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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 16, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN 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:

During this season of holidays and holy days, Lord, we pray for families all across this Nation. The times, economics, and unemployment are causing great stress within some families. Military service, sickness, recent deaths, and alienation bring other families to the point of heartbreak and tears. Yet we believe, Lord, that the family is not only the basic social unit upon which our communities and our Nation are built. Family life is the "domestic church" where prayer is practiced and faith is first witnessed.

For You, Lord God, the family itself is a great mystery, our first school of formation, which shapes human values,

affirms self-image, and provides a world view. Here one accepts personal independence within a sense of belonging and authority with a sense of humor, bold enough to giggle at life's inconsistencies and laugh at oneself. Daily, children and adults learn self-giving, gratitude, patience, forgiveness, and simple expressions of love and being loved.

Lord, may Congress respect and protect family life in this country. With Your blessing, may every family this season nurture the experience of love: conjugal love, paternal and maternal love, fraternal love, and the love of a community of persons and of generations. May they acknowledge Your Presence in everyone around the table, both now and forever. Amen.

NOTICE

If the 111th Congress, 1st Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 23, 2009, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 111th Congress, 1st Session, will be published on Thursday, December 31, 2009, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT-59 or S-123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Wednesday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Thursday, December 31, 2009, and will be delivered on Monday, January 4, 2010.

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman*.

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 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 Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. YARMUTH 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.

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.

SACRIFICING THE FUTURE FOR WAR AND WALL STREET

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

Mr. KUCINICH. The Greatest Generation sacrificed during their lifetime so future generations could have it better. Here, the "bailout generation" demands the future will be sacrificed for the present with unlimited money from Wall Street and war.

While the government expands the debt for Wall Street and war, people are led to believe that we're doing it for jobs on Main Street. Even today as Congress expands the debt limit, CitiGroup will get billions in new tax breaks. Last week, Congress let Wall Street keep their over-the-counter black box derivatives game going, which will leave the taxpayers exposed to huge losses in the future.

Today, Congress will give the Pentagon another \$550 billion and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan another \$130 billion, where we expand the national debt, sacrificing the future for the present. In the past 2 years, Congress chose war and Wall Street over jobs and Main Street, expanding the debt, sacrificing the future for the present.

Today's job bill is necessary but will address only a fraction of the unemployed. Rather than prime the pump of the economy and put all of America back to work, we have to sacrifice the future for war and for Wall Street.

OBAMAVILLE IN COLORADO SPRINGS

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, this picture shows what the failed policies

of this Congress and administration are doing to America. This sign was put up near a homeless camp in my district. It's next to the highway, down by the river. It says: Welcome to Obamaville—Colorado's fastest growing community.

It's obvious that the liberals' prescription for creating jobs only creates more government by taking hard-earned dollars from families and small businesses for taxes that could have gone into creating real jobs.

When the President said he wanted more jobs through the so-called stimulus, it's mostly meant more bureaucrats, and that's not the jobs Americans want. When Americans lose their jobs in this recession and end up living in a tent, something is wrong.

The policies of this administration and Congress, by raising taxes and putting more regulations in the way of business, will not create the jobs Americans need for the future, but their policies will create tent cities.

HONORING JACKIE HAYS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jackie Hays, a broadcasting legend in Louisville, Kentucky, who has served our community for nearly 22 years. Jackie will retire this Friday, and she will be greatly missed.

Over the course of her career at WAVE-TV, Jackie has done it all: flying in Thunderbirds and Blue Angels, covering more than 25 Kentucky Derbies, and joining Louisvillians for our greatest celebrations and darkest tragedies. But most of all, she has endeared herself to Louisvillians because we always knew how much she cared about us. That's why she was selected 16 times as Louisville's favorite female anchor. She proved her love for our community not just by her on-air professionalism, but also by her enthusiastic involvement in civic and charitable activities.

Jackie once said: God isn't going to ask me one day how many newscasts I did or how many stories I broke, but what kind of person I was.

As Jackie's WAVE-3 career comes to an end, I can say without reservation that she is a person that anyone would hold up as a role model, and we are grateful she has called Louisville home so long. I join everyone in Louisville in wishing her a long and fulfilling retirement.

TIME TO STOP DIGGING THE DEFICIT HOLE

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

Mrs. SCHMIDT. A few weeks ago, Moody's Investor Services told us that our country's AAA bond rating will be downgraded if we do not get the budget

deficit under control. This is because the President and this Congress ran up a record-breaking deficit last year to the tune of \$1.4 trillion, tripling our prior record.

The response from the President and the majority is more spending and absolutely no commitment to do anything to reduce the deficit. In fact, today we're going to be asked to raise our debt ceiling so we can borrow more.

An article in Barron's financial magazine on Monday said this: "Moody's expressed optimism that the U.S. budget deficit would be reined in, helped by quicker-than-expected repayment of funds under the TARP program. But the ink was hardly dry on its report when President Obama, Tuesday, announced a new 'jobs' program, funded in part by the greater-than-anticipated return of TARP funds."

Repaid TARP funds are supposed to be used for deficit reduction. Besides this, I thought the trillion dollar stimulus bill was supposed to create jobs.

You know, when you get yourself into a hole, you have to stop digging.

It's time to stop digging.

JOBS, JOBS, AND JOBS

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

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, while this House has made great strides to improve our economy, our journey towards economic recovery will not be complete until after a robust jobs package is passed. The nearly half a million unemployed New Jerseyans and over 15 million unemployed Americans simply cannot wait. They need jobs now, and they're relying on us to deliver it.

In order to put Americans back to work and lay the groundwork for future growth, we must build on the investments in job creation we have already made; specifically, investments in infrastructure and clean energy: jobs to repair existing roads and bridges, jobs to improve public transportation and water infrastructure, and jobs in alternative energy initiatives, including solar and wind.

In addition to job creation, we must also ensure that the unemployed can make ends meet while searching for jobs by continuing the extension of unemployment benefits and helping them maintain health care coverage by extending COBRA subsidies that are set to expire.

Madam Speaker, our work is not done. We need to pass a bill that will generate jobs, jobs, and even more jobs—not in a month, not two, but now.

CONSTITUTIONAL BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, the congressional leaders this week