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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 12, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ELLEN O. TAUSCHER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Dr. Albert C. Lynch, St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, Richmond, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, as we gather in this hallowed place on the 200th anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln, we are reminded that in the midst of times of greatest national adversity, You have watched over this Nation and have inspired leaders who have zealously stood for what is just and what is right and what is honorable. On this day, may we be reminded of the leadership that Lincoln gave to this country.

Though virtually uneducated and unqualified in every conventional way to lead, it became his duty to lead our Nation through civil war and to preserve the Union. Like Lincoln, we pray that You would instill within the Members of this House of Representatives the courage to lead our people in this time of economic and international uncertainty, and the resolve to carry out Your will in all they undertake. In Your name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BUCHANAN 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.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR ALBERT C. LYNCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, today I have the distinct honor of inviting for the opening prayer a man for whom I have tremendous respect, Pastor Al Lynch. Pastor Lynch, who is here with his wife Susan and his son Matthew, serves as the St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Henrico County, Virginia. He has a passion for public service, in particular in the public safety arena, where he has been appointed chaplain of the Henrico County Sheriff's Office. His years of contributions to the greater Richmond region have left a profound imprint on our community, and we are all grateful for his service.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SAVING OUR JOBS

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

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, there are still obstructionists who are attempting to obstruct this bold plan to create jobs in this country of President Barack Obama, and you will hear a lot of smoke in the next 24 hours about that. I thought it was helpful to look at some objective assessment of this bill that was performed by Christina Romer, Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, and Jared Bernstein, an economist in the office of the Vice President. This assessment has shown that this will create or save 3.5 million jobs for Americans in the next 2 years.

All across this country, and in the Second District of Texas it has been shown that 8,800 jobs will be saved. And people have said these are somehow make-work jobs? We on this side of the aisle don't think that teachers are make-work jobs, and their jobs are going to be preserved all across the country with this bill. We don't think firefighters are make-work jobs. We don't think that construction workers are make-work jobs. And 90 percent of these jobs will be in the private sector, Madam Speaker.

These are honest, paycheck-every-Friday jobs that are going to help to save this economy. I hope the obstructionists will realize these are saving jobs today and tomorrow and vote for this bill.

COLONEL SAM JOHNSON, PRISONER OF WAR

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the date: February 12, 1973, 36 years ago this day, when a tall, lean, underfed

□ 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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POW boldly boarded a C-141 transport plane with a tin can in his hand flying from Vietnam back home to America. His name? Colonel SAM JOHNSON, now a Member of this United States House of Representatives, from Texas.

SAM JOHNSON was a fighter pilot, flew 62 missions in Korea, and on his 25th mission in Vietnam he was shot down. He landed in a rice paddy, was captured by the North Vietnamese, and for 7 years was a prisoner of war. He was tortured, beaten, but never broken. He did have a broken arm, and his other arm was useless. April 16, 1966 is when he began his 7 years of confinement. But today is his 36th anniversary from his 7 years in a POW camp. He served in a cell the size of a tomb with that tin cup and polluted rice, and sometimes a rat would come by.

Madam Speaker, we want all of America's sons to grow up to have the character of Colonel SAM JOHNSON. We thank SAM JOHNSON for his 7 years of service in a POW camp. We thank all the Americans that served in those POW camps—those that survived and came home, and those that did not.

And that's just the way it is.

H.R. 852, THE REBUILD AMERICA BOND ACT OF 2009

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, during these difficult economic times, President Obama has called on Americans to embrace a new era of responsibility. To that end, last week I introduced H.R. 852, the Rebuild America Bonds Act of 2009.

The proceeds from these bonds would be set aside in a Rebuild America trust fund, to be used only to build infrastructure projects, including rail, transit, water, highway, bridge, and road projects. Rebuild America savings bonds would provide every American with the opportunity not only to invest in their country but to also provide the financial support that we need for our infrastructure in America.

In addition, the new savings bonds will improve the morale of the American people. People want to know, what can I do now? They want to know, where can I put my money? Where will it be safe? How can I help America.

From bridge collapses, water main breaks, and other infrastructure accidents across this country, it is clear that America's infrastructure is aging. So I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 852, the Rebuild America Bonds Act.

A NEW APPROACH

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, our Democratic col-

leagues have said we need a new approach in Washington that does not rely on tired ideas and politics of the past. So I am curious, what exactly is new and novel about a massive spending package, developed behind closed doors, and devoid of bipartisan input? That is not change. It repeats mistakes of the past.

Instead of trying to borrow and spend our way to recovery, House Republicans have laid out a commonsense, timely, and targeted alternative. Our proposal would create jobs by providing immediate relief to American taxpayers, small businesses, and home buyers. These tax cuts have been tried before under President Kennedy and President Reagan. Each time, they created jobs and led to economic recovery.

The American people are hurting. They care about keeping their jobs, paying their bills, and sending their children to school. They deserve much better than this massive spending bill, which will raise interest rates.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

SUPPORT PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PLAN

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

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, while Democrats in Congress are pushing for a recovery package to put Americans back to work, the recovery is delayed by the same Washington Republicans who helped craft the Bush-onomics that created this recession.

In 1993, Washington Republicans said that the Clinton budget would lead to a job-killing recession. Instead, the Clinton economy created 22 million jobs in just 8 years. Compare that to the 2.6 million jobs lost just last year, in the last year of President Bush's administration.

In 2001, Washington Republicans swore that their tax cuts would lead to the most robust economy we have ever seen. Instead, their theory went bust and drained the surplus that President Clinton had created and left us with a staggering deficit that we are now dealing with.

The American people demanded in November for a change, and for a reason: Republican economic theories don't work and certainly don't put American people back to work.

I urge Washington Republicans to join fellow Republicans like Governor Crist and Governor Schwarzenegger and help us enact President Obama's plan to turn this economy around.

WE MUST DO BETTER

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, this bill that we are going to consider

or vote on in the next day or so should be about jobs, small business, and working families. However, small business, which I am on that committee, make up 99 percent of businesses in Florida and they create 70 percent of the jobs, but only 1 percent of this will actually go in terms of helping small business.

The Congressional Budget Office says it will do more harm than good long term; 300 leading economists say this bill will not help the economy. It explodes the debt. We are at \$10 trillion now; this year we will be at \$1.2 trillion plus the stimulus with interest, over \$1 trillion. This is about our children and grandchildren. We are going to put them further behind. We will not leave it better for them, and that is why I cannot support this bill.

HONORING LAWRENCE "LARRY" KING

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to honor the life of my constituent, Larry King.

Larry was shot at his middle school by a fellow student. That was 1 year ago today. He died 2 days later. Larry was 15 years old. The police classified the murder as a hate crime. Almost 200 vigils in all 50 States were held to honor this young man's life.

Larry's death serves as a tragic reminder that we must work to end violence and harassment directed at lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people.

Every child should be guaranteed an education free from bullying, harassment, discrimination, and violence.

Today, I honor Larry's full but tragically short life. I am introducing a resolution in his honor to bring attention to the violence he experienced in school and for all those who face harassment because of their sexual orientation and gender expression.

We must, and we will, end this discrimination.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, Members were informed yesterday that a deal has been struck on the \$1 trillion spending bill that Speaker PELOSI is calling an economic stimulus plan.

The American people have a right to know what is in this bill, but I have serious doubts that the majority party will allow the American people to view the bill for the 48 hours like they said they would; so let's look at a couple of the provisions of the bill.

Davis-Bacon, a policy that forces government contractors to pay union wages, will force the cost of all infrastructure and construction projects up