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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 14, 2011, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

From the depths, O Lord, You call out for us to be one in mind and one in heart. In an ever-changing world, the focus of our prayer, our energies, and our concern can easily shift day by day. With all our diversity, even united we stand before You very vulnerable.

Today, we pray for our families, friends, and constituents out in the Pacific and its surrounding coasts. Be with these island people who touch the Members and Delegates of this Congress who have represented them always, even in their hour of need.

From our depths, O Lord, we cry out: Have mercy, O Lord. Have mercy. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches from each side of the aisle.

FOREIGN KILLERS DON'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, Ashton Cline-McMurry, a 16-year-old kid with cerebral palsy, was walking home from a football game in Massachusetts when he was ambushed, beaten, stabbed, and murdered.

One of the killers, Loeun Heng, an illegal from Cambodia, was sent to prison. Ashton's family was promised this murderer would then be deported back to Cambodia after serving his sentence. But he never was. Why? Because Cambodia and other nations refuse to take back their convicted felons from the United States. So the assassin, by U.S. law, has been released on the streets of America. He is still illegally here.

Mr. Speaker, there are over 140,000 criminal aliens in the United States, like Heng, that have been sent to prison, ordered deported, and their native nation stalls, delays, and eventually refuses to take these outlaws back. So they are running loose in the United States.

The worst offending nations are Cuba, China, India, Pakistan, and Jamaica.

The United States should consider cutting aid and stopping visas to a na-

tion that won't take their criminals back. And maybe that will get their attention, and they will take their people home.

And that's just the way it is.

THE REDUCE UNNECESSARY SPENDING ACT OF 2011

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Reduce Unnecessary Spending Act of 2011.

Many decisions made over the past decade on both sides of the aisle contributed to the Nation's untenable debt. The Reduce Unnecessary Spending Act provides another deficit-reduction tool to eliminate unnecessary spending. It grants the President expedited rescission authority to create another opportunity to reduce spending and provides a strong incentive for Congress to work together to trim unnecessary spending and dedicates all spending cuts to deficit reduction.

Expedited rescission is a well-known concept with bipartisan support. The Budget Committee's current chairman, Mr. RYAN, introduced expedited rescission in the 110th Congress. Senator JOHN MCCAIN and Senator THOMAS CARPER have introduced similar legislation this year, with 32 bipartisan cosponsors.

Exercising fiscal responsibility requires strong discipline and a commitment to cutting unnecessary spending. Expedited recession provides another layer of spending cuts and another opportunity for deficit reduction.

□ 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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I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the legislation.

ENERGY IS JOBS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, you have heard it said many times: Energy is jobs. Energy is jobs.

We have a wealth of resources in our Nation: oil, natural gas, and coal. Yet we see gas prices rising to unbelievable rates here in America, approaching, in many places, in excess of \$4 a gallon. And what are we doing about it? Not very much. We've got a permitting process that is failing America. And we have an opportunity today to show America just how bad that problem is.

Later today, I'm going to be introducing a bill called the ROAD to Jobs Act. It stands for regulatory openness, accountability, and disclosure. And we are going to show the American people, through a report that is going to be required from the Council on Environmental Quality, just how flawed that permitting process is, requiring them to show the permits that are in cycle and what the economic implications are of not authorizing permits to go after America's resources.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND SPENDING CUTS

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Last week, we saw real signs of economic recovery when the unemployment rate dropped below 9 percent for the first time in 2 years. This is encouraging news, but we still have a long way to go to promote private sector growth.

The Republicans are digging their heels in on billions of dollars of reckless cuts that threaten our economic growth and put 700,000 American jobs at risk. We agree that spending cuts are necessary to reduce the deficit. This is not about whether to cut or not. This is about where to cut, how much to cut, and how fast to cut. The Republican agenda threatens our core obligations to our seniors, to our safety, and to our future.

We need disciplined budgeting. We need targeted cuts that won't hurt our economy. And we need strategic investments to make America competitive for future generations. Republicans are putting partisan politics ahead of American priorities. Instead of enacting job-destroying cuts, we should be focusing on job creation and sound budgeting.

Enough is enough. It's time to get serious and pass a responsible spending plan that grows the economy and invests in the future.

COMMENDING THE WORK OF THE U.S.-INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL

(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, I rise to commend the work of the U.S.-India Business Council. Founded in 1975, the primary mission of the USIBC is to strengthen bilateral investments and trade between our two great nations. America and India now share \$50 billion in annual trade that mutually benefits both countries. Our two democracies—the world's largest and the world's oldest—have held joint military exercises, increased two-way tourism, and have engaged in bilateral cooperation on many fronts, including the global war on terrorism.

Thanks to the leadership of President Ron Somers, the USIBC, hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, has grown to 400 member companies creating jobs in America. Indian businesses have invested billions across the Nation, including Mittal Steel in Georgetown, South Carolina. For 36 years, USIBC has opened the doors of American businesses in India, creating jobs in both countries as strategic partners.

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

I cherish the memory of Addison Morton Graves, who passed away 50 years ago on March 8.

□ 0910

BICYCLING ADVOCATES OFFER POSITIVE MESSAGE OF HOPE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hundreds of cyclists, parents, business people, and especially bike industry leaders who flooded Capitol Hill this week with a message of bike partisanship. They were addressing the issues found on the front page every day in our newspapers about what would happen if we made it easier to use the most efficient form of urban transportation ever designed. It would make a huge difference to the health of our families, dealing with traffic congestion and air pollution, and reduce the tyranny of our addiction to oil if we burned more calories and less fossil fuel.

It is also big business. Billions of dollars are made from the sales, service, manufacturing, and bike tourism. And most important, it makes our communities more livable, our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

Thank you, cycling advocates, for your positive message of hope. I hope that it found receptive ears here on Capitol Hill.

BURDEN OF BUDGET CUTS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, we are engaged in a process now and over the next week to decide how we are going to fund the government for the next few months and for the next year. Republicans have already decided where they want to put the burden of the cuts that we all know we have to make in the budget. They want to put them on the least fortunate of our country.

Let me read something from The Washington Post this week written by Harold Meyerson. Mark Whitehouse of the Wall Street Journal looked at how businesses were dividing up the pie 18 months into every previous recovery since 1947 and found that 58 percent of their increases in productivity trickled down to their workers in increased wages. What has happened today is the other way around: Only 6 percent of productivity gains have gone to our newly more productive workers. In other words, our people, our working families have already paid the price.

What have the corporations and businesses done with that profit that they have made? Mostly, they are buying their stock back. They are not hiring people or investing in research. So as we decide where we are going to tighten the belt as we move forward on our budget, let's make sure that we tighten it on the fat cats as well as the people who have already been strangled.

OPPOSING EDUCATION SPENDING CUTS

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to sit and not say anything about how we are damaging our future. We cannot consider the kind of cuts that are proposed to our future and think that this country will be prosperous. This plan eliminates the funding for math and science partnerships. We must make strategic investments in STEM education in order to maintain a competitive workforce.

This plan eliminates Even Start, Reading is Fundamental, and Striving Readers. It cuts more than \$1 billion from Head Start. This represents a massive setback for youth who are most in need. This plan is especially damaging for our youngest children just beginning their academic careers. These children will fall behind before they even get started. The Reading is Fundamental program has provided books for young children whose families cannot afford them.

Mr. Speaker, we must not allow our country to continue to fall behind in competitiveness.