

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 39 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. RICHARDSON) at noon.

## PRAYER

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

Lord, full of compassion and mercy, draw near to Your people and show us Your saving power.

In times of uncertainty, be our surety.

Guide us in every step to full recovery; that this Nation may be strengthened both in stability and integrity.

May we prove ourselves Your disciples and come to fullness of life in You and with You, 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 her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS

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

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, standing in our way are those who will be holding the middle class hostage in favor of giving added tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires, even though the bonus tax breaks would add \$700 billion to the national debt.

Ninety-eight percent of Americans face a tax increase January 1. For the typical middle class American family, that can mean the loss of \$2,000 next year. The Republicans' demands would mean that those making more than \$1 million a year would receive an average cut of \$100,000 annually, and the middle class would be saddled with \$700

billion in new debt to pay for the multi-million dollar tax cuts for billionaires. But that is the exact policy choice congressional Republicans would have us make, citing concerns about the deficit when it comes to American families, but not when it comes to tax cuts for the wealthiest few.

## THE LAND OF LAWLESS DAYS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the border war continues to escalate. Over 2,200 people have been killed just this year in drug-related violence in Mexico. The battles are spilling over into American communities. The drug cartels are shooting their way across the Rio Grande River. The Federal Government's answer is to put up danger signs: "Warning, Keep Out of Parts of America. It's Just too Dangerous." And now there are reports that the handful of National Guard troops on the borders are going to be reduced. That is no answer.

The National Guard Border Enforcement Act will change all that. It will authorize 10,000 National Guard troops to be put on the border. The troops will be paid for by the Federal Government under the supervision of the Border Of Governors. Now that's a plan we can live with. Otherwise the border war will continue in the valley of the gun and the land of lawless days.

And that's just the way it is.

## TAX RELIEF FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

(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, the recession and mounting job losses that pushed our economy to the brink. Since then, we have made steady progress towards recovery and have laid the groundwork to create new jobs. But during these tough times, we must act decisively to extend tax relief for middle class families.

If Congress does not act soon, 98 percent of Americans will face a tax increase in January 1. For the typical middle class family, this means the loss of \$2,000 next year. Two thousand means an awful lot to middle income families.

Republicans must stop holding these tax cuts for the middle class hostage. I state, Republicans must stop holding these tax cuts for the middle class hostage. Extending the tax cut for the rich will not create jobs and stimulate the economy, but it will add—I state, it will add—\$700 billion to our national deficit—\$700 billion to our national deficit. The time for simply saying "no" is over. Let's work together to create jobs.

## HONORING W. CARY EDWARDS

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

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of New Jersey's great public servants, W. Cary Edwards, who passed away in October at the age of 66.

Over the course of four decades in public life, Cary Edwards served at the highest levels of New Jersey government, including as State assemblyman, chief counsel to Governor Thomas H. Kean, and State attorney general. At the time of his death, he was chairman of the New Jersey State Commission of Investigation.

To me, he was a wonderful mentor and good friend. I had the honor of working under him and learning from him when he served as Governor Kean's chief counsel in the first half of the 1980s. Cary Edwards inspired a whole generation of young people in the field of law and public policy. He will be remembered as an inspiring leader in the State of New Jersey.

To his wonderful wife, Lynn, his daughters and sister and to the entire Edwards family, we extend our deepest sympathy. W. Cary Edwards of Oakland, Bergen County, New Jersey, will be greatly missed by the people of our State.

## HOPE SCHOLARSHIPS

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today the United States received very good news concerning education in America. Nationwide, high school graduation rates rose 2 percent. But even better, in my State of Tennessee, the rates rose 15 percent, the number one increase in the United States of America. Those are statistics from the year 2002 to 2009 as determined by the Promise Institute that Colin Powell headed. And part of that I'm happy to attribute it to, and that is the Tennessee education lottery which was my hallmark legislation as a State senator. The lottery referendum passed in 2002, and the education law went into effect in 2003, giving children the incentive that they can go to college, that they can have a better life. Giving them hope with HOPE scholarships has helped kids make better grades in high school and turn out better graduates in Tennessee.

I appreciate the fact that Tennessee has been recognized today as the country's education grades and scores have gone up, and we need to continue working on this. And if every State gave their students HOPE, we would have a better Nation.

□ 1210

## TAXES

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, time and time again Members from both sides of the aisle have spoken on the need to create jobs and cut government spending. This is what the American people want, and it is past time for Washington to start listening. We have just a few short weeks to take that message to heart and stop the \$3 trillion tax hike set to take effect on January 1. Our country needs real economic growth—which can't happen if Washington doesn't prevent these tax increases on farmers, ranchers and small businesses. We won't solve our fiscal challenges until we cut spending, stop the growth of government and extend the current tax rates. The sooner we can provide certainty to American businesses, the sooner they can get our economy back on track and start hiring again. Over the next few weeks, we have the chance to do what is right for our economy. Let's make it sooner rather than later.

## UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, starting tomorrow, 31,000 of my constituents, 400,000 New Yorkers and 2 million Americans will begin to lose their unemployment benefits. Before Thanksgiving, 143 Republicans and 11 Democrats voted against extending unemployment insurance. With that vote they said the unemployed mother, or the husband who lost his job to outsourcing are the ones who should shoulder the burden of reducing the national debt.

In the same breath, Republicans call on Congress to pass a tax break for the wealthiest Americans—adding hundreds of billions of dollars to the deficit. Republicans say we can't afford unemployment benefits, but they are alone in their logic. Economists widely agree that extending unemployment benefits does far more to stimulate economic growth than tax breaks for millionaires.

Madam Speaker, as we enter the winter season when home heating, gas and other basic living costs will rise, I ask my colleagues to help those American families who are most in need, not those wealthiest who need it the least.

## CONGRATULATING WAYZATA HIGH SCHOOL, MINNESOTA STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Wayzata High

School football team on winning the Minnesota State high school championship this year. Sophomore Chad Underhill ran for a remarkable four touchdowns, leading the top-ranked Trojans to a 31-14 victory over Rosemount. The victory gave Wayzata their fourth State championship.

Wayzata's perfect season included an overtime victory over last year's State champions in the final game of the regular season and a very gutsy victory over Minnetonka, converting a two-point conversion to win the game with no time left on the clock. In the playoffs, the Trojans held their opponents scoreless for 15 straight quarters.

Wayzata's State championship continues an outstanding tradition of football excellence at Wayzata High School. Since the year 2000, Wayzata has now produced an NFL Pro Bowler in running back Marion Barber, a Butkus Award winner in linebacker James Laurinaitis, and four State championships.

Congratulations to the student athletes, the parents, and the coaches at Wayzata High School.

## TAXES AND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, we are now in a situation in this country in which we have the greatest disparity between the very wealthiest people and everybody else that we have had in 100 years. Already this year, the top 1 percent of the income earners in this country have earned 24 percent of total income. Despite all of this, our colleagues on the Republican side want to preserve tax cuts for those very, very fortunate people who have more now as a percentage of the American economy than they have ever had. Meanwhile, they're going to deny 2 million Americans an extension of unemployment benefits which every economist agrees is the best way to create economic activity.

The American people rightly wonder whose side their government is on, and the problem, the juxtaposition of these issues that we face this week, the question of tax cuts for the very wealthiest Americans or extending unemployment benefits for those people who are struggling, is a clear delineation of whose side this government is on.

We're on the side of the American people.

## PLEDGE TO AMERICA

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, as I sit here and listen to my colleagues across the aisle, I want to remind them that the American people showed on November 2 that they're not buying the class warfare that our friends are still trying

to sell. We're a month away from tax increases that will hit every American taxpayer. The Obama-Pelosi-Reid spending spree that has racked up \$6.1 trillion in Federal spending in just 22 months is about to hand the American people a massive tax increase.

Democrats have majorities in both houses of Congress until January, and there's time for them to do something to stop the \$3.9 trillion tax increase. But so far all we're seeing on the agenda is more spending.

Republicans are ready to work in a bipartisan way to stop these tax increases and to cut spending. But if the President and congressional Democrats don't take action before the end of the year to stop all the tax hikes and cut spending, the new House majority will in January. That's our Pledge to America, and we intend to keep it.

## TAX INCREASES LOOM

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, 98 percent of American families face a tax increase on January 1, 2011. That's right; 98 percent. Democrats are prepared this week to prevent that from happening. Our recovery demands keeping as much income as possible in the hands of those who need it the most—America's middle class. By extending the middle class tax cuts, we can protect American families and strengthen our economy.

But with a national debt already exceeding \$13 trillion, we simply cannot afford to borrow \$700 billion needed to cut taxes for the 2 percent richest families in America. It is also important to remember that the richest Americans would still receive substantial tax cuts on the first \$250,000 of their income.

This is not class warfare. I urge my colleagues to support permanent tax cuts for America's middle class. Don't hold the tax cuts hostage to help 2 percent of America's families.

## FIVE NEW AMERICAN FREEDOMS

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

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, earlier this morning I joined my congressional staff on a tour of our Capitol. What a wonderful place this is. And if there's any lesson we should learn from our Capitol, from our Nation's history, it is that our freedom is ours for only as long as we can hang onto it. It wasn't that long ago that the Democrats led Americans into five new essential American freedoms.

We are now free from discrimination due to any preexisting medical condition. We're free from cancellation by any insurance corporation just because you get sick. We're free from going broke just because a child has an accident or becomes seriously ill. We're