

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today spoke on the House floor regarding the new Republican Rules package.

Her remarks are below. Please [click here](#) to view her speech.

“Thank you, madam Speaker. And I am pleased to say this morning I am delighted to be here. I want to give my congratulations to Mr. Dreier on reclaiming the Rules seat, and we are very keen on our side to make our case before you today.

Actually, my head is somewhat spinning because not 20 minutes ago the new Speaker of the House of Representatives stood where you are and said he's going to be listening to people but the first order of business before the House came from the delegates who this rule disenfranchises, not only the delegate of the District of Columbia but of all the territories, they didn't get to say a word, so my head is spinning at that point. And we hope they can get unanimous consent so they can get some message into the record.

But it's, again, part of the rhetoric of the last campaign that keeps spinning in our heads. All we want to do, they said, was to bring down the deficit. We're going over the cliff, we have to bring down the deficit. As we stand here today on the brink of a new session of Congress, the concern of that deficit has since disappeared from everything except the press releases.

The other side would gut pay-go and the pay-as-you-go rules adapted by the House and Senate in 2007 under which tax cuts or increase in entitlement spending must be offset by increases of entitlement cuts and it gave us the biggest surplus we have ever had under President Clinton.

It was a hallmark of the Democratic leadership and we were proud of it. We adhered to responsible spending levels with affordable tax cuts and took sensible steps toward controlling the deficits but not today. The talk about deficit reduction is simply thrown out the window so they can free themselves and hand out more tax credits for their friends and corporations. Under these proposed rules, notes The Washington Post, tax cuts of the wealthiest are helpful but those at the other end of the income spectrum, forget about it.

Obviously The New York Times and The Washington Post and others that have cried foul at this sleight of hand. They have slammed this hypocrisy and this attempt at phony attempt at fiscal austerity. I'd like to ask unanimous consent to enter those columns into the record.

What is crystal clear to me since they have double downed. Dick Cheney responded to the 2002 mid-term elections by advocating more than \$2 trillion in tax cuts. Quote, deficits don't matter. We won the mid-term elections. This is our due. End quote, said the Vice President. The other side now wants to adopt the posture of budget cutters. They want to make sweetheart deals without having to pay for them.

Nor is this sleight of hand an isolated event. Less than a month ago, Republicans successfully held unemployment benefits for Americans hostage until they got their wish. More Bush era tax cuts for the people making more than \$1 million a year. That package added another \$140 billion to the deficit, didn't seem to bother them, although they obviously they have told the world it's their number one priority.

And just this week, Republican new members ushered in the new Congress with a \$2,500 fundraiser at the W Hotel in downtown Washington. And lobbyists and political action committee members and other exclusive guests were treated to a night of drinks and singing by country singer Leann Rimes. Those who donated up to \$50,000 were treated to a VIP suite at the W, along with rest of the night's entertainment.

Last month, the incoming chairman of the House Financial Services committee offered his own assessment of Republican oversight. He told Birmingham News in Alabama, in Washington, the view is that the banks are to be regulated. My view is that Washington and the regulators are there to serve the banks, end quote.

And according to Politico, the incoming House Government Oversight and Government Reform Committee, big oil, big pharma and big health. Instead of all this business as usual and we are headed right back into where we were before 2006.

What I'd like to see is an honest attempt to create a set of rules that provide for openness, transparency and good government. This set of rules is not that document. And I hope the other side, although I believe have good intentions, will join us in supporting this effort and I

reserve the balance of my time.”