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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 28, 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

Pastor Shawn Black, Calvary Chapel, Costa Mesa, California, offered the following prayer:

Dear Lord God in heaven, we thank You for Your faithfulness, Your hand in creating this great Nation. We acknowledge that all wisdom, guidance, and governance truly comes from You.

Lord, we acknowledge that You tear down and You alone build up. Thank You for Your hand in the affairs and the hearts of those who govern, for You steer the hearts of kings and of nations. For to You alone belong mercy, forgiveness, and grace. Help us to restore what is neglected, submitting with solitude and remaining resolute with this reflection in our lives.

May You forgive us our trespasses and renew in us a steadfast spirit, immovable, dependent upon Your truth and grace.

May You today encourage, rebuild our lives, our Nation, with the steadfast dedication in accomplishing Your will, devoted to none other than in God we trust.

United in will, submitted in spirit, we thank You, and we praise Your holy name. And in Jesus' name we pray. 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 Maine (Ms. PINGREE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine 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 bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 4380. An act to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5849. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

TOXIC CHEMICALS SAFETY ACT

(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 want to commend Chairmen WAXMAN and RUSH for introducing H.R. 5820, the Toxic Chemical Safety Act, a bill that will for the first time require the chemical industry to prove that the chemicals in our products are safe.

In America, we have too long failed to regulate chemicals and consumer products—even those that we know have links to cancer, learning disabilities, reproductive disorders, and other serious health problems.

Under the old Toxic Substance Control Act, 62,000 chemicals were grandfathered in. Only six chemicals have been banned since its passage. Not even asbestos—a widely known carcinogen—could be taken off the market.

Maine has always been the leader in toxic chemical regulation, passing new laws phasing out mercury, lead, and flame-retardant chemicals in everyday products. In 2008, our legislature passed the groundbreaking Kid-Safe Products Act that establishes a new statewide system to identify and phase out the most toxic chemicals that endanger our children.

It is time for the Nation to follow Maine's lead. It has never been more important for Congress to pass the strongest and most effective toxic chemical bill possible.

EXTEND TAX CUTS FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

(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, it's time to give hardworking Americans incentives to invest in order to create jobs and grow the economy. We must also protect middle class Americans from significant tax hikes that are headed their way. Contrary to liberal claims, these are not tax hikes only on the wealthy.

□ 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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The picture isn't pretty if these tax hikes go into effect. If you're a family of four and your income is \$50,000 a year, you could pay \$2,100 in additional taxes; if you're married as a senior citizen earning \$40,000 a year, you could pay \$1,400 in higher taxes; a single mom making \$36,000 a year could end up paying \$1,100 in new taxes.

Hardworking middle class Americans across the country cannot afford an attack on creating jobs. The Federal Government cannot pay off America's debt by higher taxes.

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

EXTENDERS BILL

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, in December and again in May, this House passed legislation to extend a popular set of expiring tax provisions providing billions of dollars in relief to millions of American families. This tax bill passed the House and has been stymied in the other body where only two Republican Senators have stood up against their party's filibuster for these tax cuts.

The State sales tax deduction has provided parity for families living in States without an income tax.

Let me tell you who's suffering: 600,000 families in Tennessee cannot deduct \$1.3 billion of State sales taxes; 2 million families in Florida cannot deduct \$3 billion of State taxes; 2.2 million families in Texas cannot deduct \$4 billion in State sales taxes. Nationwide, more than 12 million families cannot deduct \$19.5 billion in State sales taxes.

This deduction will spur purchases for cars, boats, and school supplies. But time is slipping away. We need to tell the other side to move these Senators on the tax extenders bill because it means jobs.

DICTATOR CHAVEZ AND U.S. OIL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Venezuela's dictator Hugo Chavez is threatening to cut off oil supplies to the United States. Chavez doesn't like the fact America is friendly with Colombia. Since America is the biggest buyer of Venezuelan oil, Dictator Chavez thinks he has a say in American foreign policy.

American dependence on foreign oil poses a national security risk. It makes no sense at all. And why are we paying dictators and tyrants to supply us with energy? We have all of the energy we need right here at home, but we don't produce it. American-made energy provides jobs for Americans—good-paying jobs, the kind of jobs that buy houses and cars and put kids through college.

But the offshore jobs and money are moving to Indonesia, Egypt, Brazil, and Venezuela.

The moratorium on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico threatens America's jobs and economy. It is a national security issue, and it gives a brutal buffoon dictator like Hugo Chavez dangerous influence.

End the illogical, ill-advised, ill-conceived offshore drilling moratorium. It's about time.

And that's just the way it is.

IN SUPPORT OF A NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the President's executive order establishing a comprehensive national ocean policy. Now, more than ever, we need a coordinated approach for the management of our ocean and coastal resources.

The tragedy in the gulf is a wake-up call. We would have been much better prepared to deal with this disaster had a national ocean policy been in place before the spill.

But Mr. Speaker, oil spills are just one threat. Overfishing and ocean acidification are also evidence of the urgent need to ensure wise stewardship of our coasts, our oceans, and the Great Lakes.

In the gulf and around the country, our communities are intimately linked to healthy coastal oceanic ecosystems. A national ocean policy will make our oceans healthier and our coastal economy stronger. It will strengthen ocean governance and coordination. It will bring a science-based approach to ocean conservation.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the President for taking this historic step. This vision of healthy, resilient oceans will ensure that future generations can share in the wonders of our cherished seas.

□ 1010

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to revisit the subject of health care reform. The bill was passed behind closed doors using bribery, deceit, and arm twisting. It is not popular with the American people, and the majority of them want it repealed.

The promises made to the American people were false. You will not be able to keep your doctor. You will not be able to keep your insurance. There will be rationing of health care, even to the seniors.

The acute physician shortage means the poor, near poor, and middle class Americans will find the quality of their

health care diminished and their access limited. Emergency rooms will be busier than ever, and it will be increasingly difficult for Medicare and Medicaid patients to be seen.

The unfunded medical mandates forced onto the weakened financial systems of the States are designed to collapse and fail. The administration had no intention of keeping any of the promises it made. Their only concern was furthering their own agendas, even at the expense of the taxpayer and the American health care system.

The American people stand ready to support those of us who seek to repeal this disastrous health care bill, and I stand resolute with my colleagues to do so.

9/11 HEALTH LEGISLATION

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, this week, yesterday, we approved billions for the war in Afghanistan but Congress has yet to fully address the impact of the events that caused the war in the first place, the 9/11 terrorist attacks. On 9/11, thousands of Americans were murdered and killed in the first act of the war on terror on our soil, but thousands more on that day lost their health when they ran into burning buildings to save the lives of others. Nine long years after the attack, we have yet to approve guaranteed help for the first responders that risked their lives for others.

The House will soon vote on the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, a bill that provides health care and compensation to the thousands of Americans that came from almost every congressional district around this country to help others. The bill is fully paid for and meets our moral responsibility to help those who came to the aid of our Nation in one of America's darkest hours.

I urge my colleagues from across the country to support this patriotic bill.

ADA ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, Monday we recognized the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It's important to recognize the work this country has done to ensure equality for people with disabilities, to make sure they experience a good quality of life; that their rights are protected; that they have access, resources, and tools to live fulfilled, productive lives.

I am thankful for the leaders who fought for this law 20 years ago because it benefits people I love, family, friends, and coworkers. But Mr. Speaker, this Congress failed our disabled community miserably this year when it passed the health care overhaul, and it did so at a steep cost.