate Chamber. The compromise has come from 57 Democrats who joined with the majority in the House to pass targeted appropriations bills that will fund key departments and programs.

Mr. Speaker, politics is often referred to as the "art of compromise." It is essential to the legislative process and surely vital to a functioning democracy. I commend my 57 Democratic colleagues in the House who understand this, and I encourage more to join them as we continue to pass targeted appropriations this week.

Unfortunately, not until both Chambers start compromising will we be able to end this shutdown.

END THE REPUBLICAN SHUTDOWN IMMEDIATELY

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call once again for this House to end this shutdown now by passing the Senate-passed bill that the President will sign to reopen the government.

Speaker JOHN BOEHNER refuses to bring up this bill. This weekend, he claimed it doesn't have the votes to pass. While I am no mathematician, basic math shows that the Senate-passed bill to end the shutdown would pass the House; 217 votes are needed for a bill to pass.

Look at these numbers. With the votes of 198 Democrats and the 23 Republicans who have said publicly that they would support the bill, the bill would pass with 221 votes.

Mr. Speaker, bring up the bill to end the Republican shutdown immediately.

DEBT CEILING

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad truth that our jaw-dropping \$16.7 trillion national debt pales in comparison to the totality of future spending obligations the Congressional Budget Office forecasts. A change in spending habits and a reform to mandatory spending obligations isn't just advisable in this moment; it is absolutely essential for America's long-term financial health.

But meaningful reform is impossible without leadership from the White House. Is President Obama willing to lead and enact reforms to make our country stronger? It appears not.

The President has made it no secret that he is loathe to engage in bipartisan negotiations regardless of what is at stake—whether it be reopening the Federal Government for the American people, or containing our debt crisis so our children and grandchildren aren't left to pay for previous generations' irresponsibility.

Refusing to negotiate on the debt ceiling is code for refusing to make any changes to reduce future debt.

Mr. Speaker, as this body knows, it is foolish to take aim at the symptom without also treating the disease.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I received an email from a woman who runs a small business in my district. I will read it to you now:

Morgan, As you know, I'm a small business with 36 employees, have been paying 75 percent of my employees' health care for over 20 years.

Get a call from health care provider agent that although my renewal date is March 1, the companies are offering to renew on December 1 this year with a 9.8 percent increase. This is to beat what is anticipated as a 30 to 60 percent increase after all the effects of ObamaCare.

Needless to say, this has reignited my frustration with the so-called Affordable Health Care Act. Please stick to your principles, continue the fight. Let me know what, if anything, I can do.

Yes, ma'am, I will.

WE NEED A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, in the last few days, this House has actually come together on two different measures here that would seek to ease a lot of the pain from the government slowdown. The sad thing is we can agree on everything the Republicans have been trying to pass out of here. The only thing we don't really agree on is what we are going to do with that portion of ObamaCare. We have even moved towards you in that we are going to limit it to simply giving the rest of the

American people a 1-year delay in the mandate as the President has called for Big Business and has been given waivers to certain individuals.

We can agree on this. We can get this thing done on what we agree on right away. It is imperative what we do, because we've got three things going on that the American people don't like: they don't like this government slowdown; they don't like what they are seeing with ObamaCare; and they don't like the impending things we are going to have to do with the debt ceiling. All these things work together—the cost of ObamaCare, the government regulatory system that is killing jobs, and the inability for us to get things done around here.

The debt ceiling is a conversation we are going to hear a lot about in the very near future. If we are not doing the things to work on a truly balanced budget, then there is no reason the debt ceiling doesn't keep going up year after year after year.

We need to balance our budget, folks. We need to get the job done for fiscal responsibility. I am not seeing that plan come from the White House or from the Senate.

LET'S DO WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, tonight I had a wonderful tele-townhall meeting with my constituents from across the 10th District of western North Carolina.

We had a lot of discussions tonight about the government shutdown and about the Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare. My constituents gave me great feedback. They said, Keep fighting because we want to see a repeal of ObamaCare. But they said, We want the President to come to the table and negotiate; we want Washington to work.

I also asked my constituents if they had seen their health insurance rates go up as a result of ObamaCare. Fifty-eight percent said they had seen rates go up; 9 percent said they had seen them go down; and the balance said they had seen no change.

Clearly, it is harming families with increased health insurance rates. My constituents want a repeal, but they want Washington to work. So I call on the President, and I ask our friends over in the Senate to come to the table with House Republicans and try to come to consensus so we can move our Nation forward and do what's right for the people.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.