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No. 47

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.

March 24, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JACKIE SPEIER 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: "Take care, my brothers and sisters, lest any of you have an evil and unfaithful spirit and fall away from the living God.

"Encourage one another daily, while it is still 'today'; so that no one grows hardened by the deceit of sin.

"All of us have become partners of the Lord, only if we maintain to the very end that confidence which we brought when we first began.

"For Scripture tells us, 'Today, if you should hear His voice, harden not your hearts . . .'

"As His faithful ones, look after the Father's house—and we are that house. Through Him, the whole fabric is bound together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord—and we are that house."

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 New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SIREs 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 15 minute requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

FUNDING FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

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

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of allowing public transit agencies to flex their Federal transit funding for operating expenses. Current law forbids transit systems in areas with a population of over 200,000 to use funds for operating. This has forced transit agencies across the country to cut services at a time when people are using transit more than ever. In 2008, transit use reached its highest level in five decades. In my home State of New Jersey, you can take a bus to any part of our State, and there are nearly 1,000 miles of rail line. Building this dynamic transportation system took years to develop, yet routes are being slashed because of the high cost of operating expenses.

All across our Nation, public transportation routes are being closed, and it is critical that we find a solution for our constituents. Congressman CARNAHAN has introduced a bill, H.R. 2746, that would allow public transit agen-

cies to use some of their Federal funding for operating expenses. I am proud to cosponsor this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation that gives transit agencies the flexibility necessary to continue their great service.

JOB CREATION

(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. Madam Speaker, 219 liberals on the other side of the aisle may have passed a government health care takeover, but the American people still have a voice to tell their lawmakers to repeal these job-killing mandates and finally focus on job creation proposals.

Congress spent the better part of an entire year obsessed with cutting deals for a health care takeover full of tax increases and mandates while unemployment increased by over 3 million people. Let me repeat. For months, 219 lawmakers ignored the clear message that the American people sent about this job-killing takeover—that they didn't want it—and after arm twisting, proceeded to ram it through anyway.

When is Congress going to get it right? The American people want us to be debating job creation policies. They want to know when private sector jobs will be created, instead of 16,500 more IRS government jobs that this health care takeover will create. It's high time we give the people some answers for jobs.

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

SENIORS BENEFIT FROM HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House

□ 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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for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, the new health care reform legislation will strengthen Medicare for the 118,000 beneficiaries in my district and for 45 million individuals across this country. Seniors in Medicare will receive free preventative care under this new reform and no copays for preventative services.

Every year, almost 13,000 seniors in my district are forced to pay the full cost of their prescription drugs because of the Medicare part D doughnut hole. Under the new reform, they will receive a \$250 rebate to pay for these prescriptions this year, and the doughnut hole will completely close by 2020. The new health care reform strengthens Medicare and ensures that our seniors get the quality, affordable care they deserve.

THE REALITY OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, when the President signed the health care reform bill into law, he noted, "The overheated rhetoric of reform will finally confront the reality of reform." He's right.

Here is the reality: Insurance companies will now be required to accept children with preexisting conditions and carry adults up to the age of 26 on their parents' policies. New policies will have to cover preventative care without copays. Such requirements may or may not be in the public interest, but health insurance that is no longer a hedge against risk cannot accurately be called health insurance. Health insurance companies are now more like public utilities.

Keep in mind that individual mandates requiring the purchase of insurance to broaden the pool will not kick in for 4 years. New competition is not required, nor is there any serious effort to deal with legal liability. In other words, there is no downward pressure on cost, only upward pressure.

Madam Speaker, in this body we can pass all the laws that we want, but we cannot suspend the laws of economics, nor can we phase them in. Americans should now be prepared for higher premiums.

That, Madam Speaker, is the reality of reform.

REMEMBERING BOB ROHDENBURG

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Bob Rohdenburg who passed away on Saturday, March 6 of this year. Bob had been a dedicated pastor at the Garden Grove

Unified Methodist Church and an Orange County Congregation Community Organization, or OCCCO, as we know it, board member for many years. He remained passionate about justice and the role of the church in public life until the very end. He was particularly passionate about the accessibility of health care for everyone, having witnessed the dysfunction of the health care system through his son's experience as a doctor and, of course, his own experience as a patient.

He traveled to Washington, D.C., on more than one occasion to share his faith and his vision with our elected officials. Bob challenged OCCCO both with his vision and with the depth of his faith reflections.

He had a profound role in shaping OCCCO, and he was a positive influence on the members of his church and beyond. He will be deeply missed. I send my deepest condolences to his wife Cynthia, his daughter Denise, his son Paul and his granddaughter.

ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DECIDE WHERE HER PEOPLE SHALL LIVE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the United States Government wants to dictate where the people of the sovereign State of Israel are allowed to live. Now who do we think we are? Israel is our ally, not our subject. What if Prime Minister Netanyahu said that our people weren't allowed to live in certain parts of D.C.? That makes about as much sense. The American people support Israel and the U.S. Government better get onboard. The people I represent are not "embarrassed" or "humiliated" by the actions of Israel.

Israel has the right to determine where their people live, including in Jerusalem. Also under international law, Israel is not obligated to give back land won in a defensive war. But they tried anyway. When Israel gave back land for peace, it didn't work. They still don't have peace. There will be no peace until the terrorists come to the peace table because the terrorists don't want peace. They want to drive Israel into the sea. Peace will come in the Middle East when the terrorists are defeated.

And that's just the way it is.

earmark REFORM

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, in January, President Obama stood in this Chamber and made an important request. He called on Congress to "continue down the path of earmark reform" as an important way to spend smarter and rebuild the public's trust. We simply cannot afford to wait any longer for real earmark reform.

Last year, I introduced House Resolution 614 which prohibits earmarks for

for-profit entities. Last week, the Appropriations Committee took up the premise of this resolution by establishing a 1-year moratorium on earmarks for for-profits. We must make this ban permanent and act in an open and responsible manner, allowing for public scrutiny of all requests.

Moving forward, each dollar spent must benefit the American people, not some special interest. Our work today will help us build a safer and stronger community tomorrow. Now is the time to answer the President's call.

HEALTH CARE, JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Today I rise to express how disappointed I am in this institution and the Presidency with what happened this last weekend. When we are in a Nation that is suffering from terrible unemployment and a dramatically poor economic position, to have this House and the President sign into law a job-killing piece of legislation that would put this Nation on the path to socialized medicine is unconscionable. Unfortunately, the country is going to suffer from now until the November elections when the Democrat majority will meet the consequences of their vote on Sunday.

However, in the meantime, I urge the President and Speaker PELOSI to start working on the economy and jobs and trying to get people back to work. I don't know how they can sleep at night knowing that they haven't addressed this up till now, but we've got to start working on the economy, get cash back into the markets for small businesses and put people back to work.

REBOUNding

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, this chart was produced by the Joint Economic Committee, and it shows the constant process of the creation and loss of jobs that occurs in our economy. The solid black line shows the number of private sector jobs created. The dotted line shows the number of private sector jobs lost. When the economy is expanding, as it did under Clinton, the job creation line just kept going up.

At point A, the beginning of the Bush administration, you can see that the number of jobs created is much lower than during the Clinton administration; and in 2008, you can see that it literally fell off the cliff.

As Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz has suggested, job creation during the Bush expansion was artificially inflated by the housing