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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 8, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DONNA F. EDWARDS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DRIEHAUS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Lord God, You are eternal, knowing all our days. Teach us how to discover the best use of our time.

Being here in Congress is a great opportunity to make a difference in the complexity of today's world. Help Members of the House of Representatives to make the very best decisions to strengthen our country and foster lasting stability at the fault-lines among nations.

May all who serve this noble institution by assisting this body of lawmakers seize the tasks at hand and accomplish their work with dedication and Your blessing.

This Nation relies on Your wisdom and love to guide 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 his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. OLSON 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.

CAP-AND-TRADE TAXES AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat leadership continues to push forward with their national energy tax.

Despite the financial pain this would place on American families, despite the fact that this cap-and-trade scheme would have little or no impact on the global environment, despite the fact that we can achieve a cleaner energy future without taking more money from hardworking American families, our Democrat colleagues are intent on raising gas prices and home utility costs by more than \$3,000 on each family each year.

There is a better way to a clean energy future, and it begins with supporting an all-of-the-above strategy. I am grateful to be part of a bipartisan effort that would allow for the production of American oil and natural gas, invest in alternative sources, and promote conservation. The American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act is a plan for a stronger energy future, and it would not raise energy prices, taxes, or cost jobs.

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

IRAN ACCELERATES NUCLEAR PROGRAM

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

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, on Friday, the International Atomic Energy Agency submitted a report on the Iranian nuclear program. After producing low-enriched uranium at a rate of 40 kilograms per month over a 21-month period, Iran has now increased its stockpile by 60 percent in just the last 6 months, doubling its rate to over 80 kilograms per month.

□ 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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With 5,000 centrifuges now active, Iran is producing enough enriched uranium to produce two nuclear weapons per year, one for them, one for Hezbollah.

The IAEA now reports that Iran has denied inspectors access to the Arak heavy water reactor since August of 2008, where we suspect they will try to produce plutonium.

Mr. Moussavi, the leading candidate for President in Iran, told Der Spiegel, I will not suspend uranium enrichment. On April 13 he said to the Financial Times, No one will stop suspension.

No matter who wins the Iranian elections on Friday, we know that the production of fissile material useful in this oil-producing country only for nuclear weapons is accelerating.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS LIBRARIAN TONY STANKUS

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, Special Libraries Association members are celebrating the organization's centennial celebration. For 100 years, SLA has made it its mission to organize and connect information professionals and their strategic partners. Today I take great pride in recognizing the University of Arkansas' libraries and the resources that they have provided students, professors and researchers year after year. Behind these libraries are the very knowledgeable information professionals.

In particular, I would like to recognize Tony Stankus, a science librarian at the Mullins Library on the University of Arkansas campus. SLA named Tony and five others as a Fellow of the Special Libraries Association. Due to his reputation as a published librarian, Tony and his team were also chosen for the task of naming the top 100 biology and medical journals that were established in the 100 years of the SLA's existence.

Please join me in congratulating Tony Stankus and his colleagues for this great honor.

HONORING MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT GEORGE E. WAHLEN

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, America lost one of its quiet, humble heroes on Friday, Major George E. Wahlen, Utah's sole surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient.

Wahlen earned the Medal of Honor as a Navy corpsman at the Battle of Iwo Jima. Despite being injured three times during the battle, he refused to leave the battlefield. He was an angel of mercy, and saved countless lives through his heroic efforts, despite his

own injuries. This selfless act typifies the men and women of "The Greatest Generation." Unfortunately, we are losing these heroes.

Wahlen received the Medal of Honor from President Harry Truman in 1945 in recognition of his heroism during the tide-turning battle. He then re-enlisted and served in Korea and Vietnam, after which he served other veterans as a 14-year employee of the VA.

In 2004, Congress named the VA medical facility in Utah in his honor. The VA had this to say upon his passing: "This modest hero truly exemplified the meaning of patriotism, commitment to service, and love of country. The people of Utah, this hospital and the veterans he tirelessly served have lost a remarkable man." Indeed, they have. We all have.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, Congress is currently operating under some of the lowest approval ratings in history, and clearly, the public has lost confidence in its Federal Government. Perhaps that's because the Federal Government is rapidly moving down a path that shows that the government is losing confidence in the American people.

When it comes to health care, should the government help Americans, or should the government actually control everything when it comes to health care?

Our constituents, my constituents certainly, are not asking for more government control, particularly in the arena of health care. Perhaps Congress should listen and have confidence in the American people.

The government should continue to play a role for performance standards and ensuring everyone is treated fairly, but then it should get out of the way and let American hard work and ingenuity do what it does best.

Now, I have spoken to several health care industry experts, from former administration officials, current administration officials to private citizens with innovative ideas that have worked. In a short interview with former Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt, he hits the nail on the head when he says, We don't have to turn the health care system over to the Federal Government. We can empower consumers and use the government to organize a system and not to own it.

I encourage people to visit this site and learn more about health care reform as it stands before us today.

NATIONAL ENERGY TAX LEGISLATION

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

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, before leaving for the Memorial Day recess, Democrats in Congress continued to advance national energy tax legislation that will devastate American families and small businesses.

For weeks, nervous Democrats pleaded with Energy and Commerce Chairman HENRY WAXMAN and Representative ED MARKEY, two lead sponsors of this national energy tax, for changes to their climate change bill. The changes were intended to soften the blow families in their home States would suffer as a result of this new national energy tax. Unfortunately, the bill passed the Energy and Commerce Committee, is moving its way through Congress, and is still just a great big energy tax. The American people deserve better.

Republicans have held energy summits across the country to talk directly to the American people about the Democrats' costly energy plan and to develop real energy solutions that ensure American energy independence.

Congress must reject the Democrats' national energy tax and deliver energy solutions that create a stronger economy and a cleaner environment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. RICHARDSON). 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 incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION ACT OF 2009

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1736, to provide for the establishment of a committee to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the domestic science and technology enterprise and support United States foreign policy goals, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1736

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 "International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish a committee under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to identify and coordinate international science