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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 19, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. William Smith, Memorial Baptist Church, Arlington, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we acknowledge and give thanks for the divine order of creation. We are grateful for natural law. We are grateful for revealed law. We are grateful for this Nation in which we live by the rule of law to establish justice for all our people.

Bless this Congress and all the lawmakers who serve our Nation. We pray, too, for those who have the responsibility to enforce law and those charged with the duty of adjudication of law. May all of them, working together, make us a more perfect Union.

We offer ourselves and our work to You. We confess that even at our best, we need Your gracious providence. Guide us. Forgive us. Sustain us.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and glory 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 gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. JENKINS 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 without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5014. An act to clarify the health care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that constitutes minimum essential coverage.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 736. An act to provide for improvements in the Federal hiring process, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-567, the Chair, on behalf of the Minority Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Interest Declassification Board:

William A. Burck of the District of Columbia.

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. WILLIAM SMITH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas, Congressman CULBERSON, is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

(Mr. CULBERSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker and Members, born in Kentucky, Dr. Wil-

liam H. Smith has pastored Memorial Baptist Church in Arlington, Virginia, for the past 19 years. He preached his first sermon there on Father's Day, 1991, which was appropriate as he and his wife, Judy Bracewell Smith, who hails from my hometown of Houston, Texas, are the proud parents of Justin, a physician; Luke, a pastor; and Jason, a surgeon. His family also includes Justin's wife, Mairin, and their precious daughter, Adelaide, Bill and Judy's first grandchild. Bill's parents, Anna and Henry Smith, were powerful models of a Christian home for Bill and his brother, Andre. The students at the Leland Center for Theological Studies where he teaches biblical studies call him Professor. His granddaughter, Adelaide, calls him Pal. And I am proud to call him my teacher and friend.

May God bless you always, Bill and Judy.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in response to the Chamber of Commerce's recent claim that U.S. free trade agreements have supported 5.4 million jobs. I want someone to show those jobs to me because they certainly aren't in Michigan or my district. Michigan has the highest unemployment in the country. In my hometown of Flint, Michigan, the unemployment rate is nearly 30 percent. At one time, we had nearly 80,000 auto jobs. Now we have about 6,000.

With every free trade agreement, we continue to send more jobs overseas

□ 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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and put American workers at a greater disadvantage. Come to my district and I will show you the empty fields that used to employ thousands of American workers before NAFTA, which I opposed. Our trade policy might help create jobs and improve the quality of life for workers in other countries but not in the United States.

PIRATES OF THE LAKE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Falcon Lake in Zapata County, Texas, is one of the best bass fishing spots in the United States. The lake is an international boundary between Texas and Mexico. That piece of paradise has been intruded on this month by the lawlessness seeping over from the Mexican border. In two separate incidents, U.S. fishermen have been robbed at gunpoint on Falcon Lake by Mexican pirates who held AR-15 rifles to their heads. In one holdup, an American fisherman was robbed of all of his money. In the other pirate raid, fishermen were robbed of their boat, their money and left naked on the Mexican shore. The pirates were in a commercial fishing boat, dressed in black paramilitary garb carrying automatic weapons.

What are these pirates doing on Falcon Lake? Are they moving drugs or people or worse across the water? We don't know. In the 1800s, Thomas Jefferson sent the Navy to protect Americans from pirates in the Mediterranean. This administration is blissfully silent about the pirates on Falcon Lake. Meanwhile, the border war continues.

And that's just the way it is.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, in response to the Chamber of Commerce's recently released report that claims U.S. free trade agreements have supported 5.4 million jobs, I have only one thing to say: Not in my district. Since January of 1994, employment in the manufacturing industry in Maine has declined by nearly 40 percent. Just ask the Mainers who used to work at Knight C-Low-Tex in Lisbon Falls or those that used to work at Allen Edmonds Shoe Corporation in Lewiston. The Department of Labor recently certified them to receive trade adjustment assistance, proof that their jobs were lost as a result of our failed trade policies. Our U.S. trade policies might create jobs for big corporations based in Washington, D.C., but it takes them away from middle-class families in Maine.

SHORT LINE RAILROAD TAX CREDIT

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

Ms. JENKINS. Short line railroads located in my district, including those in Chanute, Pittsburg and Humboldt, serve a critical role in transporting grain, cement products, steel and other industrial-based products to the national freight rail network. The short line tracks in Kansas and across the Nation have benefited from the section 45(g) short line railroad tax credit which expired at the end of 2009. Without this credit, short line railroads would lose critical resources used to upgrade infrastructure or create jobs, and rural businesses would not have the rail services they need to compete. That's why we must find a responsible way to extend the tax credit, like H.R. 1132, that would extend it until 2012.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation to ensure short line railroads continue to thrive and provide valuable services on Main Streets across America.

CANCEL ALL FEDERAL CONTRACTS WITH BRITISH PETROLEUM

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Yesterday I urged my colleagues to stop drilling leases from going to BP. We need action now. If Congress can stop BP from receiving government leases, then BP can and should stand for Banned Permanently.

But why stop here? We must go further. Today I urge my colleagues to join me to cancel all Federal contracts with BP. How much money are we talking about? In 2009 alone, the Department of Defense paid at least \$1.5 billion to BP—\$1.5 billion with a B. In other words, big profits for them.

We need to audit and to stop our taxpayer dollars from going to BP, a company pumping millions of barrels of black poison into our water and towards our shores. Let's ban permanently BP's black poison and eliminate BP's big profits along with their British pollution.

VALUE-ADDED TAX

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, about 1 month ago was Tax Day, the day that hardworking Americans sent their money to Washington. And sadly, the President and the Democrat majority in Congress continue to advocate for policies that increase taxes and add more government spending, both of which are already out of control. Presi-

dent Obama has refused to renounce the idea of forcing a value-added tax on the American people, and his economic team has already run the numbers. The value-added tax is essentially just a national sales tax that hits everyone who buys any goods, which will cost American families thousands of dollars. This European-style tax wouldn't replace income taxes in this country—it would be on top of them. It's time for Congress to put the American people first and simplify a complicated and overreaching tax code. The American people know that we can't spend and tax our way back to a growing economy.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Congress is elected to solve difficult Federal problems, not walk away from them year after year. Health care reform was a difficult Federal problem with many months of debate and difficult votes, but we did it. Immigration reform is also a difficult Federal problem. At this moment, families are being torn apart. Children and parents live in fear of not seeing each other at the end of the day. In fact, there are cases where our own soldiers are returning from serving overseas, only to find their spouses deported.

Where Congress comes up short, States like Arizona are in full speed, enacting misguided laws like SB 1070 that are inspired by hate and racism. This bill hurts everyone who looks different, whether they're an American citizen, lawful immigrant, or undocumented immigrant. It violates our civil rights. The question now is, Is Congress willing to work together in a bipartisan fashion to fix a system that is broken? Families across America have waited long enough for immigration reform. We must deliver just like we have on health care reform.

FOREIGN-HELD DEBT

(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. Last week we learned that Uncle Sam ran up the largest deficit for April ever. Equally alarming is that our deficit is being financed by countries such as China, our biggest holder of U.S. Government debt. Equally important, a former Chinese military official recently suggested the Chinese should consider dumping U.S. treasuries in response to the recent Pentagon decision to sell defensive weapon systems to Taiwan.

To raise awareness of the threat to our economy and national security of our exploding deficit and debt, yesterday I introduced the Foreign-Held Debt Transparency and Threat Assessment Act. This bill would require a better