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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Sent here, Lord, by the people of this Nation to accomplish the work of government for the people, Members of Congress rightly feel endowed with a mantle of justice. Divine Providence has brought them together to honestly face the diversity and complexity of the times in the light of constitutional obligations.

Humbled by the sacred trust placed within them, they also realize their own limitations as well as the great expectations thrust upon them.

This House of Representatives for this great Nation stands before You, almighty and ever-powerful Lord, seeking Your wisdom and guidance to sort out confusion with the clarity of truth, to expose hidden greed and corruption to the light of goodness, and to seek ways of peace by regulating laws and policies as the bedrock of equal justice.

May all the Members of this Chamber and citizens across this Nation drown out arguments, advertisements, and anger with the depth of personal prayer for their government so they find their way, the truth, and life in You, in Whom we place all our trust.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) come for-

ward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BERRY 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1494. An act the authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

S. 1677. An act the reauthorize the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 194(a) of title 14, United States Code, as amended by Public Law 101-595, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the United States Coast Guard Academy:

The Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), ex officio, as Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation;

The Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will now entertain up to five 1-minute requests on each side of the aisle.

HONORING DR. NORMAN BORLAUG

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

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my great sorrow at the passing of Dr. Norman Borlaug, and to honor his great contributions to biotechnology and battling famine around the globe.

Dr. Borlaug's development of high-yield wheat varieties and his introduction of modern production techniques in Mexico, Pakistan, and India led to the "green revolution," a worldwide movement that greatly increased food security and improved the lives of millions of impoverished and hungry people on every continent.

For his efforts, Dr. Borlaug was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal, and the Nobel Peace Prize. To this day, farmers and elected leaders alike look to Dr. Borlaug's accomplishments both as a matter of practice and inspiration. While his work has shown us how to better feed ourselves, his life has shown us that one man can improve the lives of millions more vulnerable.

I thank you for this time, Madam Speaker, and I thank Dr. Borlaug for his services to our Nation and to our world.

DO NOT ABANDON POLAND MISSILE SHIELD

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

Mr. KIRK. History is not kind to leaders who sacrifice our Polish allies. News reports indicate that our administration will end plans to build the long-planned American missile defense site for Poland. That site, carefully picked by the Pentagon, is directly

□ 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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under the flight path an Iranian missile would take if shot at the American people.

The U.N. reports that Iran has accelerated its production of uranium. And last February, Iran became the first new nation to orbit a satellite when its newest and most powerful missile worked. Iran, a state sponsor of terror, now makes the longest range missile of the terrorist world.

The administration's decision is particularly ironic because Poland just announced it would be sending more troops to serve alongside Americans in Afghanistan. America is going to let Poland down, sending a message of weakness to our Polish allies and the people building Iran's new missile arsenal.

CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, today marks the 222nd anniversary of the ratification of the Constitution of the United States of America, one of the most important documents ever written. This historic day coincides with the historic debate now taking place in this Chamber and in communities across the Nation over how we can solve our health care crisis.

So I thought it might be useful to reference the sections of our Nation's foundational document that empower this legislature and this government to act in the best interests of the Nation rather than sit idly by while our health care system spirals out of control.

From the preamble in which "We the people of the United States" established the Constitution to, among other purposes, "promote the general welfare," to article I, which gives Congress all of the legislative powers granted in the Constitution, the legislators—rightly elected by the people of the Republic—have the ability to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying out our enumerated powers. Among those are providing for the common defense and general welfare, the promotion of the progress of science and the arts, and the regulation of commerce, each of these directly pertaining to our health care crisis.

It is time for us to act pursuant to the Constitution.

HEALTH CARE POLLS

(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. Madam Speaker, following President Obama's address to a joint session of Congress about health care, the national media touted polls showing a bump in public approval of the President's health care plan, but the media failed to point out that the polls vastly oversampled

Democrats. For example, a CBS poll last week trumpeted "a 12-point improvement" in the President's approval rating on health care following his speech. CBS failed to mention that Democrats outnumbered Republicans in the poll sample by 15 percentage points, far greater than the actual party identification gap.

Worse, a CNN poll touted a "double-digit post-speech jump" for the President, but the poll oversampled Democrats by more than a 2-1 margin.

When questioning far more Democrats than Republicans, it should come as no surprise that poll results favor a liberal Democratic agenda. The media should be objective and not intentionally slant their polling data.

NATIONAL DIRECT STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, there was a lot of bloviating on the Republican side yesterday about the government takeover of the student loan business. What nonsense. I mean, what we are going to do is stop subsidizing the banks. That's what the Republicans are really upset about here.

Today, for every dollar in student loans, the taxpayers are dinged 15 cents—subsidies to the banks. If we convert to a National Direct Student Loan Program—the minority of the loans today go through that—for every dollar we lend to a student we will get back \$1.03.

Now, they want to run government like a business, but their idea of a business is shoveling subsidies to the private sector. I want to run government like a business. I want to give more loans to students, more effectively, at lower cost to the taxpayers. That's the National Direct Student Loan Program. This is a reform that's long overdue. Stop crying about the subsidies to the banks.

□ 1015

MANDATES ARE NOT THE ANSWER TO HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. PENCE. Yesterday, Democrats in the Senate unveiled a much anticipated new compromise on health care reform, and as my late father used to say, "Here comes the new guy. He looks a lot like the old guy."

The compromise for government-run insurance is more government-run insurance, but I rise this morning to draw particular attention to a proposal in the compromise that would force Americans who don't have health insurance to buy it. Under the proposal, everybody would be forced to buy government-approved policies, and if you

don't, families could face tax penalties of \$3,800 per year and, individuals, \$950 if they don't comply. Well, none other than candidate for President, now President, Barack Obama opposed such mandates.

He said in a primary debate in January of '08 that you can mandate it, but there are still going to be people who can't afford it, and if they can't afford it, the question is: What are you going to do about it?

More memorably, the President said on CNN's American Morning in February of '08 that if a mandate were the solution, we could try to solve homelessness by mandating everybody to buy a house.

Mr. President, I couldn't have said it better myself. The President was right. Mandates are not the answer. Let's scrap this government-run insurance plan and work in a bipartisan way to lower costs without more government, more mandates and more taxes.

THE STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT WILL HELP AMERICA MOVE FORWARD

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

Mr. COHEN. Today, the House will vote on the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. It's an important bill to help education in our country.

It will give higher Pell Grant amounts to students who need more money to make it through college. It will put moneys in the community colleges for fiscal improvements and also into K-12s for fiscal improvements. It will help Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which are suffering a great deal at this time and need that help.

There is so much that this bill will do to help us move forward and save \$10 billion towards the deficit. It will take moneys from the private sector, which has been making money off of student loans, and it will provide opportunities for students and education. It will repeal a draconian provision that particularly hurts minorities and others who can't get student loans because of Federal laws for simple possession violations of criminal laws. That shouldn't happen, and those students should have the opportunity to get college grants and loans and to go on and improve themselves and to make more of themselves.

I look forward to voting for this bill which will help America move forward.

CZARS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, since being sworn in, the President has appointed 34 czars—the health czar, the car czar, an urban czar, a Great Lakes czar. These are just to