

of Israeli forces from Gaza. In other words, peace at any price.

Peace ought to be a goal, but not at all costs. Actually, some things are worth fighting for. Now is not the time for unrealistic, hopeful idealism. Lives are on the line.

Men may cry peace, peace, but there can be no peace as long as Hamas kills in the name of religion.

And that's just the way it is.

RULE CHANGES BY THE MAJORITY

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. We had two Members, Madam Speaker, speak this morning on the issue in the Gaza Strip. I tend to agree with my colleague on this side of the aisle, Mr. POE, and tend to disagree with my colleague on the other side of the aisle, the Democratic Member, Mr. KUCINICH.

But I did want to point out something, the analogy between what he said and what happened on the floor of this House yesterday in regard to changing the rules package. Mr. KUCINICH said, in regard to the proportionality and Israel's response to Hamas and the Gaza Strip, we ought to abide by the rule of law, rather than the rule of force.

Well, I would say the same thing to the Democratic majority in regards to the rules change yesterday. You have a 40-vote margin, and you come in and you change the rules, and all of a sudden you weaken your PAYGO initiative so that you can declare spending an emergency to avoid PAYGO.

You said when you took control in the 110th that this business of holding a vote open for 3½ hours, breaking arms to change a vote, should never occur. You wanted to eliminate that, and now you say that's okay; we can do that.

I would say to my Democratic majority, despite those rules changes, for the sake of the American people, I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle come to recognize the need to include all voices in the legislative process.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT AND THE LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, this week, this Congress will take up two tremendously important bills that will work towards ending discrimination against women who still earn 78 cents to the dollar. We hope to get it to the Senate, pass it in the Senate and have it on President Obama's desk as one of the first bills for him to sign.

The Paycheck Fairness Act could be called the Free Speech Restoration Act because one of its features simply ensures that employees have the right to

give out personal information on how much they make without being fired. Some of our corporations say, if you tell anyone how much you make, you will be fired.

The second, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, says that you can no longer cap damages. You cannot cap the amount of time that a person can be discriminated against. The Supreme Court held that if you did not bring a case within 180 days about pay discrimination, you could never bring it. So for 18 years, Lilly Ledbetter was discriminated against, and this Supreme Court said she could not bring suit. This Congress is changing that with this bill.

I urge a "yes" vote on these important bills.

□ 1015

MAINTAINING AMERICA'S PROSPERITY AND DEMOCRACY

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

Mr. MCCOTTER. When the House last met in December, in the dying days of the 110th Congress, thanks to the leadership of the Speaker and of the chairman of Financial Services and of the people of this body, we sent a rescue package for the auto industry over to the Senate. Unfortunately, the Senate did not allow it to come up for a vote. Fortunately, President Bush and the administration offered and extended a bridge loan to the auto industry to keep the hardworking men and women employed and to keep America's manufacturing sector vital. We did not rejoice.

We understand that restructuring is necessary and that it will be painful. It will intensify and it will continue, but we also vow to do what we need to do to ensure that America keeps its engine of prosperity and its arsenal of democracy. We will prove the doubters wrong.

DEMOCRATS LOOK TO PROVIDE TAX RELIEF TO 95 PERCENT OF AMERICANS

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Our Nation is facing some of the worst economic conditions in decades. By the end of next year, our economy could fall \$1 trillion short of its full capacity. That is a loss of \$12,000 of income for every family in America. We cannot continue on this same economic course. Congress must take bipartisan action in the coming weeks to improve our economy both in the near term and down the line.

Economists tell us that we must act in bold terms—that we must invest in new technologies and, most importantly, that we must invest in the American people.

Congress should work with President-elect Obama to craft a targeted and fiscally responsible economic recovery package that invests in the middle class families by providing them with tax relief during these uncertain times.

Madam Speaker, it's going to take time to turn this economy around, but we should start the process immediately so that all Americans can once again live the American dream.

THE COOPER-WOLF SAFE COMMISSION: A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I have never been more concerned about the short-term and the long-term budget shortfalls we face as a Nation.

Yesterday, President-elect Obama said we have trillion-dollar deficits for years to come even with the economic recovery we're working on. Whatever stimulus package, rumored to top \$700 billion, is brought to the House floor for a vote, Congress has an historic opportunity to work in a bipartisan way.

There is a plan already on the table that has garnered the support of over 100 Members of the House. It is the bipartisan plan that Congressman COOPER and I have that puts every spending program on the table and that sets up a bipartisan commission of eight Republicans and eight Democrats.

If this Congress does not pass this, then no Member ought to be able to go home and give the traditional Rotary speeches about how concerned they are for your children and for your grandchildren of the country. The real issue is, with trillion-dollar deficits, if we don't deal with the entitlement issues, we will fail.

DEMOCRATS LOOK TO PROVIDE TAX RELIEF TO 95 PERCENT OF AMERICANS

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

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, the current economic recession is putting a lot of pressure on American families. Today, millions of our constituents are fearful that they could lose their jobs any day now.

Last night, my sister told me that she lost hers in New York. They've seen family members or work colleagues already let go, and they are uncertain about their futures. They are also working for less money than they did 10 years ago. Yet they face skyrocketing bills for their children's education, for health care and for their own groceries. They hear the bleak economic forecast on the news every night, and they're looking for help. We all know that the U.S. economy is in trouble, but now the question is: What are we going to do about it?

Democrats and Republicans must come together to pass a robust economic recovery package that includes tax relief to middle class families so we can begin to relieve the pressure that they feel every time they pay a bill.

Madam Speaker, the American people are looking to us for help and for help to jump start this economy. Let's go to work.

THE NEED FOR BIPARTISANSHIP IN THIS ECONOMIC CRISIS

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

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, last year, our economy experienced the weakest employment growth since the Great Depression, causing more and more families across the country to feel financially strapped. The U.S. economy lost hundreds of thousands of jobs in the first eleven months of 2008, and we heard bad news this morning about December's reports. The employment rate last year reached the highest level since 1993, and it could get worse, and those who managed to keep their jobs are experiencing stagnant and falling wages.

Americans are concerned about their futures as debts continue to mount, as bills pile up and as parents worry that their children won't have the same opportunities they had. Small businesses are an integral part of getting this economy moving again. We must ensure that we take appropriate action to assist small businesses and to restore our economic engine of growth. Small businesses represent the backbone of this country and of America's unwavering entrepreneurial spirit.

Madam Speaker, we must address our economic challenges quickly, and we must work in a strong bipartisan fashion to relieve the financial strain Americans feel every day. We must work immediately to pass an economic recovery package.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 7, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 6, 2009, at 5:13 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 2.
That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 1.
That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 2.
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

PROVIDING FOR A JOINT SESSION TO COUNT ELECTORAL VOTES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged Senate concurrent resolution:

S. CON. RES. 1

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the two Houses of Congress shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Thursday, the 8th day of January 2009, at 1 o'clock post meridian, pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and laws relating to the election of President and Vice President of the United States, and the President of the Senate shall be their Presiding Officer; that two tellers shall be previously appointed by the President of the Senate on the part of the Senate and two by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives, to whom shall be handed, as they are opened by the President of the Senate, all the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes, which certificates and papers shall be opened, presented, and acted upon in the alphabetical order of the States, beginning with the letter 'A'; and said tellers, having then read the same in the presence and hearing of the two Houses, shall make a list of the votes as they shall appear from the said certificates; and the votes having been ascertained and counted in the manner and according to the rules by law provided, the result of the same shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall thereupon announce the state of the vote, which announcement shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons, if any, elected President and Vice President of the United States, and, together with a list of the votes, be entered on the Journals of the two Houses.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONTINUATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE TO MAKE INAUGURATION ARRANGEMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged Senate concurrent resolution:

S. CON. RES. 2

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That effective from January 6, 2009, the joint committee created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 67 (110th Congress), to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration, is hereby continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

SEC. 2. Effective from January 6, 2009, the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 68 (110th Congress), to authorize the rotunda of the United States Capitol to be used in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States, are continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 2,

111th Congress, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following Members of the House to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies:

Ms. PELOSI, California
Mr. HOYER, Maryland
Mr. BOEHNER, Ohio

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

PRESIDENTIAL RECORDS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 35) to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 35

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2009".

SEC. 2. PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS OF CONSTITUTIONALLY BASED PRIVILEGE AGAINST DISCLOSURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 2208. Claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure

“(a)(1) When the Archivist determines under this chapter to make available to the public any Presidential record that has not previously been made available to the public, the Archivist shall—

“(A) promptly provide notice of such determination to—

“(i) the former President during whose term of office the record was created; and

“(ii) the incumbent President; and

“(B) make the notice available to the public.

“(2) The notice under paragraph (1)—

“(A) shall be in writing; and

“(B) shall include such information as may be prescribed in regulations issued by the Archivist.

“(3)(A) Upon the expiration of the 20-day period (excepting Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) beginning on the date the Archivist provides notice under paragraph (1)(A), the Archivist shall make available to the public the record covered by the notice, except any record (or reasonably segregable part of a record) with respect to which the Archivist receives from a former President or the incumbent President notification of a claim of constitutionally based