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House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

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

All powerful Lord, You fulfill Your promises day by day and lead Your people to greatness. You are the One who asks each of us to live a life worthy of our calling.

By embracing the responsibilities of our station in life, each of us is to perform our duties with humility, meekness, and patience. By bearing with one another with understanding, we are to make every effort to preserve the unity we have been given by Your Divine Providence and seek peace at every turn of events.

Your presence, Lord, has guided us from the beginning, is with us now, and will be fully revealed in the end.

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. OLSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. OLSON 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.

□ 1010

PASS THE SMALL BUSINESS JOBS AND CREDIT ACT

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

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, during my recent high-tech manufacturing tour, I saw firsthand the success of some of New Mexico's homegrown companies. While creating jobs, local small businesses like Senspex, Applied Technology Associates, and Aspen Avionics are also providing the innovation to meet our Nation's twenty-first century challenges.

Even through the recent economic downturn, this local high-tech sector has remained strong, and even grown by hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue. Yet many small businesses cannot access the credit that they need to expand and hire more workers. This is why the Congress must pass the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act. This legislation will boost small business lending through community banks and provide tax relief, and it will do it without adding a penny to the deficit.

I am doing all I can to support small businesses, which is why I urge my colleagues to support the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act.

TAX HIKES

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, as our economy continues to struggle, the President's former budget director, Peter Orszag, stated that, and I quote, "Higher taxes now would crimp consumer spending, further depressing the already inadequate demand for what firms are capable of producing at full tilt." In non-Washington, D.C., language, that translates to the more

money the government takes from the American people, the less they have to spend and to help rebuild our economy. My Republican colleagues and I have been saying this for nearly 2 years.

Now, over 30 of my Democrat colleagues have joined us in supporting an extension of all the tax cuts across the board. They get it. It makes no sense, no sense to raise taxes, especially at this time when businesses and individuals are trying to invest what little they have to make a better future and get our economy going.

Mr. Speaker, end the uncertainty and let the American people keep their money. I urge House leadership to extend the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts.

THE BIG NEED OF SMALL BUSINESS

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, it is widely understood that one of the biggest problems facing our economy now is the fact that small businesses cannot get loans. And small business owners tell me every week from across my district they are not hiring because they cannot get loans and expand.

In fact, a recent report from the Joint Economic Committee, which I chair, found that the number of small business loans peaked in the second quarter of 2008 at 27 million loans. But since then the number of loans have fallen by 18 percent.

The bill before the U.S. Senate today that passed the House will address that by expanding access to needed credit for small businesses, providing tax relief, and encouraging private investments. Our economic recovery depends on small businesses, and credit-worthy small businesses need loans. This bill is not a cure-all or a silver bullet, but it is without question an important step towards restoring and restarting the great American engine of growth.

□ 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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CONSTITUTION DAY

(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, tomorrow, September 17, is Constitution Day, a commemoration of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787. The role of the Federal Government, first debated by our Founding Fathers at the beginning of our new Nation, is still a topic of conversation over 200 years later.

Recently, we have seen an explosive expansion of the Federal Government, with a government takeover of health care, national interference in our schools, and government control of our auto industry. Power is being shifted from the people and the States to the Federal Government.

The Founders anticipated this dangerous growth of big government, so they drafted the 10th Amendment to the Constitution to ensure the Federal Government would only use powers granted specifically to them. As we take a moment today to remember the ratification, I hope we all remember that personal responsibility and less government intervention is a better way to promote liberty.

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

HONORING DR. MARIO OBLEDO

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. I rise today to honor a great voice for our Nation's disenfranchised, a man who passed away recently, Dr. Mario Obledo. Hailed as the Godfather of the Latino Movement, he dedicated his life to serving America's minority communities.

As president of the League of United Latin American Citizens and founder of the National Coalition of Hispanic Organizations, the Hispanic National Bar Association, and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Dr. Obledo fought tirelessly for civil rights and justice.

Governments both here and abroad honored his accomplishments. Dr. Obledo received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian honor, and the OHTLI award, the highest tribute given by Mexico to foreigners. He was an inspiration to many.

I urge my House colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Mario Obledo and his exceptional impact upon our country. He will be missed.

CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Constitution starts out, "We, the peo-

ple." It's written in really large print right at the beginning of the document. The Constitution is a rock. It's the foundation. It is not some abstract concept that changes depending on the social philosophy of the elites and tyrants of the Judiciary.

The Constitution says the things it says in plain, simple language. The Constitution is an agreement between the people and the government. It sets limits on what the government can do, not the other way around. The Constitution upholds the principle that people have God-given rights. Government has no rights. Government has power. And the more power it grabs the less rights we have.

Thomas Jefferson warned, "the natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground." A government big and powerful enough to control our lives is big and powerful enough to take away everything we have. And that's un-American. After all, the Constitution says, "We, the people," not "We, the subjects."

And that's just the way it is.

HISTORY IS INSTRUCTIVE

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, history is instructive on almost every issue we face in this body. Today's issue is whether we should take action so that the wealthiest Americans don't have to pay an income tax rate of 39.6 percent.

So let's look back at when they were taxed at that rate during the Clinton administration. Well, what happened was exactly the opposite of what the Republican Party predicted would happen. In fact, people at that rate brought home more after-tax income than at any time in American history. Twenty-two million new jobs were created, and we had record budget surpluses. And in fact, at the end of this month we were projected to have paid off all of the debt, relieving our children and grandchildren of any of the debt that we would have otherwise burdened them with. Alan Greenspan was worried we didn't have enough debt floating out there.

But instead, when President Bush was elected, one of the very first things he did was to try to finance two wars with two deep tax cuts, none of it paid for and now we have \$12 trillion of debt. Let's look at history and learn for it.

□ 1020

HONORING MAJOR EDWARD J. HUDAK, JR., CORAL GABLES POLICE DEPARTMENT, AT THE FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to recognize and honor Major Edward J. Hudak, Jr., of the Coral Gables Police Department, located in my congressional district.

Major Hudak graduates tomorrow from the FBI National Academy at Quantico. He was chosen by his chief to attend and by his class of 272 elite police executives to represent them after the 3-month training in terrorism protection and domestic crime investigation. Ed says it is quite an honor to be at the finest executive leadership course in the world.

There have only been 44,000 of these top graduates since July 29, 1935, when J. Edgar Hoover created the FBI Police Training Academy. So congratulations to Major Ed Hudak, to his wife, Alina Tejada Hudak, and their lovely daughters, Kristina, 13, and Jennifer, 12 years of age.

Congratulations to the entire family.

SEBELIUS BULLYING

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Secretary of Health and Human Services Sebelius seemed shocked to find that placing new mandates on health insurers leads to increased costs.

After press reports last week indicated that insurers are raising premiums because of ObamaCare, the Secretary wrote a letter to the health insurance association which is nothing more than bullying. The Secretary called the measures onto the carpet, insisting that there would be "zero tolerance for misinformation and unjustified rate increases."

Why are these rate increases unjustified? Because government bureaucrats thought that all the new rules and mandates would only lead to increases of 1 or 2 percent. Now insurers functioning in the real world are increasing premiums by up to 9 percent.

Bullying and threats aren't going to make ObamaCare work. This unprecedented expansion of government power is only making health care more expensive.

The solution is to repeal this law and replace it with real market-based reforms that take power away from unelected government bureaucrats.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4785, RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM ACT

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1620 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1620

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the