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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. PASTOR of Arizona).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 22, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED PASTOR 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: Lord God, You are the Most High, the Almighty, yet Your love reaches out to us and surrounds each detail of human life.

The Members of Congress seek answers to the deepest questions facing the Nation. Attentive to their districts and the human cries of families they know and individuals lost in the void of unemployment, they hear tangible truth breathing beneath the blanket of pundits and pollsters.

Help them, Lord, to discover ways that will lead Your people from crisis to opportunity. With creative consultation and intellectual depth, Lord, we ask You fix a vision for the future. Let them build upon the known strengths of America.

By appealing to the Nation's innate sense of justice and generous patriotism, may they always seek Your presence and Your activity working within Your people and the country's democratic process 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 Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FLAKE 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 a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1376. An act to restore immunization and sibling age exemptions for children adopted by United States citizens under the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption to allow their admission into the United States.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the House that on July 24, 1998, at 3:40 p.m., Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson of the United States Capitol Police were killed in the line of duty defending the Capitol against an intruder armed with a gun.

At an appropriate point today, the Chair will recognize the anniversary of this tragedy by observing a moment of silence in their memory.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests

for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BUYING LOCAL FOOD FOR SCHOOLS

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bill that will make it easier for schools to buy local food. In America, we have slowly moved further and further away from feeding our children healthy, nutritious food in school. At the same time we have watched while thousands of family-run farms have literally disappeared.

In Maine, many of our schools go out of their way to purchase food from local farms. But dwindling school budgets and competing priorities have resulted in less money for local food options in cafeterias.

My bill frees up money for schools to buy locally produced food by giving them the option to spend 10 percent of what they receive for government commodities on food from local farmers. This will not only bring healthy, high-quality food into our schools, it will also pump more money into our local economies.

On average, an apple travels 1,500 miles from farm to school. This bill gives schools the freedom to buy apples from their neighbors and keep every dollar spent in the community instead of traveling across the country and back again.

I look forward to working on this bill with my colleagues, and I thank those who have already supported it.

OIL COMPANIES PLAN TO PROTECT GULF

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

□ 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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Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, private industry is creating solutions to protect the Gulf of Mexico because the government really doesn't create anything. Government just stops things from being created like jobs.

ExxonMobil, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, and Shell Oil have announced a new coordinated plan. They're building a new emergency oil spill containment system to protect the Gulf of Mexico. Their deepwater rapid response system will capture and contain oil in a blow-out emergency. It will be engineered to be used in underwater depths of up to 10,000 feet and under different weather conditions as well. The initial capacity will contain 100,000 barrels of oil a day.

These oil industry leaders have committed \$1 billion to the initial cost. Engineering, procurement, and construction will begin immediately. Exxon-Mobil has taken the lead on behalf of the other companies. This is great news for drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. American private industry is taking the lead.

The administration needs to end the moratorium on drilling and get out of the way and quit killing jobs in the Gulf of Mexico.

And that's just the way it is.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4213, UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-556) on the resolution (H. Res. 1550) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4213) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE MOTEL KIDS OF ORANGE COUNTY

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last night I had an opportunity to preview a documentary entitled "Homeless, the Motel Kids of Orange County."

In the shadow of Disneyland, filmmaker Alexandra Pelosi captures the stark reality of children who are living in motels. For all the legitimate policy differences that divide people in Congress, sometimes it's jarring how starkly we view different worlds, that we can believe in different facts. But these children live in a world, the reality of which can be denied only by people who don't bother to see and listen.

I hope my colleagues will watch the HBO documentary Monday, or better

yet, get a copy of the DVD to review themselves and with their staff.

We appear at times to be capable of arguing with a straight face about what the day's date is, but this is an area where we should agree to assign priority, spend precious dollars, and refine our policies. These children deserve our best.

□ 1010

FY 2011 APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, you know, this is a different kind of July than we usually experience here in Congress. Usually we're doing appropriation bills. We aren't doing them this month. We aren't likely to do any until after the election. Isn't that something? The one responsibility we have here in Congress, pass appropriation bills, we aren't doing until after the election. This might give you an idea why we're not doing that.

These are the bills that have gone through the Appropriations Committee, either the subcommittee or the full committee. When you look at the number of earmark dollars that are associated with powerful Members of Congress, either those on the Appropriations Committee or leadership or the chairs of committees, just take, for example, the MilCon-VA bill, 78 percent of the earmarks are going to 13 percent of the Members. Other bills are similar: 76 percent in Agriculture; CJS, 57 percent going to the most powerful Members.

It's often said that we earmark here because we know our districts better than those bureaucrats. Well, apparently, 13 percent of the Members know their districts; the rest of us don't.

That's just one of the problems with the earmarking system we have in Congress. It's a spoils system. Those who are powerful get the spoils.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of extending unemployment benefits to the hardworking San Joaquin Valley families of California who continue to search for work during these tough economic times. The current lapse in benefits is unprecedented. Since 1959, the government has never allowed these benefits to expire when the national unemployment rate is above 7.2 percent.

Californians are concerned with providing for their families and putting food on the table, not who scores the most political points in Washington.

Extending unemployment benefits isn't just critical to our Central Val-

ley's workers and communities where unemployment hovers around 20 percent in some of the counties but also to our economy. Every dollar in unemployment benefits creates at least \$1.63 in economic activity. That puts money in neighborhood businesses.

Now is the time to focus on middle class families and our economy, not the next election. It's time to pass this measure and to send it to the President for his signature.

YOU CUT AND ASO

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, America is struggling under the weight of its debt and a failing economy. Worse, Washington isn't listening.

One of two new tools that we're trying to put forth, and I think they're great opportunities for the American people, is America Speaking Out. I will be doing a town hall this Saturday in my community in Sarasota to be able to pick up their ideas, identify the challenges, and with the ideas we gather, these ideas across the country, put forth an agenda for the American people this fall.

The other tool that I think is very effective is YouCut. These are two different sites. You go on and make your suggestions heard. Our debt today is at \$13.6 trillion. We're expected to go to \$20 trillion. We've got to find a way to balance the budget. We would like to get your ideas as it relates to this.

I encourage all Americans to go to these two sites. Anyone that's interested could visit my Web site, buchanan.house.gov. They're available there. We need to start listening to the American people. We need your ideas.

PRESIDENTIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mr. BACA. When President Obama took office, he inherited a \$1.2 trillion deficit, two wars, a growing recession, and disasters like Katrina that pushed our economy to the brink. Since then, his leadership has laid the groundwork to rebuild our economy and finally end the outsourcing of American jobs.

The President successfully worked to pass historic health care and financial regulatory reform. No administration has done more to improve care and the benefits for our veterans and returning troops.

President Obama and the Democratic Congress have strengthened the quality of health care for over 5 million American veterans, authorized 3.4 percent pay raises for our troops, invested millions for VA facility improvements, and improved health services for women veterans.

The President and the Democratic Congress will continue to do the right