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House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

Bishop Jerry Hutchins, Timothy Baptist Church, Athens, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, we humbly approach Your throne today.

Your servant Solomon prayed, "Give me an understanding mind so that I can govern Your people well and know the difference between right and wrong; for who, by himself, is able to govern this great nation of Yours?"

You responded to Solomon, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing My people and have not asked for a long life or riches for yourself or for the death of your enemies, I will give you what you have asked for. I will give you a wise and understanding mind such as no one else has ever had or ever will have."

Our prayer today, O God, is that You grant these men and women wisdom to govern this great Nation. May Your wisdom guide every decision and You be glorified. Send Your Holy Spirit to guide us in Your wisdom.

In His name we pray. 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 Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING BISHOP JERRY HUTCHINS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. All of us are influenced by the people around us, people who come into our lives. Our guest pastor today, Bishop Jerry Hutchins, is one of those warriors who has tremendously influenced me and the people of Athens, Georgia. He is a warrior for righteousness, a warrior to establish the Kingdom here on Earth as our Lord Jesus Christ has charged us to do. He is a great friend; he is a great pastor, and I'm honored to have him here today as our guest pastor.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois).

The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

DEATH OF U.S. CONSULATE STAFF

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, last weekend a tragedy sent shock waves through the U.S. and Mexico when three U.S. consulate employees and their family were brutally murdered in Mexico by the drug cartels. They were all headed home from a birthday party when gunmen opened fire on the car of Lesley Enriquez, an employee of the U.S. consulate and her husband. Their 7-month-old infant, crying in the back seat, was miraculously unharmed. Minutes later, Jorge Salcido, husband of a consulate

employee, was shot to death. His two young children suffered serious injuries in the back seat of the car.

This is the latest in the string of attacks on innocent American and Mexican citizens, including Bobby Salcedo, an elected official and rising star from my district in El Monte, California, who was recently murdered in a shocking execution in Durango, Mexico.

The murderers of these employees and of Bobby Salcedo must be brought to justice and the U.S. must renew and increase efforts to help Mexico bring an end to the terror of the drug cartels. This violence must be stopped.

THE MONOPOLY OF GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when I traveled to the old Soviet Union in the 1980s, nobody walked around smiling or joking or laughing. It was all gloom, doom, and despair.

Living under government tyranny destroys the human spirit, the mind, the soul, and the body. The monopoly of government kills off the notion of individuality. Bureaucracies have an insensitive cookie-cutter solution for everything. It's the same with government-run health care.

Thomas Jefferson was a visionary. He talked about government-run health care. He said, "If the government decides what foods people eat and what medicines they take, their bodies will soon be in as sorry a state as are the souls of those who live under tyranny."

Government-run health care pushes us down the road to "we the subjects" instead of "we the people." Instead of us controlling government, government controls us. That's what tyranny is.

□ 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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The monopoly of government-run health care will have the efficiency of the post office, the competency of FEMA, and the compassion of the good old IRS.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, we must not let this historic opportunity slip away. If we do not act, rising health care costs will continue to crush families and businesses, forcing small business owners to choose between health care and jobs. If we do nothing, in 30 years, \$1 out of every \$3 in our economy will be tied up in the health care system. If we fail to pass reform, premiums for both single and family policies could more than double by 2020, continuing to pad the bottom line of insurance companies at the expense of the American workers.

If we can pass health reform, consumers will be able to select their insurance plan and doctors, and they would no longer be denied coverage because of preexisting conditions and they can keep their coverage when they change jobs.

Finally, reforming our health care system will allow us to free up more money for jobs and for economic activity while assisting small businesses to add an estimated 80,000 new jobs.

Mr. Speaker, how long are 46 million uninsured Americans supposed to wait? The American people deserve to take back control over their health care system.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. INGLIS. Mr. Speaker, the government draws its legitimacy from the consent of the governed. I have here over 3,000 letters from the constituents in the Fourth District saying this: I write this letter to emphatically say I do not want this massive health care bill. I believe it costs too much, it taxes too much, and it will kill jobs. Reconciliation is the utmost of partisan maneuvers on such a bill and would be ill-advised. Health care reform needs to be addressed. Getting the economy going and restoring jobs should come first. I'm among those who favor a step-by-step commonsense approach that focuses on lowering costs for families and small business.

Mr. Speaker, reject this bill. Give us the consent of the governed, allow us to pass a bill that has the consent of the governed, and then we restore the legitimacy of this body. Stop the cram-down of health care reform.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, we must pass health care reform now. A step-by-step approach is not the answer. If we do nothing, Americans will continue to pay higher premiums and higher out-of-pocket costs now and in the future. There are too many Americans that are without health coverage.

In my district in San Bernardino County, California, there are over 220,000 without coverage. We also face a 15 percent unemployment rate and the fourth highest foreclosure rate in the Nation.

Health care reform will lower the costs and hold health insurance companies accountable; end discrimination based on preexisting conditions; cut and eventually close the doughnut hole for thousands of seniors, including 5,200 seniors in my district; cut the national deficit by \$100 billion over 10 years; and produce over 4 million new jobs in the coming decade.

Families, not insurance companies, deserve the right to make their own health care decisions. Congress must not kick the can down the road. We need health care reform now. I state, we need health care reform now. This is a historic moment.

I ask us to support health care reform now—not tomorrow, not in the future, but now.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, when you practice law, there is an old expression that goes something like this: If you have the facts, argue the facts; if you have the law, argue the law; if you have neither, attack your opponent. That appears to be what's happening.

There are those of us who have argued that the process that we are engaged in—that is that we will not vote on the Senate bill but we will kind of vote on the Senate bill; we will deem it passed—is unconstitutional. And in response to that, the Speaker of the House has said this: I think it's ridiculous and the people who are telling you it's unconstitutional know better, and you should be very outraged that people who know better would say things like that. They know when they talk they're not telling the truth.

I resent being called a liar by the Speaker of the House. I resent the fact because there are constitutional scholars who have said this is unconstitutional.

Now, I have only argued one case before the Supreme Court—which I won on behalf of the People of the State of California—so I am not considered one of the great practitioners before the Supreme Court, but we have spoken to one of them who will work with us in bringing this case to the Supreme Court if we try this outrage against the American people.

Let's stick to the facts, stick to the law, and stop attacking people personally.

□ 1015

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

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

Mr. CHILDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Ag Week. This week we honor our farmers and the agriculture industry as a whole for their critical contributions to America's local economies, communities, and families. Agriculture is the backbone of the South and the number one industry in the State of Mississippi. Not only is it responsible for providing the necessities of everyday life, food, fiber, clothing, and fuel, to name a few, but it also plays a key role in spurring local economic development and strengthening American competitiveness in today's global economy.

I'm very honored to serve as the only member of Mississippi's delegation on the House Agriculture Committee. I'm also proud to co-chair the bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus, which I joined Republican ADRIAN SMITH in reestablishing last year to address important challenges unique to rural America. Together we've reached across party lines to promote universal broadband access, economic development in rural communities, and the creation of a White House Office of Rural Policy.

I urge my colleagues to join the Congressional Rural Caucus in recognizing National Agriculture Week.

NO CLOSER FRIEND THAN ISRAEL

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Despite the diplomatic inconsistencies of the Obama administration, one thing is certain: Support for the U.S.-Israeli alliance remains strong in Congress. Israel is America's closest friend in the most volatile region of the world. It is a democracy that shares our values and hopes for a more peaceful world. Regrettably, the administration's recent misstep undermines our shared goal of peace and distracts from more pressing issues.

Israel has a history of making peace with its neighbors and is prepared to make peace now. But peace is a two-way street, and the Palestinians' commitment to that peace is in doubt. Rather than make demands upon Israel for concession after concession, President Obama should work closely and privately with Israel, recognizing our two Nations' long and trusted alliance. Israeli peace agreements between Egypt and Jordan have been reached in the past when U.S. support for Israel was strong and consistent. The same level of commitment and closeness is now needed.