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House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. John Cross, South Biscayne Church, North Port, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for being so kind, gracious, holy, and just. Thank You for demonstrating Your endless love through Jesus. Thank You for giving us the honor of living in our great country. Thank You for those who have gone before us.

We pray for those who are serving now to protect our freedom. Please give them safety. We pray for peace. We pray for our President, Congress, and all who lead our country. Please give them wisdom and direction as they make decisions.

May we look to You as our Source, not our economy. In these days of global terror, may we remember You as our security. Use us to be instruments who bring hope to the underserved and safety for the unprotected. May we be a Nation who humbles ourselves before You. We bless You and please bless America.

In Jesus' name, 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 4861. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1343 West Irving Park Road in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Steve Goodman Post Office Building".

H.R. 5051. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23 Genesee Street in Hornell New York, as the "Zachery Smith Post Office Building".

H.R. 5099. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 South Main Street in Sharon, Massachusetts, as the "Michael C. Rothberg Post Office".

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1288. An act to authorize appropriations for grants to the States participating in the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, and for other purposes.

S. 3372. An act to modify the date on which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and applicable States may require permits for discharges from certain vessels.

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. JOHN CROSS

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege today to introduce and thank Dr. John Cross, who gave the opening prayer. The Senior Pastor at South Biscayne Church in Florida, he represents a county that I'm in, my largest county, Sarasota County, in North Port, our largest city. He is

joined by his lovely wife, Dawn, and their five children. As a matter of fact, they are celebrating their anniversary.

Dr. Cross is a very innovative, spiritual leader. I've seen him many times on Friday nights in his jeans and T-shirt working with the youth in our community. He's taken a church from 150 people to over 2,000. He has one of the largest churches in our community. He is serving his second term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

I commend Dr. Cross for his long-standing service, and it is a pleasure to have him and his family today. God bless.

□ 1010

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 10 further 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CUTTING WASTEFUL, UNNECESSARY GOVERNMENT SPENDING

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, last week I attended the Big Butler Fair in Butler County and the Grange Fair in Mercer County in western Pennsylvania, and what was the number one question my constituents asked? "What are you doing about the deficit?" I visited senior centers in Hermitage and Erie, and what did our seniors say to me? "Stop the unnecessary spending."

Today I'm proud to tell my constituents that we are taking action. We are cutting wasteful, unnecessary government spending to the tune of \$98 billion. That's how much Federal agencies spent in improper payments and overpayments in 2009; \$98 billion is how

□ 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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much we stand to gain with the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act.

This bill will save taxpayer funds and increase transparency by making Federal agencies accountable for the money they spend. I'm telling my constituents right now, we are cutting wasteful spending, and we have a powerful new tool to do it.

MOST AMERICANS WANT TO DRILL IN DEEP WATER

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the American people are opposed to the administration's ban on deepwater drilling. Almost three-quarters of American people, 73 percent, say the ban is not necessary. But in spite of the will of most Americans, in spite of two court rulings that say that the moratorium is arbitrary, capricious, and punitive, the administration is determined to kill jobs in the deepwater industry.

You just can't hit the pause button on the gulf coast economy. The President's moratorium on drilling is destroying lives, and good people are being put out of work on purpose by this administration. These aren't statistics. These are real people, hard-working people. How do they pay their mortgage and buy their groceries and put gasoline in their car?

On Friday, one of the world's biggest drilling companies had to move another deepwater rig to the Middle East and out of the Gulf of Mexico because of this moratorium. All of the good-paying jobs are going with it.

Mr. Speaker, the moratorium on drilling is the second disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, and it's brought to us by this administration.

And that's just the way it is.

UNEMPLOYMENT

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, right now 15 million out-of-work Americans are relying on Congress to work together and immediately extend unemployment benefits to help them make ends meet while they're looking for a full-time job. Right now the unemployment in my State of New Jersey is 9.7 percent, with nearly half a million out of work. Now is not the time to stall in providing assistance to those who need it most.

Earlier this month, the House passed a bill to restore emergency unemployment benefits for unemployed Americans and their families through the end of November. The Senate must now follow our lead and act swiftly in passing an extension of benefits to send to the President's desk. Doing so would not only provide a much-needed lifeline for jobless Americans and their families, but it makes economic sense.

The CBO has suggested that extending unemployment benefits is one of the most cost-effective and fast-acting ways to stimulate the economy. It is our duty to act now and provide relief for millions of unemployed Americans and their families.

BROKEN GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, let's get real. The real deal is government is broken.

I'm always thankful to go back to the district and hear from our constituents, but you know what I'm hearing? The government's broken, and the American people are sick and tired of it. So am I. They're tired of partisan games and business as usual. So am I.

Why can't we work together to solve this country's problems? Why can't we get it right? Why are we not listening to the American public? Why? That's the big question the American people are asking. Why can't we, as Members and Representatives of this great country and each and every district that we represent, stand here together on this floor in this House and work together to solve the problems that this Nation is facing? It's about freedom. It's about jobs. It's about our country. It's about our people. It's about our children and our grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, let's listen to the American people. This government is broken.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by July 17, more than 112,000 people in the State of Ohio will lose unemployment benefits due to the Senate's inaction. For out-of-work families, these benefits help pay the rent, they buy food, and they pay for health care when there isn't a paycheck coming in.

During these tough economic times, extending unemployment benefits is one of the most efficient and fast-acting ways to stimulate our economy. That is why on July 1, I voted in favor of the 6-month unemployment benefits extension, which would continue benefits until November 30.

With the Ohio unemployment rate growing to 11 percent in June, this emergency relief is absolutely necessary for Ohio, and I will continue to fight for the passage of a long-term unemployment package. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to pass the 6-month extension immediately. The time to act is now.

YOUCUT

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, seven proposals have been brought to this floor for a vote directly from participants in the interactive forum YouCut. These proposals are commonsense cost savers of the people's money. House Republicans have listened to the will of the people and have voted to save billions by reforming Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, by selling excess Federal lands, and by preventing taxpayer subsidized union activities. Yesterday, the House had another opportunity to save money by getting rid of promotional stimulus signs.

A year and a half after the spending stimulus passed, unemployment has risen to 10 percent, as the so-called stimulus has failed to create jobs. But liberals cleverly came up with propaganda to push Americans on this failed policy at a cost of up to \$10,000 a sign. Stimulus signs are nationwide. If we eliminated this waste, \$20 million could be saved. When it comes to wasteful Washington spending, all signs point to the stimulus.

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

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DOES NOT DISCOURAGE THE JOB SEARCH

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, unemployment benefits are a necessary lifeline for jobless workers trying to make ends meet and also provide a boost to the economy. These benefits are crucial when there are five job seekers for every available job. Unemployment benefits keep workers attached to the workforce, preventing some workers from shifting to other more costly programs, such as Social Security disability insurance.

By the end of 2010, the Joint Economic Committee estimates that 290,000 unemployed disabled workers will exhaust their benefits. Shifting these workers from the labor market and onto the Social Security disability insurance rolls—the cost of inaction—is a staggering \$24.2 billion lifetime cost, contrasted with \$721.3 million this year by extending the benefits.

Extending unemployment benefits is both morally right and the fiscally responsible thing to do, providing a boost to the economy and a savings to the government.

IT'S TIME TO CUT UP THE CREDIT CARD

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, the Democratic leadership got their credit