

So, my colleagues, striking the proper balance between security needs and the free flow of legitimate trade will continue to be a challenge that will face all of us into the future. Unfortunately, slowing the international supply chain and adding significant costs by implementing unproven technologies is not consistent with the challenge today.

Congress should rethink cargo screening mandates in H.R. 1 before more time, money and limited resources are wasted by the Department of Homeland Security.

#### HAVING HONEST, MEANINGFUL DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I appreciate, as always, the chance to address the House.

You know, two days before the President gave his speech here to the joint session last Wednesday, the President was on television, and I watched and typed up his comments, and he talked about the critics of his health care plan, including me as a critic of what I understand his health care plan to be. And the President said these exact words.

He said, "You have heard the lies. I have got a question for all those folks. What are you going to do? What's your answer? What's your solution? And, you know what? They don't have one."

That is simply not true. It is so difficult to try to have a meaningful debate over a bill, and even as I have, take H.R. 3200, the bill we have been given, and read directly out loud from that bill to show what it actually says, and then have the President of the United States call critics of the bill liars. We are lying. You have heard our lies.

He keeps talking about "his plan," "his bill," "this plan," "this bill." Then he came over as a guest here in the Chamber. Now, some people don't understand why the President speaks from the lower podium rather than the upper podium. It is because this is the People's House. He is an invited guest into this House, and that is why he is at the lower podium.

We were given just excerpts just minutes before the speech started, and that came by Blackberry, by e-mail, because we were told there was simply not time to get us a copy of the speech, as has always been done in a joint session any time I have been here in the last 4½ years, and I am told that has been the tradition. It is not a right, so nobody made demands. But imagine our surprise when we look up here in the gallery and see that every reporter appeared to have an entire transcript that they looked through as they went through his bill.

But I kept seeing in the transcript of the brief excerpts we were given the President referring to "the plan," "this

plan," "our plan," "this bill," and again "this plan," without telling us what bill he is talking about if it is not H.R. 3200.

How do you have debate on a bill that is not the one before you? And there was debate all the next day among people. Is he embracing H.R. 3200? Some thought he was. Some thought he wasn't. Well, what bill? He says he is going to call us out if we misrepresent "his bill."

Tell us, Madam Speaker, we need to be told what the bill is before we can be called out as misrepresenting it. I would try read from the bill, if you would tell us what it is.

He also said in that speech, and I will read from the excerpt we were given, he said, "If you come to me with a serious set of proposals, I will be there to listen. My door is always open."

Well, I talked to my congressional friend TOM PRICE, who says he has been trying week after week to get to come talk to the President about his serious proposal. He has got a great one. I have a proposal. We have called over. And I am not going to call the President a liar, because I believe he knows his door is open. The problem is there are these massive gates and heavily armed guards between us and that open door that he says that is open to us.

Anyway, we had the Speaker of the House previously this year say the CIA lied. Now, of course, we have had the President say that we have spread lies. And they both used that "L" word.

We have been told that abortion is not covered, and everybody should know, especially people brilliant like the President, if it is not specifically excluded, it is included.

The President told the CIA they were not going to be pursued over the interrogations, that he had their back. I am not going to say he lied, because he didn't say whether he was going to stab it or protect it.

But it is time for the President and our leadership over here to quit using the "L" word, because that "L" word goes down in our well, and as my late mother used to say, Madam Speaker, what is in the well will come up in the bucket.

#### 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 42 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. LARSEN of Washington) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

Eternal Father, strong to save, You are ever faithful in Your love and concern for us all. In turn, You ask us to be faithful, listening to Your word and taking it to heart.

You require us to be faithful to our commitments, to Your commandments, to each other and those we serve in Your holy name.

Forgive our faults and failures. Help us to learn from our mistakes. May we recognize personal shortcomings so to make us all the more understanding of others.

May Your forgiveness free us to live a new life and be more forgiving. Thus may Your compassion for the poor, the weak and the alienated, Lord, 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. GOHMERT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GOHMERT 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 REFORM FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, in his recent speech to the House and Senate, President Obama stated that leaving Americans without health insurance is wrong and "should not happen in the United States of America."

I could not agree more strongly with our President. When it is accessible and affordable, health care ensures high quality of life, helps families, and saves life.

In my home, the Northern Mariana Islands, our health care system is sorely in need of improvement. But the current health care bills being debated in the House and Senate exclude the U.S. territories from the exchange and affordability credits, denying the men, women, and children living there the benefits their fellow citizens will enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, to quote our President, this is wrong, and it should not happen in the United States of America.

I ask for the support of my colleagues in bringing health care reform

to all Americans, including those in the territories.

#### CONCERNS WITH GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE PLAN

(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, during the August recess, I was honored to host the largest congressional townhalls in the history of South Carolina: 1,700 people in Columbia; 1,500 in Lexington; 1,500 in Beaufort; and 1,200 in Hilton Head. During my 25 years of serving the public in the State Senate and Congress, I have not seen such passionate events full of patriots, 95 percent of whom support health insurance reform, but not a government takeover.

I presented my concerns in a handout with a government-run health care plan: \$1.6 trillion in costs, 100 million people losing their current coverage, \$818 billion in taxes, 1.6 million jobs lost, according to the National Federation of Independent Businesses, and rationing of care.

I presented a better way, the Empowering Patients First Act, introduced by the Republican Study Committee led by Dr. Tom Price. It provides for portability, keeping current coverage, tax incentives to purchase insurance, lower costs through competition, and bars government-funded abortions.

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

#### IT'S TIME FOR US TO TALK ABOUT HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I have got some news here. It says as of September 10, 11:23 a.m., reported by The Hill, Speaker NANCY PELOSI said, Democrats should cease efforts to sanction Representative JOE WILSON. It goes on to quote her and says, It's time for us to talk about health care, not JOE WILSON.

But Democratic leaders, it goes on to say, were looking into what formal action the House might take against WILSON, and then, But PELOSI dismissed that idea as well as a call for WILSON to apologize on the floor.

I am on to health care reform. I am not going to discuss JOE WILSON, she said. I think his actions spoke for itself. He has apologized. He will figure out what is appropriate for him to do.

And I am really confused. What do you call it when somebody says something that they are going to do, and then they don't do it? What is that statement?

#### AMERICANS' TRUST IN MEDIA REACHES NEW LOW

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans' trust in the media has plummeted to an all-time low, according to a new survey by the Pew Research Center. According to Pew, only about a quarter of Americans say that news organizations are not politically biased, less than one-third say the media generally get the facts straight, less than one in five say that the media deals fairly with all sides of the story, and just 29 percent had a favorable opinion of the liberal New York Times, the lowest rating for any international organization in the Pew survey.

Americans have lost faith in the national media. Whether it's health care or other issues, it's up to the media to restore the public's trust by reporting the facts fairly.

#### APOLOGY ACCEPTED

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to make the point that last Wednesday night during a joint session there was a very brief breach of decorum here by Congressman JOE WILSON, someone who is a true consummate Southern gentleman, an officer and a gentleman.

He immediately called the White House, the White House immediately accepted JOE WILSON's apology, and that must be the end of it. A gentleman that conducted himself as a gentleman immediately in the aftermath, without putting his finger to the political winds, he did the right thing.

No one has a claim to any further redress if the President of the United States accepts an apology, and he did.

So I stand with JOE WILSON. Let's get on with the business of this House, and let's start running this country instead of doing cheap political points, which I expect will be coming to the floor of this House sometime about tomorrow.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by Speaker pro tempore VAN HOLLEN on Tuesday, August 25, 2009:

H.R. 3325, to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize for 1 year the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program and the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security program.

#### 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 incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

#### RECOMMENDING TEACHING CONSTITUTION TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 686) recommending that the United States Constitution be taught to high school students throughout the Nation in September of their senior year, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 686

Whereas the United States Constitution is the fundamental law of the United States;

Whereas people in the United States of all ages, income levels, and political beliefs fail tests of civic literacy;

Whereas a 1998 survey revealed that more teenagers knew who the "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" was than the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, more knew the star of the motion picture "Titanic" than who was the vice president of the United States, and more can name the Three Stooges and the 3 American Idol judges than can name the 3 branches of government;

Whereas fewer than half of all people in the United States can name the three branches of the United States Government;

Whereas students at top colleges and universities in the United States scored an average of only 59.4 percent for seniors and 56.6 percent for freshmen on tests of civic literacy;

Whereas people in the United States aged 25 to 34 score an average of 46 percent on a test of civic literacy and people aged 65 and over score the same 46 percent;

Whereas research shows that an increase in civic knowledge, including that of the United States Constitution, almost invariably leads to the beneficial use of that knowledge; and

Whereas research shows that greater civic learning leads to more active citizenship, and people in the United States who fulfill their civic obligations beyond voting are more knowledgeable about their country's history and institutions: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) all high school seniors across the country should spend at least one week learning about the United States Constitution in September of their senior year, as knowledge of this historic document, which constitutes the very foundation of our country, is critical to being an effective citizen; and

(2) upon reaching voting age, high school seniors should engage in civic learning activities on an issue of importance to them to demonstrate their understanding of their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.