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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 15, 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.

THE ECONOMY AND ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, among the most important issues facing us today are the twin issues of the economy and energy. And unfortunately, in this body and across the other Chamber, we often discuss those two issues separately, as if they had no connection with one another; and yet they have a very, very important link with one another.

When the economy is down, it has an impact on the energy, and when energy

prices go up or when energy prices go down, it has an immediate impact on the economy. The strange thing is that as we look at an energy policy that's going to be presented to us by way of a bill from the majority shortly, there appears to be a lack of appreciation for changes in energy policy and their impact on our economy. There seems to be some sort of question as to whether or not we ought to exercise our responsibilities to utilize those energy sources that are most abundant in these United States.

Coal appears to be one of those things that we're going to wrap up, close up, put on the shelf, not allow ourselves to use it. Rather than a real effort for clean coal energy, there appears to be an effort to try and demonize coal and not allow it to be utilized. That makes about as much sense as Saudi Arabia making an announcement tomorrow that they're going to close off all of their production of petroleum. Why do I say it makes about as much sense? Because we are the Saudi Arabia of coal.

Similarly, with tar sands, shale oil, those sorts of things that we have in abundance in North America, we appear to be saying we ought not to take a look at those.

Similarly, we have abundant sources of petroleum offshore: offshore my State of California, offshore some of our other States in this Union. And yet we have a policy which basically says we ought not to utilize American technology, which has been utilized around the world, to safely extract petroleum.

If you look at my State in California, you go to Santa Barbara, you will see historically there have been leaks from the bottom of the ocean there because of the pressure, because of the petroleum that lies under the ocean floor. We can actually take some of that pressure off by drilling and producing there.

Lastly, I would say someone would have to be a hermit somewhere, stuck

in a cave, not to understand that we have a terrible economic problem in California, a terrible problem with our budget, terrible deficits. And one of the ways that we could achieve some sort of stability with our budget in California, our State budget, would be to allow offshore drilling and take those royalties that would come to the State as a result of having that offshore drilling, bringing those moneys into the State Treasury.

We would do two things. We would help increase the security of this Nation with respect to energy on the one hand because this would be U.S. energy production; and secondly, we would have royalties going to the State of California in the billions of dollars, helping take off some of the pressure that we have currently as to which services we're going to cut. Classroom size is going up in the State of California. There are the suggestions that a lot of services will be cut, some severely, and yet we continue to turn a blind eye to the possibility of environmentally safe extraction of petroleum products offshore.

As one who basically was born just a stone's throw from the ocean, who lived the first half of my life—actually, more than that—the first 42 years as a resident of Long Beach, California, as someone who enjoys the beauty of my home State and the beauty of the coastline, I also understand that American technology, American ingenuity, American creativity that's applied elsewhere in the world can be applied here in the United States to produce energy.

Why will we have an energy policy brought forward on this floor that ignores some of the most abundant sources of energy for this Nation makes no sense to me. Surely I support the alternative sources of energy, wind and solar; the traditional ones of hydroelectric, thermal power. But we cannot forget the abundance of natural resources we have in this country.

□ 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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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 37 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. CARNAHAN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

As people of faith, we often pray to You, Lord God Almighty, out of a sense of need.

Aware of our personal limitations physically and emotionally, each of us cries out in frustration to You as our refuge and as healer. Prayer helps us, whether we are leaders or just ordinary Americans, to live our lives with greater integrity and meet our daily responsibilities.

Sometimes we are more conscious of our common needs. It is then prayer helps us identify with one another, feel compassion toward others in need and pray for them. We all desire peace of heart, health, and wisdom, as well as prudence, to make the right decisions needed each day whether we are in public service or work in the private sector.

In all cases, through prayer, Lord, You help us to see ourselves more honestly and suspend judgment of others so we can work together and more freely give You the glory.

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 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.

HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the health care debate has begun in Washington

and across the country. Unfortunately, the plan Democrats have in store for the American people will do little to improve our health care situation. In fact, it will make the problem worse.

When Democrats talk about health care reform, what they really mean is a government takeover of health care. With few details available, some reports suggest the plan for this government takeover will cost upwards of \$1.2 trillion. As Robert Samuelson noted in today's Washington Post, all of this new Federal spending still will not fix the "crux of our health care dilemma."

The American people deserve a plan that makes health care more affordable and accessible to all and that allows those who like their current health care coverage to keep it.

While Democrats support raising taxes and rationing care, Republicans support health care reform that controls spending and that ensures patients and doctors make health care decisions, not a bunch of bureaucrats in Washington.

RECOGNIZING THIS WEEK AS HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUILDING WEEK

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House passed House Resolution 492, recognizing this week as High-Performance Building Week. The resolution aims to provide greater public awareness about the benefits of high-performance buildings, and it works to increase education about the impact buildings have on our environment.

Each year, our homes, offices, schools, and other buildings consume 70 percent of our electricity, 60 percent of all raw materials, and they emit 40 percent of all CO₂ emissions in the U.S. By designing and building high-performance buildings, we reduce energy consumption and our carbon footprint. We save both water and raw materials. We save demolition and construction debris from going into landfills. Most importantly, high-performance building construction creates good-paying jobs that give workers the valuable skills they need to excel in a clean energy economy.

It is my hope that Members will use this week to highlight the importance that buildings have on our environment and for Congress to continue to support future research, development and the deployment of high-performance building technologies.

EMPOWER PATIENTS, NOT GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, President Obama and his Democrat allies in Congress have said

that they want those who currently like their health care plans to keep them. Then they publicly endorse a government-run health care insurance plan that would crowd out and eliminate the private insurance plans millions of Americans currently enjoy. They cannot have it both ways.

The Democrat big government proposals claim to increase access and affordability by letting government determine what will and will not be paid for. As the only game in town, a government insurance plan would be the sole provider and decider of the quality of health care available. Conversely, Republicans have long argued that health care reform should focus on expanding access so more Americans can afford a higher quality of care.

We should be focused on empowering more individuals and families to afford the level of care they want. If Congress chooses to empower the government and itself in crafting a new government-run insurance plan, it will directly undermine the doctor-patient relationship that is the foundation of quality American health care.

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

HONORING THE SERVICE OF FAYETTEVILLE SUPERINTENDENT, MR. BOBBY NEW

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bobby New, who has devoted his life to the education of our youth. Mr. New is retiring from 35 years of public education, 13 of which were as the superintendent of the Fayetteville School District.

During his time as superintendent, he provided the school district with the ideas and the innovation required for a growing area, including updating the grading structure and increasing technology throughout the district.

We are blessed to have educational professionals like Mr. New. I commend him for his service as a superintendent of the Fayetteville Public Schools, for his passion in educating our youth and for his commitment to improving our schools. I wish him success in his future endeavors.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. New, an educator and friend whose continued devotion to the Third District of Arkansas has not gone unnoticed and will never be forgotten.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). 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 on the yeas and nays are ordered, or on