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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2010, at 12 noon.

House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2010

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Bertrain Bailey, St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, offered the following prayer:

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; Thou who has by Thy might, led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lord, we intercede for our Nation at war and pray for Your comfort to the families whose sons and daughters have made the ultimate sacrifice, and we ask that You grant healing for the wounded.

We remember the sorrow and the suffering of the people of Haiti, who struggle from day to day with their backs against the wall, especially the children. We are thankful for the graciousness of our President of these United States, the House of Representatives, and the generosity of people around the world.

In this hallowed Chamber we seek the guidance of Your infinite wisdom for the House of Representatives to help solve the problems of our time and our great Nation. In the name of the One who loves the world. 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 Ohio (Mr. DRIEHAUS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Mr. DRIEHAUS 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.

HONORING REV. BERTRAIN BAILEY

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. It is an honor to be here today with our distinguished guest chaplain, Rev. Bertrain Bailey, who is Pastor of the St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON's constituent. Rev. Bailey is well known for his strong faith and the work he is doing in the Dallas, Texas, community. He has impacted the lives of thousands of congregation members, and I am pleased that he could be with us today in the House of Representatives to share his prayers and wisdom.

For over 130 years, the Missionary Baptist Church has been known for its tradition of serving the church family and community. During his time at St. John's, Rev. Bailey has proven an energetic and dynamic leader. His spirit and initiative have endeared him to current members and attracted new

members. I am pleased to be able to share his faith and inspiration with my colleagues. I thank Rev. Bailey for his presence and his blessing.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the Chair will entertain up to 15 further 1-minutes on each side of the aisle.

There was no objection.

PAYGO: EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR ADDRESSING DEFICIT

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, the House this week will consider legislation reestablishing statutory pay-as-you-go. That's PAYGO. In 1990, the Clinton administration turned the deficit into a record surplus, due in part by adhering to PAYGO, a principle that compels Congress to pay for what we buy. However, under a Republican President in Congress, PAYGO was waived and allowed to expire, clearing the way for policies that wiped out \$5.6 trillion of surplus and a huge debt financed by tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans that will have to be paid by the next generation. Restoring our national fiscal health will not be quick or easy, but restoring PAYGO is an important step towards that goal.

□ 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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PAYGO has a history of bipartisan support. Democrats hope the Republicans will join us this week in supporting this proven tool for fiscal responsibility. I hope that they will not continue to be the Party of "No" and they'll have the principles invoked for PAYGO.

"FOR THEE, BUT NOT FOR ME"

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a very prominent, prestigious dignitary is visiting the United States from Canada this week—the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, Danny Williams is here. But there was no pomp and circumstance for Premier Williams. No red carpets, no dinners in his honor. You see, this isn't a state visit. It's a sneak visit. The Canadian Premier came to America to have heart surgery at an undisclosed hospital in an undisclosed location. According to officials, the premier couldn't have the heart surgery under Canada's government-run health care.

I wonder why? Williams has loudly proclaimed the benefits of Canadian socialized medicine. Was it the long waiting lines or the rationing that sent him to the United States? Maybe the Premier realized he couldn't receive competent treatment with Canadian state-controlled health care and came to America to, well—get well.

It seems the elites have one standard for the masses and another standard for themselves. As one writer put it, "State-controlled access for thee, but not for me." Government-run health care is unhealthy for Canadian Premiers and Americans as well.

And that's just the way it is.

STATUTORY PAYGO

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

Mr. SCHRADER. I rise today to urge the House to once again pass statutory pay-as-you-go legislation. I remind my colleagues of the history of PAYGO. Less than 20 years ago, PAYGO was used by a Republican Congress and a Democratic President to bring balance to the budget and begin paying down the debt from what were then record deficits. Unfortunately, during the Bush administration, PAYGO and other fiscally responsible policies were abandoned for tax cuts and expensive drug programs we didn't pay for. This week, we have the opportunity to once again vote for a return to fiscally responsible policies. We already voted for this on July 22, when we passed the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go-Act of 2009, with a bipartisan majority.

Although this bill isn't perfect, it's very practical. It worked in the 1990s. It moved us from a record deficit to record surpluses. It will work now. The fiscal and economic mismanagement

that this Congress and the President inherited in January, 2009, must be addressed. Instituting statutory PAYGO is a concrete start to the fiscal reform American families struggling to balance their own budgets expect us to meet.

FINISH STRONG

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

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, the New Orleans Saints' first trip to the Super Bowl this Sunday has not only boosted the morale of Orleans and Jefferson Parishes, but it has also changed the way New Orleanians think of their city and themselves. I am honored to convey New Orleanians' sentiments regarding the Saints to the world as the U.S. Representative of the Second District.

Mr. Ray Haeuser of New Orleans writes, "When the city was still full of water, the Saints were with us. When the city was full of despair, the Saints were there to encourage us. When the water had subsided and the streets were passable again, the Saints were walking around the city looking to help. When the future looked cloudy, the Saints kept cheering us on, and we began to realize that cheering for the Saints was, in fact, cheering for our shared future. The Saints have become a symbol of a city where pulling together can be a celebration every day."

Mr. Speaker, New Orleanians are mindful of the plight of the people of Haiti. But for this weekend, inspired by Mr. Haeuser and so many like him, we will cheer on our boys this Sunday with the President.

Who dat!

□ 1015

CLEAN ENERGY RACE

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, this morning America is engaged in a great race, and that is a race with China to see who will be preeminent in the creation of millions of new jobs in the new clean energy economy. The President is right: the Nation that leads the clean energy economy will lead the world economy, and he is right that we do not intend to finish second place in this race.

Now at this moment, there is something pending in the U.S. Senate to determine whether we will win this race. There is something that is absolutely fundamental to drive millions of dollars of investment to these new technologies in solar and wind and geothermal so that we will finish first in this race, and that is to put a cap on carbon pollution. Because when we put a cap on carbon pollution, we will drive investment into the jobs of tomorrow. We must remain resolute. We call on the President to remain resolute. We

have to deliver a cap on carbon so we can finish number one in the jobs race.

ENERGY AND JOBS

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, Congress received the White House's budget proposal. The President's budget more than doubles our national debt, drives spending to a record \$3.8 trillion, pushes the deficit to an unheard of \$1.6 trillion, and raises taxes by more than \$2 trillion over the next 10 years. It also includes \$36.5 billion in direct tax and fee increases on American oil, natural gas, and coal. These tax increases will only serve to reduce American energy production, increase energy prices, and destroy American jobs.

I support an all-of-the-above approach to our energy policy, one which encourages research and exploration for all forms of American-produced energy. Let's take this opportunity to do what is right for the future of our country by tapping into domestic energy resources and creating American jobs here at home.

VACATION IN VEGAS

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, things are very tough in Las Vegas right now. We have the second highest unemployment rate and the very highest mortgage foreclosure rate in the country. People are hurting. We rely on tourism to fuel our economy. It's our major industry.

So when the President singled out Las Vegas again by saying, "When times are tough, you tighten your belts. You don't blow a bunch of cash in Vegas," he is hurting the people I represent badly. What he should have said is that Las Vegas is the most amazing place to vacation. It's a bargain right now, and everyone should go and enjoy our wholesome family entertainment, our great hotels, our fabulous shows, great restaurants, shopping, convention space, gaming, our great weather. We're near the Grand Canyon and Red Rock Canyon and Hoover Dam. Las Vegas has it all. That's what the President should have said. Mr. President, words matter, and you need to watch what you say. Your words are hurting the businesses and the families that call Las Vegas home, and they're hurting me.

OBAMA'S BUDGET

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