



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010

No. 15

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

I hereby appoint the Honorable GWEN MOORE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, the time for fiscal responsibility is now. Unfortunately, budget deficits are not a new phenomenon. We had budget deficits in 74 of the past 100 years. In fiscal year 1969, under Lyndon Johnson, we had a budget surplus of \$3.2 billion. However, each of the next 28 budgets was in deficit. But starting in fiscal year 1998, under President Clinton, we had four straight budget surpluses, totalling more than \$559 billion. In fact, the long term budget outlook predicted \$5.6 trillion in surpluses. The last time we had four consecutive

budget surpluses was in fiscal year 1930.

The Great Recession, which began in 2007, dramatically increased unemployment to a peak of 10.2 percent, a 26-year high. For those fortunate enough to remain employed, the recession led to depressed wages and benefits; growing at just 1.5 percent, the lowest level since 1982. As a result, families suffered and Federal income revenues declined precipitously. In 2009, corporate income revenue declined 55 percent, or \$166 billion, from its 2007 level, and individual income revenues fell 20 percent, or \$230 billion.

In addition to the tremendous toll this recession took on the American public, rising unemployment and stagnant wages added almost \$400 billion to our debt. In fact, total Federal revenues, which historically have represented roughly 20 percent of our gross domestic product declined to 14.8 percent in 2009. Although the recession did not create budget deficits, it exacerbated their severity enormously.

In the face of this budgetary maelstrom, we took decisive action. Last year, the House of Representatives voted to reinstitute a statutory pay-as-you-go piece of legislation. In 1990, Congress enacted that statutory PAYGO rule, and required spending increases and revenue decreases to be offset so as not to increase the deficit. PAYGO was one of the critical tools used to control Federal spending and effectuate eventual budget surpluses.

Unfortunately, in 2002, a Republican Congress and a Republican President, President Bush, failed to reenact PAYGO, and allowed it to expire. The results were predictable and disastrous with respect to the Federal deficit. The expiration of PAYGO conveniently allowed the Bush administration to enact three budget-busting initiatives: tax cuts for the wealthy; a prescription drug plan, prescription part D, unpaid for; and two wars, one in Iraq and Af-

ghanistan, none of these initiatives paid for. These actions dramatically increased spending and reduced revenues, adding \$6.7 trillion to the national debt, and leaving the Federal budget fundamentally unbalanced for the foreseeable future.

Combined with the Great Recession, these actions led to the fiscal year 2009 budget, which began in October of '08, with a deficit of more than \$1 trillion. For the better part of the past decade budget deficits were ignored and fiscally irresponsible behavior reigned supreme. A true commitment to deficit reduction will require further action. And just as the previous surpluses were the result of prolonged fiscal responsibility, we must demonstrate a long term focus. Budgets do not go from significant deficits to surpluses overnight. Therefore, it is critical that we set specific milestones and identifiable budget reduction goals.

The President's new budget reduces deficits to 3.9 percent of the GDP, a more sustainable level. This is a reasonable beginning for the next several years. However, more will be necessary, and our goals should continue to further reduce the deficit over the long term.

President Obama's spending freeze proposal is painful, but itself it is a small, though significant action. It demonstrates a return to fiscal responsibility, and represents \$250 billion in deficit reduction. Additional action, however, will have to be taken. For example, the ever-rising cost of health care not only affects every American family pocketbook, but also is a significant contributor to budget deficits. Today health care costs are 18 percent of our GDP. Without reform, that will rise to a staggering 34 percent by 2040. The House health insurance reform legislation was a first step in controlling these costs, and reduced the budget deficit by \$139 billion over the next decade.

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H429

Our efforts already have shown modest success. Although we are still in the throes of a fragile economic recovery, the improving conditions recently resulted in a \$50 billion reduction from the '09 deficit. While we cannot completely grow our way out of deficits, creating conditions for economic growth is critical to deficit reduction, and the President's budget reflects that.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CAPUANO) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Lord, pour out on this Nation Your Spirit of understanding, truth and peace. May this Congress prove to be Your fit instrument to foster yet a greater union and assure equal justice for all Your people. We ask this because You have given us Your just commands and reveal Your redeeming love—both now and 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 gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER 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.

BUDGET THAT SPENDS TOO MUCH, TAXES TOO MUCH AND BORROWS TOO MUCH

(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. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union address last week, the President stepped

up his rhetoric about fiscal responsibility. But just yesterday the President presented a budget reminiscent of last year's that spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much. The reality behind the President's budget proposal is that it more than doubles the debt. It drives up spending to \$3.8 trillion in 2011. It pushes the deficit to a record \$1.6 trillion. It raises taxes by over \$2 trillion through 2020.

During these tough economic times, lawmakers should be tightening our fiscal belts just like families across America are doing with their own budgets. Increasing taxes and spending is not the way to rejuvenate our economy and revitalize small businesses to create jobs.

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

PRESIDENT'S OBAMA'S PROPOSED BUDGET

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, for more than a year, the people back home in the Ninth District of Missouri have expressed their anger about the way our government and this administration are spending their hard-earned money. They are even angrier today after learning that the next proposed budget comes in at a whopping \$3.8 trillion with a record deficit of \$1.6 trillion. I give the President credit for his idea of a spending freeze, but the problem is that it freezes spending at record levels. It comes in after he has signed spending bills and a failed stimulus that have increased some spending by as much as 84 percent in the last 2 years. And the spending freeze applies to just 13 percent of the budget and doesn't even take effect until next year.

In other words, using good old fashioned Missouri logic, this spending freeze is a lot like trying to close the door after the horse is already out. It just doesn't work. The good folks at home are tired of lip service and fancy speeches about getting spending under control. The people of the Show-Me State want us to show them that we are serious about getting spending under control.

THE STATES ARE FIGHTING BACK

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the attack on the Constitution continues. In spite of the will of the people, there are those who still want to force-feed us with government-run health care. The Constitution gives no power to the Feds to nationalize health care. The Feds plan to force Americans to buy health insurance or pay a fine or go to jail, or both. And that plan is unconsti-

tutional. So 34 States are fighting back with legislation to block unconstitutional Federal insurance mandates.

Also, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott and other AGs are ready to fight the Feds in court over the unconstitutional "Corn Husker Kickback." The Kickback and the "Louisiana Purchase" were secret backroom deals, payoffs, paybacks, and rip-offs that gave special health care favors to these States while discriminating against other States who must pay for these corrupt sweetheart deals.

It seems that business as usual is going on in D.C., and it's hazardous to our health. President Reagan said there are two ways to do some things: "The right way and the way they do things in Washington." And that's just the way it is.

NASA AND THE CONSTELLATION PROGRAM

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of NASA and the Constellation Program. I am disappointed that the administration seeks to discontinue manned space exploration. Last week, an administration official was quoted in The Orlando Sentinel as saying it was not necessary for us to return to the moon. Language like this is a slap in the face. It's disrespectful for the lives lost, the thousands of hours of research and development that have gone into manned space flight. As we are being challenged internationally by China, Russia and others, this administration is not accepting the challenge as President Kennedy did in the 1960s. This administration is asking us to walk away from this challenge, and we will not do so.

We, the scientists, the American public, deserve to be number one in space exploration. The things that NASA has done for medicine, for regular space flight, for regular airlines, the safety, all that's concerned in our society, has been touched by NASA. The very idea that this administration is lowering the expectations of America as far as manned space flight is concerned is a disgrace and we, in Congress, will reject it.

THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOT SERIOUS ABOUT IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

(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. Mr. Speaker, the President's budget proves once again that the Obama administration is not serious about enforcing our Nation's immigration laws. They found money for 25 new positions in the Secretary of Homeland Security's management office, but there is no funding for a single new immigration detention