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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:

Lord God of history and present in our day, help this Congress to move forward in hope. Each new day in this land of freedom is an opportunity for Your people to venture forth, alone or connected to others, into the vast horizon of the future.

Relying on Your hope, give to Your people vision in place of confusion, and confirmation of noble ideas and good judgment. Help the representatives of Your people to work for the common good, with discerning eyes, contemplative listening, and reasoned decisions.

May they lead this Nation to be people of faith by being attentive to Your commands, to become Your instrument and accomplish Your holy will, both now and forever. 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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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. 1421. An act to amend section 42 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation and shipment of certain species of carp.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minutes on each side of the aisle.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, if this Congress does not act on unemployment benefits today, we risk gambling away those critical benefits for millions of men and women across the country. This couldn't come at a worse time.

Just weeks before Christmas, with winter settling in, thousands of people in my State of Maine will see their benefits run out. Although our economy has shown some signs of improving, far, far too many people are still unable to find a job.

Not only are unemployment benefits an essential part of the safety net, they are critical to keeping the local economy moving. When an unemployed Mainer gets a benefit check, he or she turns around and spends that money in the local community, at the supermarket or the gas station or the hardware store. In fact, every \$1 of unemployment benefits generates \$2 in local economic activity, according to the Department of Labor.

Madam Speaker, for the sake of out-of-work Americans and businesses

across this country, I urge my colleagues in the House to come together and extend unemployment benefits so we can keep our economy moving.

LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS

(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. Madam Speaker, on November 2nd, the American people amplified their voices to command a new way forward. They were tired of lawmakers strangling them with Big Government regulations instead of creating much-needed jobs, and they were tired of excessive borrowing and spending.

Yesterday, the Republican Conference listened to the concerns of Americans and selected leaders who will transform the way business is done in Washington. I believe our team, led by JOHN BOEHNER and ERIC CANTOR, will curb spending, create jobs, and promote opportunities to keep money in the pockets of hardworking taxpayers.

I was particularly thrilled with the election of South Carolina's Tim Scott—from my birthplace of Charleston—to the leadership team. Congressman-elect Scott's business background and proven record of bringing jobs to South Carolina is a great addition to the new Republican leadership. I look forward to working with him to promote limited government and expanded freedom.

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

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

□ 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. HIMES. Madam Speaker, today this House will take up the question of whether we should extend the temporary unemployment insurance programs currently in place. If this House chooses not to do that, 2 million Americans will go into the holidays wondering not whether they will just have a holiday meal, but whether they will have a meal at all.

But let's set aside what is probably the most important thing that each and every one of us should think about, which is those people and how the holidays will look for them. Let's talk history for a second.

The fact is that the Congress of the United States has never cut unemployment insurance benefits when unemployment was anywhere near where it is today. In fact, following the 2001 recession, the Republican-controlled Congress maintained temporary unemployment insurance until the unemployment rate fell below 6 percent, well below where we are today.

Let's do something else. Let's talk economics. Every Member of this House knows that the most important thing we can do right now is to help this economy recover: Jobs.

Financial institutions that look at this stuff tell us that if we allow unemployment insurance to go away, it will have a profoundly negative effect on the economy; a number of banks estimate half a percentage point of GDP. We must renew unemployment benefits.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of American manufacturing. The Make It In America agenda creates jobs in America, reversing the flow of jobs overseas, and rebuilding the manufacturing base in America, providing good jobs for hardworking Americans.

Back home in St. Louis, I had the chance to visit with Lunar Tool, a small business in my district. They shared with me their concerns about the future of manufacturing and that with the right incentives and a level playing field, they can compete with anyone, anywhere. That is what we were sent here to do, to help rebuild our economy, including American manufacturing.

I have and will remain committed to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to give small business and manufacturing the resources they need to rebuild this economy and put Americans back to work.

According to the Alliance for American Manufacturing, every manufacturing job supports four additional jobs in other industries. Now is not the time to stall. We must tap American innovation, that spirit that helped make this country great, to get Ameri-

cans back to work and make things in America.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Six months ago, I said the three most important issues in this country are jobs, jobs, jobs, and I said it 6 months before that. I say it now. But while we are working to restore our economy and put people back to work, we must extend unemployment benefits to the millions of Americans, our fellow citizens, who, through no fault of their own, find themselves unemployed.

In my congressional district of Las Vegas in the State of Nevada, we have been particularly hard hit. People, through no fault of their own, they're not spoiled, they're not lazy, they've worked every day of their lives. They've got no job because the economy is so bad. These are the people, our fellow citizens, our next-door neighbors, our family members that we need to help by extending unemployment benefits.

If we do not do this today, 27,000 Nevada families will have no way to put food on their families' tables. Their children will do without. They will not be able to pay their rent or put food on the table.

We have an obligation to our fellow citizens that we must help them until we get this economy back where it needs to be.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the need to immediately extend unemployment benefits and to make permanent the middle class tax cuts.

To the 14,600 Marylanders and 2 million Americans across the country who are facing the loss of their unemployment benefits, this Member of Congress and Members on this side of the aisle understand who you are and understand what you're facing.

I've stood in an unemployment line. I wasn't lazy, I wasn't not looking for a job, but I needed unemployment benefits. I've stood in a food pantry, and it's humiliating, the entire experience. And so the idea that we are going to allow Americans, hardworking American families who have earned their benefits, to go home at Thanksgiving and not know whether they're going to put a turkey on the table to feed their families, we should be ashamed if we allow that to happen.

I know that I am committed, my colleagues are committed, to make sure

that the American public understands that you need your unemployment benefits and that you want to work, and that you have worked before and that you want to work again.

And so I would say to all of those out there who would choose to not allow Americans to put food on their tables to ask themselves who we are as a country.

□ 1010

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

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

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, as we continue to work our way out of the recession with the help of economic incentives that create jobs and lay the foundation for long-term growth, one of the most important tools is the Make It In America program.

Make It In America creates jobs in America, will help reverse the flow of jobs overseas, and will help rebuild the manufacturing base in America, providing good paying jobs for hardworking Americans. It will also help America lead the world economy in the years ahead.

By creating a national manufacturing strategy, we will ensure a new prosperity by promoting American competitiveness and innovation. We are looking to building a strong 21st century clean-energy economy that will make Americans more secure.

Let's make it in America.

LARGE TAX INCREASES

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, politicians like to talk about cutting deficits. President Obama and his fellow Democrats seem to think tax increases are the only way to lower the deficit. Earlier this year, the President released a budget that called for \$1.8 trillion in tax increases.

In fact, since President Obama took office, Democrats have raised taxes by over \$670 billion and have used nearly all of it to increase the size of government, not reduce the size of deficits. During the same 22 months, the Federal Government has spent \$6.1 trillion.

But now Democrats are about to hand the American taxpayers the largest tax increase in our Nation's history. And House Republicans are determined to stop it. Congress should permanently extend the tax relief for all taxpayers.

Higher taxes are not the way to lower deficits. Washington must cut spending.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF ALONZO R. PENA

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