



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2013

No. 145

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 14, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GEORGE HOLDING 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 3, 2013, 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 each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

OUR SACRED DUTY IS TO GOVERN

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in Luke 12:48, Jesus said:

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

The Congress and the President have been entrusted with much, namely, the responsibility to govern this country. The American people rightly expect us, regardless of party affiliation, to come together, especially during times of

crisis, and find ways to get things done. They are understandably fed up with the current dysfunction, and I am, too.

Each side thinks it's winning, but, in reality, the country and the American people are losing. Senate Chaplain Barry Black says there is a level of insanity involved in the current government shutdown. Asked what it would take to end the current impasse, the former Navy chaplain said, "It's going to take humility." Wise words. Proverbs 16:18 says:

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

There is too much pride poisoning this debate. The American people should be the winner, not one party or the other, not the administration or the Congress. Shortsighted political victories aimed at capturing the latest headline in a 24-hour news cycle will not stand the test of time, nor will they be viewed well through the lens of history, especially if, on our watch, the trust that must exist between elected officials and the electorate is frayed beyond repair.

For those of us who think ObamaCare is a disaster—and that is a growing number of people in our country—its future will not be decided by the shutting or opening of the government. In fact, the current failings of the system, including the widespread glitches plaguing the Web site, are not getting the news coverage they should because the story has become the shutdown. The public debate surrounding ObamaCare, which will undoubtedly be at the forefront in heading into the midterm elections, will play second fiddle until the government is once again operational.

It also bears mentioning that, while important, ObamaCare must be placed in a larger context of the exploding national debt and deficit and unsustainable spending and entitlement programs set against the back-

drop of a public discourse bereft of civility. Only through enacting reforms based on the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles recommendations will we ever solve the drivers of our deficits. We have put these tough but important reforms off for far too long.

To my colleagues in the Congress and to President Obama who think they are "winning" at this particular moment, we would do well to remember the words of Napoleon Bonaparte in speaking of the changing nature of public opinion. Napoleon said:

The crowd which follows me with adulation would run with the same eagerness were I marching to the guillotine.

I return again to the sentiments of Scripture: We have been given a great trust, and it is demanded of us to come together to solve these problems. It is time to show some humility. It is time to govern. Let's get the government back open, ensure we don't default on our debt, and then commit ourselves to curbing unsustainable entitlement spending.

DAY NUMBER 14 OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, day No. 14.

Mr. Speaker, today is the 14th day of the government shutdown, and we are 1 day closer to defaulting on our debt. Mr. Speaker, we've never not paid our bills as Americans—as Americans, we always pay on time—but we are 1 day closer to a manufactured crisis. We've got to stop this.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time for leadership. Enough with the games, enough with the name-calling, and enough with the finger-pointing. We have to come together as Democrats and Republicans and put the country first.

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.



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