

declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 21 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

In the great scheme of things, it is You, Lord God, that can make the difference. Day by day, we make judgments and casual decisions. They all add up to a sense of direction. We move along a path in our personal lives. We set a path for this Nation. Guide us every step of the way, Lord.

Representatives in the United States Congress hold the hopes and perspectives of constituents and bring them to light on the floor of the House. To make daily decisions, they take all this into account, and yet they are appointed to be the ones to decide what is of most need for the Nation. Grant them prudence, patience, and perseverance. We ask this calling upon Your Holy Name, now and forever.

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. GARRETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey 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.

ELECTING A MINORITY MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 277

Resolved, That the following member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee:

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—Mr. Latta.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

KEEP TO THE FACTS IN DEBATING THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

(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. Mr. Speaker, the President has sent his budget proposal to the Congress, and for the next few weeks we will debate it, but let's keep to the facts in debating it.

There have been partisan attacks that claim that President Obama's budget will raise taxes on small businesses. In fact, the President's budget eliminates the capital gains tax for individuals on the sale of certain small business stocks and makes the research and experimentation tax credit permanent.

These proposals will spur investment and innovation to help small businesses. These are the job-creating engines of our economy, and nowhere else but in California can you see them so prominently working in this economy to build those jobs we so desperately need. Ninety-seven percent of all small businesses will not see their taxes increase in 2010.

What else is in the budget for small businesses? Twenty-eight billion dollars in loan guarantees to expand credit availability for small businesses at a time when it is really needed and support for the \$1.1 billion in direct disaster loans for businesses, homes, and homeowners.

THE CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE AND THE REPORTER

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, over the last few years, numerous reporters in the United States have been subpoenaed about their confidential sources.

Law enforcement, namely prosecutors, hear about a story that a news reporter covers regarding scandals, corruption, crime, or coverups, and then has the reporter subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury. The purpose of the grand jury investigation is to find out who gave such information to the reporter, with the goal to bring the confidential source before the grand jury to testify.

Most States protect journalists from having to reveal that source. However, there is no Federal law to shield the identity of confidential sources. The protection of the source's identity is important because, without such a guarantee, sources would be fearful of possible reprisals if they revealed the information. Thus, the public would never know about the information.

With a few exceptions, prosecutors should not depend on reporters and their sources to root out crime. If whistle-blowers and reporters are protected by a shield law, the public's right to know will be enhanced with the free flow of information.

And that's just the way it is.

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud of the work Congress and the President have accomplished in just over 2 months: Expanded health care for 11 million children; assistance to families to maintain their health coverage through COBRA; funds to help States prevent cuts to Medicaid; and investments in safe and cost-saving electronic health record technology.

Some naysayers claim that the President and Congress are doing too much too soon. But we cannot fix our economy without fixing our broken health care system. And that's why I'm here today, to mark Cover the Uninsured Week with a call to action, action to achieve comprehensive health care reform, not next year, not in 4 years, but this year.

We have over 45 million individuals who lack health coverage in this country. Fifty-six billion dollars in unpaid bills are driving up the cost of insurance for everyone.

Reforming health care will strengthen our middle class, help businesses create jobs and be competitive, rebuild the economy and put our Nation on a sound financial footing far into the future.

Now is the time for comprehensive health care reform.

THE DEMOCRAT BUDGET BORROWS TOO MUCH

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. During the last campaign, Hillary Clinton said that she had a million good ideas. She probably never thought that she would be outbid by this new administration that has a million bad ideas that are going to cost American taxpayers literally trillions of dollars.

This current budget spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much. It spends too much, and it's coming up to \$2.3 trillion more than the White House even estimated a short time ago.

It taxes too much because every hardworking American household across this country is going to see their taxes go up by over \$3,000. While they're struggling with paying their bills, their taxes will be rising.

It borrows too much because it's going to increase the debt on taxpayers across this country. Right now it stands at about \$35,000 per capita. It's going to double in 8 years to around \$70,000.

You know, Americans were voting for a change. I think at the end they were really hoping for something better than this.

## THE RECESSION IS REAL

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the recession is real.

In my home State of North Carolina, we have 100 counties. All of them experienced an increase in unemployment during the month of January. Seventy-two of the 100 counties had a 10 percent or higher rate of unemployment. Across my district, 23 counties, we now have an average unemployment rate of 11.2 percent. The highest county is 15.6 percent. That is unacceptable.

These numbers are staggering, and people are hurting. We must remember, Mr. Speaker, that we have met these challenges before, and we will meet this challenge now. North Carolina will benefit from about \$6 billion as part of the stimulus package, which will create or save 105,000 much-needed jobs.

I am further encouraged by the efforts to ease the credit squeeze afflicting small businesses by buying up to \$15 billion of securities that are linked to small business. This is an important step, Mr. Speaker, in encouraging lenders to make more money available to entrepreneurs and small businesses.

I encourage the President to continue with his economic recovery.

## GYRATION IN THE STOCK MARKET

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as you can see here in this graph, what the President called gyrations of the stock market, in February of 2008, a year ago, the Dow Jones Industrial Average sat at just 13,000 points.

Just before Congress passed the so-called rebate check package worth \$168 billion of borrowed money, Speaker PELOSI said, "This package gets money into the hands of Americans struggling to make ends meet . . . and stimulates our slowing economy."

Yet since then, the market has lost nearly half its value. That's trillions of dollars in wealth wiped out in 1 year from retirement accounts and the savings of hardworking families across America.

The rebate package a year ago was just the first in many attempts to borrow and spend our way out of this situation. Here we have the \$300 billion housing bailout, \$200 billion for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, \$700 billion in TARP funds. Look at the drop after that: \$14 billion, auto bailout; \$787 billion, stimulus, before the market dropped.

Our actions have economic consequences.

## WE'VE GOT TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF THIS NATION

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I listened to my friends on the other side of the aisle. The problem is they forget, and they're kind of revising history. It's the Republican President and a Republican Congress that drove this country into the ditch financially and economically, and what we've got to do is change the course of this Nation.

That's what the President is undertaking to do, by providing small business with tax credits, with assistance as to funding of their particular projects, because that's where the real engine of our economy is—in small businesses.

So, last week, the President announced various initiatives to assist small business to make credit available to them for their various projects, to purchase their loans so that they could go forward, so small banks could make loans to small businesses.

This President is making available to 95 percent of us tax credits. So for 95 percent of the American public, they will see their taxes go down.

So my friends on the other side of the aisle forget the history that brought us here. The Republican administration, by giving tax cuts to the wealthiest while prosecuting a war, put us in a very difficult position, but we will get it out by changing the direction of this Nation.

## THRUST FOR POWER

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, political liberty is founded on economic liberty, and history teaches that liberties are attacked during a crisis. The White House Chief of Staff has said never pass up an opportunity inside a crisis.

Secretary Geithner wants Congress to give the executive branch authority to seize any financial institution in America. It is an awesome power that will be quickly abused after just one Federal Reserve Board vote among all Presidential appointees. No judge would rule. No vote of the Congress would happen. This is a historic lunge for power.

Americans, remember, it was government agencies, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, that caused this crisis. I am from Chicago, and I know about government abuse and corruption.

We should reject Geithner's opportunistic thrust for control or rue this Congress when it gave only one branch of this government such a corruptible economic authority.

## WE NEED ALL HANDS ON DECK IN THESE SERIOUS ECONOMIC TIMES

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, we are in very serious economic times. Unprecedented challenges confront this

country. It is a time when we need all hands on deck.

Unfortunately, all we've heard from the other side of the aisle is hyperbole: we're spending too much, we're not doing this, we're not doing that. We need ideas.

The best in America has always come because of a conflict of ideas, because of ideas converging and taking the best and assimilating them into policies that benefit all Americans. We're not getting the help we need from our Republican colleagues. Again, we need all hands on deck.

Just this Sunday, one of the Republican Members was on a national talk show and said our faith in God is going to get us through this. Well, maybe it will, but faith in God, as important as it is, is not an economic policy.

We need the best that America has to offer from all sides of America. I invite my Republican colleagues to participate in this debate and help get us out of this economic challenge.

## INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1111

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, each year there are two things that can get in the way of thousands of visitors seeking the picturesque vistas of Montana and all that it has to offer: high energy prices that make the trip too expensive and a blanket of smoke from out-of-control wildfires.

I've introduced legislation that brings some Montana common sense to those problems by literally harnessing the energy of a forest fire to generate electricity.

You see, nature wants to let the fires burn in order to preserve healthy forests, while man continues to try and put them out. When we interfere with nature, we wind up with overgrown forests that burn hotter and longer, wasting a potential renewable energy source. My bill restores these forests to a more natural and healthy density, while using the excess wood to create biomass energy.

Join me in cosponsoring H.R. 1111 to reduce the cost of wildfires and the cost of energy.

□ 1215

## HEALTH CARE MYTH: HEALTH REFORM WILL LIMIT PATIENT CHOICE

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Another health care myth—if we reform our health care system, patients will lose choice. Again, this is simply not true. First, it begs the question: What choice do patients have today?

In America, we have choice, but too often it lies not with the doctor or patient, but with the insurance company.