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No. 12

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 21, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DIANA DEGETTE 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, yesterday, proud to be Americans, became a memorable day of celebration.

A conversion of history does not mean history is overturned or undone. Its true meaning calls for a new way of living. Because the future is no longer to be feared, we can be open for every confirmation of hope realized.

The historic past can be drawn upon for lessons yet to be learned. But now truly free, we are to act as Your people with a new spirit of responsibility, able to respond to the demands of every moment given us.

It is now upon us as a government and as a Nation to make history, to take our time, and make it a time worth celebrating.

So it ever was, is now, and ever will be, generation after generation here in America.

Lord God, be with us 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 her approval thereof.

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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 MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, by the direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 74

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.—Mr. Holden, Mr. McIntyre, Mr. Boswell, Mr. Baca, Mr. Cardoza, Mr. Scott of Georgia, Mr. Marshall, Ms. Herseth Sandlin, Mr. Cuellar, Mr. Costa, Mr. Ellsworth, Mr. Walz, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Kagen, Mr. Schrader, Ms. Halvorson, Ms. Dahlkemper, Mr. Massa, Mr. Bright, Ms. Markey of Colorado, Mr. Kratovil, Mr. Schauer, Mr. Kissell, Mr. Boccheri, Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Childers, Mr. Minnick.

(2) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Becerra, Mr. Doggett, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. Berry, Mr. Boyd, Mr. McGovern, Ms. Tsongas, Mr. Etheridge, Ms. McCollum, Mr. Melancon, Mr. Yarmuth, Mr. Andrews, Ms. DeLauro, Mr. Edwards of Texas, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Langevin, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr.

Bishop of New York, Ms. Moore of Wisconsin, Mr. Connolly of Virginia, Mr. Schrader.

(3) COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR.—Mr. Kildee, Mr. Payne, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Ms. Woolsey, Mr. Hinojosa, Mrs. McCarthy of New York, Mr. Tierney, Mr. Kucinich, Mr. Wu, Mr. Holt, Mrs. Davis of California, Mr. Grijalva, Mr. Bishop of New York, Mr. Sestak, Mr. Loeb sack, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Altmire, Mr. Hare, Ms. Clarke, Mr. Courtney, Ms. Shea-Porter, Ms. Fudge, Mr. Polis of Colorado, Mr. Tonko, Mr. Pierluisi, Mr. Sablan, Ms. Titus.

(4) COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Faleomavaega, Mr. Payne, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Wexler, Mr. Engel, Mr. Delahunt, Mr. Meeks of New York, Ms. Watson, Mr. Smith of Washington, Mr. Carnahan, Mr. Sires, Mr. Connolly of Virginia, Mr. McMahon, Mr. Tanner, Mr. Gene Green of Texas, Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas, Ms. Lee of California, Ms. Berkley, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Ross, Mr. Miller of North Carolina, Mr. Scott of Georgia, Mr. Costa, Mr. Ellison, Ms. Giffords, Mr. Klein of Florida.

(5) COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—Mr. Berman, Mr. Boucher, Mr. Nadler of New York, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Watt, Ms. Zoe Lofgren of California, Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas, Ms. Waters, Mr. Delahunt, Mr. Wexler, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mr. Pierluisi, Mr. Gutierrez, Mr. Sherman, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. Weiner, Mr. Schiff, Ms. Linda T. Sanchez of California, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mr. Maffei.

(6) COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.—Mr. Kildee, Mr. Faleomavaega, Mr. Abercrombie, Mr. Pallone, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Holt, Mr. Grijalva, Ms. Bordallo, Mr. Costa, Mr. Boren, Mr. Sablan, Mr. Heinrich, Mr. George Miller of California, Mr. Markey of Massachusetts, Mr. DeFazio, Mr. Hinchey, Mrs. Christensen, Ms. DeGette, Mr. Kind, Mrs. Capps, Mr. Inslee, Mr. Baca, Ms. Herseth Sandlin, Mr. Sarbanes, Ms. Shea-Porter, Ms. Tsongas, Mr. Kratovil, Mr. Pierluisi.

(7) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.—Mr. Costello, Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas, Ms. Woolsey, Mr. Wu, Mr. Baird, Mr. Miller of North Carolina, Mr. Lipinski, Ms. Giffords, Ms. Edwards of Maryland, Ms. Fudge, Mr. Lujan, Mr. Tonko, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Rothman of New Jersey, Mr. Matheson, Mr. Davis of Tennessee, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Carnahan, Mr. Hill, Mr. Mitchell,

□ 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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Mr. Wilson of Ohio, Ms. Dahlkemper, Mr. Grayson, Ms. Kosmas, Mr. Peters.

(8) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Mr. Moore of Kansas, Mr. Shuler, Ms. Dahlkemper, Mr. Schrader, Ms. Kirkpatrick of Arizona, Mr. Nye, Mr. Michaud, Ms. Bean, Mr. Lipinski, Mr. Altmire, Ms. Clarke, Mr. Ellsworth, Mr. Sestak, Mr. Bright, Mr. Griffith, Ms. Halvorson.

(9) COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS.—Ms. Corrine Brown of Florida, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Michaud, Ms. Herseth Sandlin, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Hall of New York, Ms. Halvorson, Mr. Perriello, Mr. Teague, Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Donnelly of Indiana, Mr. McNerney, Mr. Space, Mr. Walz, Mr. Adler of New Jersey, Ms. Kirkpatrick of Arizona, Mr. Nye.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, reserving the right to object, could the gentleman please tell us the committees. Is it just the Committee on Agriculture, Madam Speaker?

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman. As I indicated, this is a privileged resolution from the Democratic Caucus, and the Committees are on Agriculture, Budget, Education, Foreign Affairs, Judiciary, Natural Resources, Science and Technology, Small Business, and Veterans' Affairs.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I withdraw my reservation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON)?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### THE FINAL BAILOUT FUNDS MUST BE USED TO ADDRESS FORECLOSURE CRISIS

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, let's discuss our system of checks and balances.

Congress writes hundreds of billions of checks to the banks, and the banks, it turns out, don't know their own balances. Banks are not lending the money Congress gave them because most banks don't know their own balance sheets. We throw in countless dollars into a bottomless pit, and we're wondering why new lending is not happening.

Our Nation's motto is "In God we trust," not "In banks we trust." We must verify what the banks are doing with the money we gave them. We must get concrete assurances that the rest of the bailout funds be used to address the center of the financial crisis in America: That's foreclosures. Foreclosures are devastating the American families. A 41 percent increase in foreclosures in the past year.

We must get concrete assurances from the new administration that the final bailout funds will be used to address the foreclosure crisis and help keep millions of Americans in their homes. We must help Americans save their homes.

### A DOZEN FUN FACTS ABOUT THE HOUSE DEMOCRATS' MASSIVE SPENDING BILL

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, much is being said about the proposed "stimulus" package that is being considered by the Democrats right now, but I think we need to talk a little bit about the facts of the matter.

As others have said, the government, in this case the Federal Government, cannot give to anyone anything that it does not first take from someone else. So here are some of the facts about the proposed stimulus:

It will cost each and every household in America \$6,700 in additional debt paid by our grandchildren and children. This legislation will spend about \$275,000 per job if the stimulus package creates or saves 3 million jobs. The average household income in the United States is \$50,000 a year. The House Democrats' bill provides enough spending, \$825 billion, to give every man, woman, and child in America \$2,700.

There are many more facts about this bill that need to be presented, and we will be doing that in the next few days.

### ACKNOWLEDGING THE SERVICE OF THE CINCINNATI POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE INAUGURATION

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

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the service of the Cincinnati Police Department in yesterday's inaugural celebration. The men and women of Cincinnati proudly served as a security detail for yesterday's events, as did thousands of officers from across the United States.

As one traveled the streets of Washington yesterday, the presence of our police and military was reassuring. They were courteous, respectful, and extremely professional as they assisted millions of visitors to our Nation's Capital.

Let this be a reminder to all of us of the tremendous dedication of our men and women in uniform serving our communities here at home as well as those serving abroad. It is their dedication and commitment to service that ensures our freedoms, the freedoms celebrated yesterday in the inauguration of our 44th President.

Let these brave officers be a model for all Americans as we heed the call to service and renew our democracy.

### COMMUTATION FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS RAMOS AND COMPEAN

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as a final act by President Bush, border agents and political prisoners Jose Compean and Ignacio Ramos were granted a commutation of their harsh prison sentence.

Thanks to the work of many Members of Congress, some in the media, and, most importantly, the American people, this case would just not go away. The agents were relentlessly prosecuted for doing their job on the violent Texas-Mexico border when they tried to stop a drug smuggler from escaping after bringing in \$750,000 worth of drugs. They received 11 and 12 years in the penitentiary while the drug dealer was given immunity.

But this case is not over. President Obama will be asked by some Members of Congress to grant a full pardon. Also, legislation will be introduced to make it clear to Federal judges and rogue prosecutors that the requirement to add additional prison time to a person that carries a weapon in a crime shall not apply to peace officers because they have to carry weapons. Also, justice will not occur until the American people find out why our government was on the wrong side of the border wars and prosecuted this case in the first place.

And that's just the way it is.

### STRONG AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR BIKE/PED-ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, last week the Republican leader went on CBS to state that the American people don't want beautification projects or bike lanes in the economic stimulus program. Instead, Mr. BOEHNER felt American families want larger and expanded highways.

He's just wrong on the facts. A 2009 survey by the National Association of Realtors and Smart Growth America reported that three-quarters of Americans believe that smarter development and improved public transit are better long-term solutions for reducing traffic congestion, better than building new roads. An overwhelming 80 percent believe it's more important to repair existing highways and public transit rather than build new highways.

The transit, bike, pedestrian and road repair work are more labor intensive and are ready to go in all 50 States, supporting local engineering and construction firms.

The Republican leader is wrong; the American public is right. Bikes, transit, fixing-it-first projects make communities more livable, put more people to work faster, and make our families