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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BALDWIN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 4, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord, so blessed are we in the United States of America that when we hear Your words of blessing upon Abram, the great man of faith, we hear those words as spoken to the very soul of this Nation.

"I will make of you a great Nation, and I will bless you. I will make your name great so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the Earth shall find blessing in you."

And the people said: Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

LEAVING AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. KUCINICH. There is a new way to fight war in Afghanistan. U.S. commanders are publicly telling the Taliban when we are coming and where we are going to be to wage war. This, while Karzai tries to cut a deal with the Taliban. Meanwhile, a large offensive is being mounted, an assault on Kandahar. The U.S. is going to have 100,000 troops mounted for a big battle by autumn. We're using 1.1 million gallons of fuel a day, logistical problems abound.

Here is a quote from the February 20 National Journal: So despite the immense effort to push out supplies, frontline fighters sometimes don't even have the minimum they need. "We had guys out there at the outpost in an area of operations starving because we couldn't get a resupply into them," said one major.

Now, will the surge change that? And what's this all about? To strengthen and corrupt the central government which is building villas in Dubai?

I am bringing a privileged resolution to the floor to get out of Afghanistan, and I urge your support.

HEALTH CARE

(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. You know, I think after yet another health care speech by the President, the American people are sick and tired of the Democrats' "I know what's best for you" attitude. Congress needs to wake up and realize that Americans know more about their health care needs than the government bureaucrats. They know exactly what a Washington takeover of health care means, and they're shouting from the rooftops: No, no, no.

It's time for the President and Speaker PELOSI to realize that this policy debate isn't between Democrats and Republicans; it's between the Democrats and the American people. And the American people are saying, Enough is enough. They don't want a health care bill that raise taxes, stifles small business, increases insurance premiums, and cuts Medicare.

If the Democrats insist on ramming this bill through against the will of the American people, then they'd better be prepared to suffer the consequences in November.

PEACE CORPS ANNIVERSARY

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Peace Corps.

This week the Peace Corps celebrates their 49th anniversary. Since 1961 nearly 200,000 volunteers have served in 139 countries around the world. These talented and selfless volunteers have made lasting contributions in agriculture, business development, sustainable infrastructure, education, health,

□ 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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HIV/AIDS, and the environment. Each volunteer's work represents a legacy of service that has become a significant part of America's history and positive image abroad.

These accomplished volunteers come from very diverse backgrounds, including prestigious universities like the University of California in Santa Barbara, located in my district. I am proud to represent this campus, which consistently provides one of the highest numbers of recruits for the Peace Corps.

Again, congratulations, Peace Corps, on your anniversary, and thank you for the wonderful work you do.

ORANGEBURG PREPARATORY SCHOOL

(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. This morning, 79 students from Orangeburg Preparatory School in South Carolina's Second District are in the Capitol to learn about the legislative process and the history of the Nation's Capitol Building. Under the leadership of Head Master Kelly Mills, the students at Orangeburg Preparatory School excel both in and out of the classroom. Such success is achieved through partnerships between the community, teachers, parents, students, and alumni.

As a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, I am grateful to spend time with these bright young students and will continue to pursue policies that advance fiscally responsible reforms that will improve their educational opportunities through higher education and beyond. We need insurance reform, not big government takeover. I also want to note that when you meet them, the students here today from Orangeburg Prep continue a tradition to be the best-dressed student group to visit the Capitol.

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

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE RECOVERY ACT

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

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, it has been now over a year since we took sweeping action to recover our economy. The Recovery Act has consistently grown our economy by creating or saving more than 2 million jobs, giving 95 percent of American workers a tax cut and beginning to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure, all while making investments in a clean energy future and working to improve our Nation's health care.

In the past year, the Recovery Act has provided \$120 billion in tax cuts for working families and business, loaned nearly \$20 billion to small businesses to

expand and create jobs, founded more than 12,500 transportation projects, and helped keep over 300 educators on the job. The Recovery Act has also put us on a path towards a green economy through investments in green job training programs. Furthermore, the Recovery money has funded the creation and expansion of community health centers all over the country as well as increased investment in health information technology.

Madam Speaker, while there is still much to be done to fully recover our economy, it would be a lot worse had we not passed the Recovery Act.

RESIGNATION AS ACTING CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as acting chair of the Committee on Ways and Means:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 4, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, The Capitol
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I hereby resign as acting chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Sincerely,

PETE STARK,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

WASHINGTON IS NOT LISTENING

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it's deja vu all over again on the health care bill. The people have tried every way they know to have their voices heard. Town halls, tea parties, even special elections. The people don't want Washington bureaucrats making their medical decisions. But Washington's not listening. People don't want the Feds forcing them to buy health insurance or pay a fine, an idea that's unconstitutional. But Washington's not listening. And when the Senate bill fully kicks in, it will cost \$2.5 trillion. We don't have the money. Spending on bailouts and stimulus bills, the taxpayers are out of money. We're broke, and we're borrowing billions of dollars from the Chinese.

But Washington's not listening. The massive health care bill now is 2,700 pages long. Churchill once said, "This report, by its very length, defends itself against the risk of being read." Americans don't want a European-style Nanny State where government makes all our decisions. Government-run health care is unhealthy for Americans, but Washington's not listening.

And that's just the way it is.

INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Madam Speaker, it's past time to boost sustainable job creation by making strong commitments to our Nation's education and infrastructure. The results of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act actually prove the point, but it can't be a one-shot deal. The hemorrhaging of jobs has stopped. In fact, jobless claims fell last week by 29,000. But now it's time to send all our people back to work. We can't do it on the cheap, and every State across our Nation has to be included. We need investments in plants and equipment to bring our manufacturing capacity into the 21st century before the rest of the world outpaces us.

And let's find the political courage to buy America in order to build America, encouraging our businesses to create jobs here at home and not ship them abroad. We need sustained investments in vocational and technical training, community colleges, and retraining to grow a workforce to retain our competitive edge. And we have to foster innovation and creativity among our small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Madam Speaker, our economic future relies on the strength of our education and the breadth of our opportunities. We must act quickly or risk being left behind.

REMEMBERING SKIP NELSON OF ARIZONA

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

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Skip Nelson, who passed away earlier this week, leaving us all far too early. Arizona was blessed that Skip called the State home for most of his life. He was known by many and respected by all. Countless individuals, groups, and organizations have benefited from his good work, his generosity, and his wise counsel.

I had the distinct privilege of knowing Skip for more than a decade. From my vantage point, for all the notable accomplishments and achievements in his life, it was within the walls of his own home that Skip's most important and lasting work was accomplished. Along with Judy, his beloved wife of more than 30 years, Skip raised three upright and honorable children, Mike, Ryan, and Erin, who will surely carry on his legacy. In fact, Mike and Ryan have already done much good here on Capitol Hill. Every State and community deserves to have a man of the caliber of Skip Nelson. We count ourselves fortunate in Arizona to have had him as long as we did.