



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2010

No. 25

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,
February 25, 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, our strength and our salvation, touch us with the flame of Your love. Let it burn out self-interest, that our heartfelt dedication to public service of Your people may be transformed into deeper commitment.

Free this Congress to be Your sterile instrument to heal this Nation and restore its vitality.

May our accomplishments give You alone, Lord, all the glory, 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 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.

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.

CONGRESS IS BEGINNING TO WORK TOGETHER

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, the American people have demanded that Congress begin working together to solve this Nation's problems, and we have done just that.

On Monday, our friends across the Capitol, in the other body as we say, passed their version of the jobs bill by a vote of 70-28. We, in this House, have already passed a different version, and yesterday we passed by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 406-19 a long overdue elimination of the anti-trust exemption that health insurers have enjoyed for decades. We hope our friends in the other body will join us in a similarly bipartisan vote to send that bill to the President.

And today a bipartisan group of congressional leaders meets at the White House to discuss ways to bring down the cost of health care for every family and every business in America. While we're not yet finished, and there's clearly much work yet to be done, Congress this week has made great strides in moving forward on the issues that are of most concern to the American people.

IN RECOGNITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month to recognize many important contributions African Americans have made to our Nation. We especially honor the extraordinary people who continue to shape our community and our great Nation. The Omaha area is blessed with thousands of successful and talented African Americans, and today I would like to recognize four individuals: Frank Hayes, Phyllis Hicks, Dr. Mary Clinkscale and Dr. Herb Rhodes.

Frank Hayes is a CPA who owns his own business. He is also a founding member and the first president of the 100 Black Men organization, which is dedicated to improving the lives of youth.

Since 1967 Phyllis Hicks has run the Salem Stepping Drill Team and continues to be a volunteer and chief fundraiser for this group. Through her outreach, she has helped many youth overcome obstacles.

Mary Clinkscale, Dr. Mary Clinkscale, or Dr. C, as she's commonly referred to, is the administrator of the Great Beth-el Temple where she has planned, produced and directed more than 250 theatrical productions and presentations, including a performance to prelude The Tuskegee Airmen.

Dr. Herb Rhodes is a lifetime member of the Omaha business community. He was featured in 1975 in Ebony magazine which highlighted successful African Americans who were leading the way in business.

OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

(Mr. WALZ 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. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the House, the Senate and the President for having the courage to attack the important issue of health care. I also want to recognize that the legislation passed by this House in November takes a huge leap forward in addressing the issue of paying for value in health care.

The current payment system rewards volume and quantity rather than quality and outcomes. We waste hundreds of billions of dollars every year on tests and procedures that do not improve patient health. We need to change the incentive system. We need doctors and hospitals to work together to coordinate care based around patient need.

In my district in southern Minnesota, the Mayo Clinic has done exactly that. There are other institutions around the country that also provide high-quality, low-cost, efficient care. This is the one issue that both sides can agree on.

Yesterday in Roll Call, led by the Mayo Clinic, the Chamber of Commerce, Cleveland Clinic and other insurers, they stated: reforming health care in America will not become easier with the passage of time. We encourage all stakeholders, government officials, patients, families, insurers, doctors and nurses to work together to pass reforms that provide quality, affordable health care for Americans. This is the path to true health care reform that will strengthen our economy, take care of America's families, and grow jobs.

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE 1; CANADIAN HEALTH CARE ZERO

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Premier of Newfoundland, Danny Williams, snuck into the United States recently for some stealth health care. Now, why would the Canadian Premier come to the United States for heart surgery? Because his life depended on it.

"My heart, my choice, my health" he proclaimed. When it came down to it, he didn't trust his life to Canada's government-run health care system. Imagine that.

The Canadian Premier said after the very successful American heart surgery, "I did not sign away my right to get the best possible health care for myself when I entered politics."

The American people have said they don't want to be forced into signing their lives away with government-run health care either. When life and death decisions are put in the hands of government bureaucrats, it's unhealthy for everybody.

Just ask the Canadian Premier. When it came down to a matter of his own life or death decision, the Canadian Premier chose private health care and American heart surgeons over the Canadian nationalized system.

Sounds like "private health care for me, but not for thee."

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PETER STRAUSS

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

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Mr. Speaker, last week Cincinnati lost a committed public servant and a valued friend when Pete Strauss passed away.

Pete served on the Cincinnati City Council from 1981 until 1993, serving part of that time as the city's vice mayor. More than just a politician, Pete was a leader, a person who truly embodied the virtues of leadership. He sought office not out of personal ambition, but from a desire to improve the lives of those in our community. He served Cincinnati, not with a political or partisan agenda, but to get results for the people and city he represented.

When I was a young man with a growing interest in government, I and many others like me looked up to Pete Strauss as the kind of public servant we have since aspired to become.

Pete's character was beyond question, and his bravery was exhibited in his courageous fight against Parkinson's. He will be dearly missed by his wife, Kitty, his sons, Mike and Matt, and all of the city that he loved and served for so long. Thank you, Pete.

AMERICAN CONSERVATION AND CLEAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE ACT

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in today's news, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Ben Bernanke, warned that huge deficits and borrowing place us at risk for high inflation and high interest rates.

Add this to the high unemployment, borrowing from China and buying huge amounts of oil from OPEC, and we have to recognize we've got a mess on our hands.

But there is a solution. We can create jobs and grow our economy without raising taxes. It is the bipartisan American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act, H.R. 2227. This bill uses the trillions of dollars from oil and gas exploration off our coast to drive conservation and new technologies to improve energy efficiency; develop clean-energy generation and infrastructure; rebuild America's inefficient transportation system; and clean our air and water. Not only will we be creating a clean energy future, but creating millions of good-paying jobs for years to come.

The news tells us of how things are, but that's not how it has to be. Join me in supporting the American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act.

HUMANITARIAN AID FOR HAITI

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, despite the economic pain felt by so many American families, we've seen something truly amazing in the extent to which Americans have come together to address the tragedy of our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

I'm proud to stand here this morning to highlight two organizations based in my district who have done wonderful work. Save the Children, Westport, Connecticut, run by Charlie McCormack, has 50 people on the ground that have touched half a million Haitians with medical, food and other sorts of aid. Americare is based in Stanford, Connecticut, and run by Curt Welling. The earthquake had barely stopped before they had teams on the ground providing medical relief; and they have pledged \$50 million to rebuild the Haitian health care system.

I rise today to highlight, to honor and to thank these two wonderful organizations and to urge them to keep up the good work. Thank you, Save the Children, thank you, Americare, for all that you have done.

HONORING RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION'S CHAPLAIN OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chaplain Phillip "Endel" Lee, Jr., the 2010 recipient of the Reserve Officers Association Chaplain of the Year Award, who is currently serving in my district.

I also congratulate him and thank him for delivering the opening prayer here on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday, February 9, 2010. His prayer was powerful and moving and reminded us that we are "Americans promoting freedom, responsible for our actions, and dedicated to the principles that made us free."

Chaplain Lee has always been a beacon of hope to those facing immense tragedies. He rescued survivors off rooftops during Hurricane Katrina and prayed at Ground Zero with the families of victims of September 11.

I am proud to have Chaplain Lee serving in my congressional district. I thank him for his leadership in the spiritual rebuilding of Orleans and Jefferson Parishes, and I speak for all of us here when I thank him and his family's service to and sacrifice for this great Nation.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, the people I represent in Connecticut, those who buy their health