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No. 155

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 1, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rev. Tom Dore, Pastor Emeritus, St. Giles Parish, Oak Park, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Lord, the Members of the United States House of Representatives have been given the awesome responsibility and privilege of the stewardship of governance by the citizens of our country. They must be truly grateful for the trust placed in them by those same citizens.

Today, I ask for Your gift of wisdom, right judgment and hearts and minds open to Your Spirit.

I pray for the spirit of cooperation and collaboration as they seek to guide our country as it faces the many significant challenges both nationally and internationally.

Although there may be differences on how to accomplish specific goals, the Members of the House must always keep in mind the inspiring vision of our Founders—the common good of the people they serve.

Gracious and loving God, be with them in their deliberations, for without Your help and guidance, the deliberations may prove limited and disappointing.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PASCRELL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 6162. An act to provide research and development authority for alternative coinage materials to the Secretary of the Treasury, increase congressional oversight over coin production, and ensure the continuity of certain numismatic items.

H.R. 6166. An act to authorize the production of palladium bullion coins to provide affordable opportunities for investments in precious metals, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3386. An act to protect consumers from certain aggressive sales tactics on the Internet.

S. 3987. An act to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act with respect to the applicability of identity theft guidelines to creditors.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 107-12, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Lead-

er, appoints the following individual as a member of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board:

Albert H. Gillespie of Nevada vice Thomas J. Scotto of New York.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the elephant in the room—the expiration of the tax rates that will occur 31 days from now.

We all agree that it is imperative that we work together to provide America's working-class families with tax relief as soon as possible. That is why I applaud the President for meeting with Members from the House and Senate in order to forge a bipartisan compromise.

But to be fair, this past September, I, along with Messrs. CAPUANO, HIGGINS and OWENS, proposed a compromise that provides tax relief for American families and that gives Congress the fiscal flexibility to address our long-term deficit. I am proud to say that the Joint Committee on Taxation has confirmed that this plan costs significantly less and provides greater flexibility to reduce the national debt.

Our compromise includes a 5-year extension of the middle class tax rates and the current rates on long-term capital gains and qualified dividends, costing \$801.5 billion; and a 1-year extension of the current rates for income earned between \$250,000 and \$500,000, costing \$8.27 billion.

This plan is better than the \$2.2 trillion over 10 years which is now before

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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us. It is a compromise, and we ought to try it sometime.

H.R. 5866, THE NERD ACT

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, by 2030, America's energy needs will increase by 40 percent, and our nuclear power plants are, on average, 30 years old and are nearing the end of their life cycles.

We need more energy.

The Nuclear Energy Research and Development Act, which passed the House last night, accelerates the development of small, pre-made reactors that can be built in factories and shipped to sites at a fraction of the cost. Today, a typical nuclear power plant costs \$10 billion, takes 5 years to build, and produces more than 1,100 megawatts. Small reactors cost \$750 million, which can be quickly added to the grid and shipped into the place.

We need energy independence; but to rebuild our economy, we need products that can be developed here, built in our factories, and sold all over the world; or we can keep sending our dollars to OPEC. This year, the U.S. will buy \$350 billion of foreign oil; and for roughly 1 day's worth of oil purchased from a foreign country, this bill invests in the technology that produces these new energy plants.

The stimulus bill gave us windmills made in China. Let's not repeat that mistake. If we don't do this in the USA, other countries can and will make them and ship them here. Let's support U.S. jobs for U.S. energy.

I urge the Senate to quickly adopt H.R. 5866.

BUSH TAX CUTS

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I rise in support of middle class Americans.

As Americans continue to face economic challenges, the deadline looms for extending middle class tax cuts that provide relief where it is most needed; but congressional Republicans are holding these middle class tax cuts hostage in favor of tax breaks for the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans, burdening our children and our grandchildren with unsustainable debt.

Their argument for millionaire tax breaks: it will trickle down to the middle class and create jobs.

But if that were true, America would not be in the economic situation it is in now. If personal tax cuts for the very wealthy create jobs—and they've had them for 10 years—where are those jobs?

Congressional Republicans have made it quite clear that they are willing to hold up tax breaks for middle-in-

come families to protect multi-millionaires. Republicans talk about reducing our deficit, but they are perfectly happy to balloon the deficit by \$700 billion to give tax breaks to the richest Americans.

In the coming weeks, we will see if Republicans stand up for middle class Americans or if they stand against them.

IT IS TIME TO SHUT WIKILEAKS DOWN

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, we saw again this week the organization WikiLeaks release hundreds of thousands of classified documents which threaten to undercut American foreign policy as well as our national security.

The person who has been accused of releasing this sensitive information is an American PFC, who is now facing charges that could lead to 52 years in prison if he is convicted. These penalties are too lenient because this PFC has not just violated orders; he has committed treason.

I think that WikiLeaks and its founder, Julian Assange, should be facing criminal charges; and his Web site, which he uses to aid and abet our terrorist enemies, should also be shut down to defend our national security.

Attorney General Eric Holder held a press conference the other day, proudly announcing that the Federal Government had shut down several Web sites for selling knock-off purses and other items. Well, I have an idea for Attorney General Holder: shut down WikiLeaks, which represents a far greater threat to our national security than the sale of fake Louis Vuitton bags.

It is time that the Obama administration treats WikiLeaks for what it is—a terrorist organization, whose continued operation threatens our security.

Shut it down. Shut it down. It is time to shut down this terrorist organization, this terrorist Web site, WikiLeaks. Shut it down, Attorney General Holder.

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REPEAL DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, in 1857, just down the hall, the Supreme Court, which met in this building at the time, decided Dred Scott, in which they said that a black American was not entitled to the rights of the Constitution promised to all men. The good news is that over the years this institution has done the right thing—civil rights legisla-

tion, any number of things—to expiate that sin, but 17 years ago this body passed legislation which discriminated against our soldiers that said if you are gay, you can't serve your country; that regardless of how much we spent to train you, regardless of how critical your expertise is to keeping this country safe, you cannot serve your country.

A report came out yesterday which indicates that there is, at most, a negligible threat, a negligible problem if we get rid of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Now is the time to fix that sin of 17 years ago and say to gay Americans that if you're patriotic enough to serve this country, we welcome you in the armed services.

I urge the Senate to act to repeal this act and to really get us closer to our founding creed.

LET'S GET TO WORK FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, today is December 1, just 25 days until Christmas, but the American people have Christmas on their mind right now. In fact, they sent a list of some of the things that they do and do not want on November 2 to this administration and to this body. They said we want jobs, not more taxes. They said we want jobs, not more spending and deficits. We want jobs, not more Big Government.

If we want to make sure that the American people have a very merry Christmas, let's pass H.R. 4676, which I introduced, which brings taxpayers certainty and gives every American taxpayer tax relief that they both deserve and need.

Let's give the American people a merry Christmas. Let's do the right thing for the American people. Let's do the right thing for the future of our children and our grandchildren. Let's get to work and quit naming post offices in this country and go to work for the American people.

EXTENDING TAX CUTS

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with one question for former President George W. Bush and the Republican leadership in Congress: Where are the jobs?

With inspirational titles promising economic growth and job creation, the 2001 and 2003 tax cut packages fell well short of their names. From 2001 to 2007, the economy grew at its slowest pace since World War II.

The Bush tax cuts failed to bring the growth they promised, and now my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want a no-questions-asked extension of