

# Deal Averts D.C. Shutdown

BY DAVID ESPO  
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Ending weeks of political brinkmanship, Congress finessed a dispute over disaster aid Monday night and advanced legislation to avoid a partial government shutdown only days away.

The agreement ensured there would be no interruption in assistance to areas battered by disasters such as Hurricane Irene and last spring's tornadoes in Joplin, Mo., and also that the government would be able to run normally when the new budget year begins on Saturday.

The Senate approved the resolution after a day of behind-the-scenes talks and occasionally biting debate, spelling an end to the latest in a string of standoffs between Democrats and Republicans over deficits, spending and taxes. Those fights have rattled financial markets and coincided with polls showing congressional approval ratings at historically low levels.

The breakthrough came hours after the Federal Emergency Management Agency indicated it had enough money for disaster relief efforts through Friday. That disclosure allowed lawmakers to jettison a \$1 billion replenishment that had been included in the measure — and to crack the gridlock it had caused.

The Democratic-controlled Senate approved the measure on a bipartisan vote of 79-12, sending it to the Republican-controlled House for a



Cantor

final sign-off. There was no immediate comment from House GOP leaders, although their approval for the measure seemed a mere formality after the party's Senate leader agreed to it.

"This compromise should satisfy Republicans...and it should satisfy Democrats," said Senate Majority leader Harry Reid, who added that Budget Director Jacob Lew had informed him that FEMA did not need any additional funding to meet its needs for the final few days of the budget year.

"It's a win for everyone," declared Reid, who had spent much of the past few weeks accusing Republicans of choosing to heed the wishes of tea party adherents rather than the needs of their own constituents battered by acts of nature.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said it was a "reasonable way to keep the government operational."

But he got in a final jab at Democrats, noting that the disaster funds sought by the Obama administration and its allies in Congress were now known to be unneeded.

"In my view, this entire fire drill was completely unnecessary," he said.

But not even the dispute-resolving agreement prevented Democrats from proceeding to

a politically charged vote earlier in the evening that was designed to force Republicans to decide whether immediate aid to disaster victims or deficit concerns held a higher priority.

And the rhetoric was far harsher during the day on the Senate floor, when Mary Landrieu, D-La., unleashed an unusually personal attack on House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., saying the weeks-long controversy started when he said, "Before we can provide help we need to find offsets in the budget."

She called that "the Cantor doctrine" and said the controversy "could have been avoided if Cantor had just said, 'I'm sorry, but I made a mistake.' But instead of saying that, he doubled down," she said.

Laena Fallon, a spokeswoman for Cantor, responded that the Virginia Republican had "never said the things she alleged, he has only suggested that we ought to provide disaster aid dollars to those who need them in a responsible way — something that she's voted to block despite the urgent need."

In fact, House Republicans insisted that any new disaster aid for the expiring budget year be offset by cuts elsewhere in the budget, a decision that Democrats seized on in hopes of reshaping the political terrain to their advantage.

Because the House is on a one-week break, it was not immediately clear how the legislation would be cleared for President Barack Obama's signature.

## Obama Defends Push To Raise Taxes On Rich

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP) — Inviting questions, President Barack Obama got one he was happy to answer.

"Would you please raise my taxes?" one man asked the president at a town hall here Monday, hosted by the social networking company LinkedIn.

The questioner described himself as unemployed by choice after succeeding at a search-engine startup company that did "quite well" — he was later identified as former Google executive Doug Edwards — and said he wants the nation to spend more on education, infrastructure and job training. That gave Obama a chance to promote his nearly \$450 billion jobs plan that would be paid for by higher taxes opposed by Republicans but not, evidently, by some of Silicon Valley's wealthiest.

"I appreciate the fact that you recognize that we're in this thing together. We're not our own," Obama said. "Those of us who have been successful, we've always got to remember that."

## Libyan Justice Minister Calls For Changes

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Libya's transitional justice minister said Monday that he has approved a measure to abolish the country's state security prosecution and courts, which sentenced opponents of the old regime to prison.

At a press conference in Tripoli, Mohammed al-Alagi, part of Libya's new leadership after the ouster of Moammar Gadhafi, said he has signed a document to disband the bodies. The step still needs approval by the National Transitional Council that now runs the country.

"I am personally very happy to sign an approval to end the state security prosecution and court, and the state security appeals court," al-Alagi said.

He said the document includes a request to abolish a third court for special cases where many opposition members were sentenced to life terms in prisons like Abu Salim in Tripoli, where inmates were massacred by Gadhafi's regime.

## Afghan Working At CIA Office Kills Contractor

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — An Afghan working for the U.S. government killed a CIA contractor and wounded another American in an attack on the intelligence agency's office in Kabul, officials said Monday, making it the latest in a series of high-profile attacks this month on U.S. targets.

The incident marked the most recent in a growing number of attacks this year by Afghans working with international forces in the country. Some assailants have turned out to be Taliban sleeper agents, while others have been motivated by personal grievances.

The assailant in Sunday evening's shooting was killed, and it was not yet clear if he acted alone or if he belonged to an insurgent group.

A U.S. official in Washington said the Afghan attacker was providing security to the CIA office and that the American who died was working as a contractor for the CIA. The official requested anonymity because he was speaking about intelligence matters.

The CIA declined to comment.

## Promising News From Europe Rallies U.S. Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks had their biggest gains in more than two weeks Monday after European officials vowed to take action to resolve the region's debt problems. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 272 points, making up about a third of last week's losses.

Financial officials met in Washington this weekend and pledged to take bolder steps to fight Europe's debt crisis, which threatens to slow the global economy. President Barack

Obama called on European leaders to move more quickly to address the crisis.

German leaders want banks and private institutions that hold Greek bonds to take a bigger loss on those holdings to reduce Greece's debt burden. European officials have talked about increasing the size of Europe's \$595 billion rescue fund by allowing it to take loans from the European Central Bank. Pressure is also mounting for the central bank to lower interest rates.

"The news leaking out of Europe is giving investors hope that the politicians and central bankers in Europe might be putting together a plan," said Channing Smith, managing director of Capital Advisors Inc. "The devil's in the details."

The Dow Jones industrial average shot up 272.38 points, or 2.5 percent, to close at 11,043.86. It was the biggest gain since Sept. 7. JPMorgan Chase & Co. jumped 7 percent to \$31.65, the most of the 30 stocks in the Dow.

### LIFE IN POETRY

## The Sharing Of Tradition Is Part Of Recipe Of Life

BY TED KOOSER  
U.S. Poet Laureate, 2004-2006

People have been learning to cook since our ancient ancestors discovered fire, and most of us learn from somebody who knows how. I love this little poem by Daniel Nyikos of Utah, for its contemporary take on accepting directions from an elder, from two elders in this instance.

### POTATO SOUP

I set up my computer and webcam in the kitchen so I can ask my mother's and aunt's advice as I cook soup for the first time alone. My mother is in Utah. My aunt is in Hungary. I show the onions to my mother with the webcam. "Cut them smaller," she advises. "You only need a taste." I chop potatoes as the onions fry in my pan. When I say I have no paprika to add to the broth, they argue whether it can be called potato soup. My mother says it will be white potato soup, my aunt says potato soup must be red. When I add sliced peppers, I ask many times if I should put the water in now, but they both say to wait until I add the potatoes. I add Polish sausage because I can't find Hungarian, and I cook it so long the potatoes fall apart. "You've made stew," my mother says when I hold up the whole pot to the camera. They laugh and say I must get married soon. I turn off the computer and eat alone.

*American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation, publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright © 2010 by Daniel Nyikos. Reprinted by permission of Daniel Nyikos. Introduction copyright © 2011 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.*

### CAR TALK

## On Air Conditioners And Hairstyles

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI  
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:

My wife and I live in the northwest corner of Georgia, and she insists on running her car's air conditioner at all times — winter, summer, spring, fall, day, night, doesn't matter. While I don't mind using it when it's hot, I think using it in winter does nothing but waste gas (as your engine does have to work harder when the air is on). But she thinks that by running it in the winter, it will keep her hair nice because, according to her, it keeps the humidity low. When we drive somewhere together, sometimes I can sneak my hand over and turn it off while she's not looking, and, after the inevitable argument that results from my surreptitious action, I can't ever tell any difference in her hair. But she insists that she can. We've argued back and forth about this for 10 years now, and I think it is finally time we settled it once and for all. Should I consult a hairstylist on this question, or can you guys help us end this argument? — Jeff

TOM: Jeff, here's what you need to realize: Once your wife divorces you, she'll use the air conditioning whenever she wants,

since she'll be getting the car. And you'll be living in a refrigerator box.

RAY: My brother knows whereof he speaks, Jeff. When he got divorced the second time, he had to downsize to a studio refrigerator box.

TOM: You need to give it a rest, man. You've been on her case for 10 years over this? Who cares? If she says it makes her hair look better, then it looks better.

RAY: She's probably right. Using the air conditioner decreases the humidity in the air. And everybody knows that humid days are bad-hair days. Of course, humid days for me are "no hair days." Just like every other day.

TOM: On many cars, the air conditioner automatically goes on when you turn on the defroster. Why? For the same reason your wife uses it: To remove moisture from the air and clear water vapor off the inside of the windshield faster. If you've got one of those cars, you're using the AC in the winter whether you know it or not.

RAY: So, consider the facts, Jeff: (A) She's right. (B) You're being a pest. And (C) a divorce is much more expensive than the small amount of gas she's using

to run the air conditioner. So you decide the best course of action here.

TOM: And let me know if you need a refrigerator box. I may have to downsize again soon.

Changing your oil regularly is the cheapest insurance you can buy for your car, but how often should you change it? Find out by ordering Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ru-

ining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or email them by visiting the Car Talk website at [www.cartalk.com](http://www.cartalk.com).

**Happy 25th Anniversary Mike & Tami Roesler!**

*We love you!*

Love,  
Your Wonderful Daughters

**Potts-Hansen**

April Potts and Aaron Hansen announce their engagement and upcoming wedding on Oct. 15, 2011. Parents of the couple are Kevin and Robin Teichroew of Yankton, SD, Quay and Lin Hansen of Yankton, SD, and Karen and Bruce Brazelton of Yankton, SD. April is a 1994 graduate of Williamsville High School in Williamsville, Ill. She graduated in 1998 from the University of Illinois, Springfield, Ill. She is a Credit Analyst at First National Bank South Dakota. Aaron is a 1998 graduate of Yankton High School. He graduated from the University of South Dakota in 2002. He is the Sr. Business Relationship Manager at Wells Fargo.

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*Celebrating 50 Years*

Bob and Linda (Dumire) Moe will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 2, 2011. In honor of their 50 years together a card shower is requested by their children. Greetings can be sent to: 201 Sand Creek Rd., Springfield, SD 57062. The couple has three children: Todd (Kim) Moe, Barbara (Romaine) Kocer, and Brian Moe. They have three grandsons: Robbie, Tyler, and Andrew.

**Mr. & Mrs. Bob Moe**

*50th Anniversary*

**Marv & Marilyn Ekeren** will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on October 8th, 2011. Their children are requesting a card shower in their honor. Cards can be mailed to: 201 East 26th, Yankton, SD 57078.

Marv and Marilyn celebrated their Golden Anniversary earlier this Summer with a week-long family get-together in the Colorado Rockies. The couple have 4 children, Doug (Karen) Ekeren, Yankton, SD; Shelley (Kevin) Dwyer, Novato, CA; Jodi (Joel) Nooney, Monument, CO; Staci Ekeren, Harrisburg, SD. They have 10 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

**Get Your Flu Shot**

*It's that time of the year — changing colors, days are getting shorter and it's time to start thinking about flu shots.*

**Beginning Monday, Oct. 3rd**

Flu shots will be available **FREE** with Medicare Part B, you must be 18 years or older. No appointment necessary at your full service pharmacy.

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*"The bitter taste of a Bad Roof will linger long after the sound of a Good Deal."*