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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. POE of Texas).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 3, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TED POE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Lord God, so caught up in the problems and responsibilities of human life and the common good of the Nation, Congress takes a moment to turn to You.

Our selective memory recalls only pieces of the past. With limited vision of the future, we glimpse only some of the consequences of our actions or our failure to act today.

But in You is found the beginning and the end of everything. Be present to us in this our day.

As we try to handle as much as we are able, free us by renewed faith in Your guidance and goodness. In this ever-changing world, help us to place our trust in You, Heavenly Father. For You manage all natural events and human affairs to achieve Your holy will for us and all Your children 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 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.

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.

GAO STUDY: BILLIONS OF DOLLARS GOING TO WASTE

(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, Damian Paletta of the Wall Street Journal reported on the study by the Government Accountability Office revealing bloated budgets in government programs. The study examined a number of Federal agencies and found duplicative overlaps leading to wasteful spending of the taxpayers' money. The GAO found inefficiencies with 82 Federal programs to improve teacher quality, 56 programs to help people gain a working knowledge of finances, and 47 Federal programs for job training and employment. The study concluded that the effectiveness of many of these programs has not been assessed.

At a time when the President proposes trillion-dollar deficits, the Fed-

eral Government cannot afford to be throwing away the people's money on wasteful programs. Efficiency should be at the forefront of all Federal spending to promote small-business job creation. I commend the efforts of Senator TOM COBURN of Oklahoma for being a driving force behind the study to uncover the overlapping of these programs.

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

REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, creating jobs and strengthening the economy must be the number one priority in Congress. Unemployment across the Nation remains far too high. In my district, unemployment still remains near 14 percent. Yet instead of focusing on creating jobs, the Republican budget plan passed last month would cause 700,000 Americans to lose their jobs. They will struggle to put food on the table.

This budget is an assault on middle- and low-income families. Thousands of teachers will be laid off, job training programs across the country will be eliminated, Pell Grants will be slashed for low-income college students, and investment in education will decrease.

And now the Republicans are proposing yet another tax on middle class families to pay for the 1099 reporting fix.

I urge my Republican friends to stand with the American middle class families and break free from the right-wing extremists. Let's work together on a real budget that creates jobs and responsibly lowers the deficit.

□ 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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FOREIGN CRIMINALS WON'T GO HOME

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are thousands of foreign criminals in the United States prisons. Up to 19 percent of our jails house criminal aliens. These do not include immigration violations either. They have been convicted of everything from rape, robbery and murder. Then, after they serve their sentence, when we try to deport them, many of their native countries won't take them back.

The number of foreign criminals in this situation is staggering. There are over 140,000 of these outlaws that have been sent home but won't go back. So what do we do? By law they get a get-out-of-jail-free card to live in the United States because we cannot permanently keep these misfits in jail.

The worst offending countries include Cuba, China, India, Jamaica and Pakistan. Maybe we should stop foreign aid altogether or refuse to issue legal visas to these countries that refuse to take back their criminals. There must be unpleasant consequences for countries that refuse to take their convicted nationals back home.

And that's just the way it is.

THE PATIENCE OF AMERICA IS WEARING THIN, AND SO IS MINE

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

Mr. PENCE. Two weeks ago, after 90 hours of debate, House Republicans in this majority passed a long-term funding resolution that found more than \$100 billion in savings off the President's budget. It defunded their government takeover of health care. It even denied all Federal funding to Planned Parenthood of America.

But while House Republicans have done the people's business, at this moment, Mr. Speaker, the Senate has virtually done nothing except find a way to fund the government for another 2 weeks, and the White House just appointed a few negotiators yesterday—just 2 short days before government funding would have run out to begin with.

Look, the patience of the American people is wearing thin, and so is mine. Our Nation is facing a fiscal crisis of epic proportions—\$1.65 trillion in deficits this year, \$14 trillion national debt. The time to put our fiscal house in order is now. No more delays. No more kicking the cans.

Let's have the debate. Let's hash it out. Let's defund ObamaCare. Let's defund Planned Parenthood, and let's use this moment to have this fight to make a downpayment on restoring fiscal sanity to Washington, D.C.

PORT OF SAVANNAH

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

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of America's ports, especially the one in Savannah, Georgia.

After spending last week touring the rural areas of my district, it's hard to overstate the Savannah port's importance, even for areas outside of Savannah.

The Port of Savannah—the fastest growing port in the Nation and the second largest on the east coast—supports more than 295,000 jobs and contributes over \$15 billion in income to Georgia's economy. It's also a major economic hub for a 26-State region that stretches deep into the Midwestern part of the country.

Farmers, manufacturers, and miners ship product in and out of the port. And for thousands of small businesses around the country, the Savannah port is their sole access to the rest of the world.

Let's make sure our goods can reach international markets and get America back to work. I urge my colleagues to invest in our ports so that we can compete in today's economy and the economy of the future.

DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, on February 23, the Justice Department announced it would no longer defend the Defense of Marriage Act. The Defense of Marriage Act was a bipartisan effort to preserve the sanctity of marriage that, among other things, defined marriage as a legal union between a man and a woman.

The Attorney General and President have independently determined that this is unconstitutional. Anyone who's taken a civics class or a government course will tell you that's not the President's or the Justice Department's job. It's the Supreme Court's job. This is an express violation of the separation of powers principle found in the Constitution, and it presents a dangerous precedent for future administrations to follow.

Regardless of where you stand on this issue, whether marriage is a biblically sanctioned union between a man and a woman or otherwise, there could be no doubt that this power grab by the President and the Justice Department is not what our Founding Fathers intended when they created the checks and balances system of our Constitution.

The Obama administration, if it disagrees with a law passed by Congress and signed by a previous President, it should use the legislative process to change that law—not usurp the power of another branch of government.

This is not a gay rights issue. This is a separation of powers issue.

HONORING THE NOGALES APACHES ON WINNING THE ARIZONA STATE HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION 4A-1 BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Nogales Apaches on winning the Arizona State High School Division 4A-1 basketball championship.

The Apaches' victory over Scottsdale Saguro to win the title on Saturday came after their upset victory of the top-ranked Glendale Kellis team on Thursday. This win marked the first time in 28 years that a Nogales school has reached a championship game in any sport. So this is a particularly gratifying victory.

Coach Ricardo De La Riva deserves a great deal of credit for leading his team through the season, through the upset victories, and through the long process of building a successful and cohesive team.

This is a group that truly plays with heart. It represents the best of the community, as shown by the seven busloads of fans who traveled for several hours from Nogales to Glendale for the championship game.

As Coach De La Riva told the Arizona Daily Star after the game: "This is a true team. We don't have stars. We don't have egos. We just play." His team reminds us of what scholastic sport is all about.

I join with everyone else in congratulating the school, the team, and the community of Nogales in Santa Cruz. Congratulations.

WE NEED ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, we have severe economic problems in this country. I think everybody understands that.

But there is an economic problem staring us in the face that people may not really be aware of yet, and that is the cost of energy. We're not drilling here, we're not drilling in the ANWR, off the coast of the Continental Shelf, not in the Gulf of Mexico. We're not doing anything to become energy independent.

And right now in the northern tier of Africa and in the Middle East, there's all kinds of conflict. And if the Straits of Hormuz, if the Persian Gulf or the Suez Canal are blocked in any way, we could lose 30 percent or more of our energy. The lights in this place, the gasoline that we buy would be maybe double what it is today. And the impact of this economy would be unbelievable,