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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 24, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED PASTOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, because You are the Almighty, You move and act ceaselessly without hesitation. Congress and the Nation stand before You in need. Make of us what You will. Move and act within us for the common good of the Nation and all its citizens.

Relying on Your revelation throughout history, knowing the power of Your Word and Your saving grace, we stand in freedom and desirous of a greater union.

We lift the broken pieces of our covenant, knowing Your power to admonish and heal. We proclaim once again to all who would hear and understand, as we pray, "In God We Trust." 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. The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by the

gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington 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 amendments bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 3068. An act to prohibit the award of contracts to provide guard services under the contract security guard program of the Federal Protective Service to a business concern that is owned, controlled, or operated by an individual who has been convicted of a felony.

H.R. 6984. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4120. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for more effective prosecution of cases involving child pornography, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills and agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1255. An Act to protect Indian arts and crafts through the improvement of applicable criminal proceedings, and for other purposes.

S. 1382. An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1810. An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the provision of sci-

entifically sound information and support services to patients receiving a positive test diagnosis for Down syndrome or other prenatally and postnatally diagnosed conditions.

S. 2816. An Act to provide for the appointment of the Chief Human Capital Officer of the Department of Homeland Security by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

S. 1932. An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program to provide assistance for poison prevention, sustain the funding of poison centers, and enhance the public health of people of the United States.

S. 3328. An Act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for a one-year extension of other transaction authority.

S. Con Res. 101. Concurrent resolution honoring the University of Nebraska at Omaha for its 100 years of commitment to higher education.

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.

CELEBRATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the North Cascades National Park.

On October 2, 1968, President Johnson signed the North Cascades Act and 680,000 acres of peaks, glaciers, old growth forest and salmon-bearing streams were protected. North Cascades National Park became a reality thanks to the tireless efforts of local activists and bipartisan support from elected officials, including former Senator Henry Scoop Jackson, Representative Lloyd Meeds and Governor Daniel Evans.

□ 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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The North Cascades are home to numerous species, including the Bald Eagle, Spotted Owl and grizzly bear. The park is also home to world-class recreation areas. Families can hunt, fish and boat in and around scenic mountain lakes.

During the last four decades, millions of Americans have experienced the beauty of the North Cascades. I want to thank all of the men and women who have worked so hard to create the North Cascades National Park, and I invite all Americans to come visit this national treasure.

FINANCIAL GUN TO THE HEAD OF AMERICA

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, because Wall Street has made bad judgment calls, the American taxpayer has been forced to bail them out at \$700 billion. Seven hundred billion, what does that mean? That means every man, woman, child and illegal in the United States will have to fork over \$2,000 apiece to bail out the money grabber barons on Wall Street. And that's just wrong.

Why is it, Mr. Speaker, the bigger the business, the more the Federal Government thinks it should swoop in save these incompetent business people? Small businesses, mom and pop stores, don't get this break. When they make bad financial decisions, they go out of business. But the rich and famous Wall Street New York City fat cats expect "Joe Six-Pack" to buck it up and pay for all this nonsense.

Reward people for being irresponsible and expect responsible people to pay for the sins of the financial industry? I don't think so.

Putting a financial gun to the head of America is not the answer. The government has no authority to force Americans to ante up a \$700 billion ransom to save the hides of the rich robber barons on Wall Street.

And that's just the way it is.

STATEMENT ON HURRICANE IKE

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker and Members, I want to use my 1 minute today to talk about the disaster from Hurricane Ike in the district I represent.

These two pictures behind me are two separate homes that were hit by the wave action, the storm surge. You can see, this house is totally destroyed, and in this home, literally the waves went right through the home, knocked down the brick and everything else.

That is not counting the thousands of homes and businesses and even industry that the power is out. Certain zip codes are more than 50 percent out of power, and when you have a Houston

September, which is really summertime, I have folks living outside their homes literally for the last 10 days.

Mr. Speaker, the supplemental today for the CR is something that is so important to my area and all of Southeast Texas. I want to thank both the Speaker and Chairman OBEY and my colleagues for helping work on funding for that for the initial disaster assistance, \$22 billion for disaster relief activities, including \$6.5 billion for CDBG funding and \$8 billion for FEMA assistance, which is just the down payment.

You have the fourth largest city in the country. Southeast Texas is devastated. To get that community back up, we need the assistance. Just like we helped California with the fires and the earthquakes, the floods in the Midwest and everywhere else, our community needs that help too, and I want to thank the leadership for doing it.

These two homes are in Baytown, Texas, in East Harris County, that I share with Congressman TED POE. This is actually in our district that I saw Monday morning with the mayor, Steve DonCarlos, and a city council member.

You can see what just the storm surge did. Just think about what hurricane force winds did to people's homes. We are a Pine trees area, so we have a lot of those trees that have fallen on houses and powerlines.

NO BUFFETT DEAL FOR TAXPAYERS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, there is a double standard that is occurring in the wake of the largest government bailout in history. Warren Buffett yesterday announced he will invest \$5 billion in Goldman Sachs, the investment bank at which the Secretary of Treasury Paulson used to be the CEO. The struggling investment bank is attempting to raise capital and has wooed Buffett into his plan by offering his company preferred shares in return's for Buffett's bailout investment.

And herein lies the double standard. The Treasury Secretary, who happens to have close ties with Goldman Sachs, wants authority to use taxpayer dollars to bail out private financial companies, including his own firm, while taxpayers will get nothing at all in return but bad debt.

If taxpayers are going to get stuck bailing out bad debt, shouldn't they get some kind of Buffett deal as well? Clearly this government bailout is fraught with nothing but double standards and conflicts of interest.

TAKE TIME TO DEVELOP RESPONSIBLE WALL STREET ASSISTANCE PLAN

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, greed is the accelerator that drives a capitalist economy. But unless you are willing to tap on the regulatory brakes once in awhile, you are going to crash. We learned that 75 years ago, and now we are learning it again. But now the average American household is being asked to cough up about \$5,000 to bail out Wall Street. That is not fair. Nor will the plan that we are being given prove to be effective.

What we need to do is to deal with the underlying mortgages, to restructure those mortgages, rather than force the taxpayer to be buying securities that they wouldn't buy in their own good judgment. The taxpayer cannot be held holding the bag.

What we need to do is stay in session until we can get it right, until we can prove to our constituents that what we have done is responsible and fair. We cannot vote this week on a \$700 billion package, when we really don't know what is responsible and fair.

ENERGY BILL AND OUR ECONOMY

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, one needs to look no further than the headlines in our Nation's newspapers to see the consequences of doing nothing with regard to the energy crisis facing our Nation.

We have stood idly by while skyrocketing fuel and energy prices undercut consumer confidence and are partially responsible for our current economic straits. But instead of passing a comprehensive energy bill in which all forms of energy were on the table, last week we took up legislation which will not only prove ineffective, but I believe counterproductive.

It was a bill written behind closed doors, with no input from Republicans, and even many Democrats wishing to participate. It bypassed the Natural Resources Committee and was brought to the floor under a closed rule, freezing out members of both parties, all after a promise of the most open Congress in history.

Mr. Speaker, let's not make the same mistake this week. We still have time. Bring the American Energy Act to the floor for a vote before we adjourn, and we can help address the crisis facing our Nation.

TAXPAYERS SHOULD NOT BAIL OUT THE BARONS OF WALL STREET

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the American taxpayers should not be asked to bail out the barons of Wall Street, Henry Paulson's best friends.