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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CAMPBELL).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 14, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN CAMPBELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

CONDOLENCES TO THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for 1 minute.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I rise today to speak on behalf of the people of the Third Congressional District of South Carolina to express our condolences to the people of Japan in the wake of the 8.9 magnitude earthquake that struck off the northeast coast of Japan this past Friday and the devastating tsunami that claimed the lives of thousands of people.

I have visited Japan twice, once back in 2007 and again in 2009 when I took my oldest son. It's a beautiful country; and I know the people of Japan to be a resilient, generous, and hardworking people. In this time of inexpressible suffering and need, please know that the people of South Carolina and the people of America stand with the citizens of Japan.

May God bless them, and may God continue to bless America.

FUNDING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the year-long continuing resolution the Republicans in this House passed last month on a straight party-line vote represents misguided values. House Republicans sought to cut an arbitrary amount of funding and did so with a meat ax, indiscriminately attacking worthwhile investments, giving no concern to the tremendously negative impact this irresponsible attack will have on our economy. In the race for ever-increasing and arbitrary cuts, they have demonstrated they know the cost of everything and the value of nothing.

Moody's Analytics said that this approach would cost the Nation 700,000 jobs. The Economic Policy Institute said 800,000 jobs. Goldman Sachs said the long-term Republican plan would lower economic growth by 2 percent while increasing unemployment by 1 percent. Even the conservative Club for Growth called it a "mistake," stating that "cutting spending is important, but economic growth is even more important."

The need for fiscal discipline, of course, is clear. We must return to a long-term path of fiscal responsibility to reduce deficits, but we must not sac-

rifice our values and our future all in the name of deficit reduction.

Where Americans value health protections, the Republican CR slashes funding for food safety inspection, community health centers, women's health programs, and the National Institutes of Health.

Where Americans value national security, the Republican plan eliminates funding for local police officers and firefighters protecting our communities and slashes funding for nuclear nonproliferation, air marshals, and Customs and Border Protection. Where Americans value the sacrifice our men and women in uniform make to protect us, the Republican plan slashes funding to assist homeless veterans.

Where Americans value a focus on job creation, the Republican plan slashes funds for job training and dramatically reduces educational support. Where Americans value transportation improvements, the Republican plan slashes funding for infrastructure improvements and eliminates the Federal commitment to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

Where Americans value clean air and water, the Republican plan destroys the Nation's long-fought environment protections. In fact, according to the organization Republicans for Environmental Protection, the Republican plan represents an unprecedented assault on America's environment.

The Republican plan defunds the landmark Chesapeake Bay restoration effort, a joint effort of localities, States, and the Federal Government to protect and preserve America's largest estuary. In fact, that plan goes further and repeals longstanding Clean Water Act health protections, such as the ability to enact standards for arsenic pollution, lead pollution, and acid mine drainage in water supplies.

The Republican plan also repeals much of the Clean Air Act, including the EPA's ability to protect us from

□ 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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mercury pollution, soot, and greenhouse gases. In fact, the CR even reveals the ability to monitor and track greenhouse gases, presumably because if you are not allowed to verify a potential problem, it must not exist.

Where Americans value energy independence, the Republican plan endangers our security. Through the existing Clean Air Act, we are reducing our Nation's dependence on foreign oil through improved fuel efficiency standards. An agreement to improve fuel efficiency by 30 percent by 2016 will result in American car owners saving \$3,000 per vehicle and will reduce the Nation's oil dependence by 77 billion gallons of gasoline for vehicles produced from 2012 through 2016. This efficiency improvement will keep \$9.9 billion from being sent to OPEC countries like Libya and Iran unless the Republican plan succeeds in overturning those efforts.

Mr. Speaker, the continuing resolution passed 2 weeks ago is not responsible. It sacrifices our Nation's values, our health, our security, our economy, our transportation needs, our environmental plans, and hundreds of thousands of jobs.

But now we have a chance to work together in a bipartisan fashion—Republicans and Democrats working with the Senate—to reduce the deficit and in a conscientious manner. Let's work together to reach a compromise on funding the Federal Government that addresses the Nation's debt while preserving American values.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Eternal God, before Whom all creation bows, and the Father of all humanity, another week of life and testing unfolds before us.

With the breath of spring upon us, may Congress be given fresh vision on how to address the needs of Your people and, as a good steward of national resources, be delivered from alien forces and the tyranny of money.

By respecting the goodness of Your creation and recognizing Your image in each person, make this Nation an instrument of peace and an ambassador of reconciliation in Your holy name.

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.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BURGESS 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.

CALLING ON TRANSPARENCY FROM THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we're coming up on the 1-year anniversary of the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

President Obama, during the 2008 Presidential campaign, repeatedly promised that this would be an open and transparent process. He acknowledged the people's right to know. In fact, he said over and over again, "not negotiating behind closed doors but bringing all parties together so that the American people can see what the choices are."

"So that the American people can see what the choices are."

But instead of doing that, in May of 2009, a secret meeting of six special interest groups down at the White House. In September of that year, I began sending letters. In January of 2010, I filed a resolution of inquiry so we could see what went on in those meetings and what the deal was. But, unfortunately, we were shut down.

This year, now under new leadership of our Speaker and Chairman UPTON of

the Energy and Commerce Committee, once again we're asking the White House to voluntarily provide us that information. And what did they respond? They said it would be too "vast and expensive." So they acknowledged the information is there; they just don't want to go get it.

Is this the type of transparency that the President campaigned on? I think not.

It's time for the White House to make those documents available to those of us in the House who have been asking for them for almost 2 years' time. Transparency is, indeed, a two-way street.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DAVID BRODER, DEAN OF THE WASHINGTON PRESS CORPS

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, back in 1979, after I had narrowly lost my first election to Congress, I came to Washington, and I went to The Washington Post and I had the opportunity to meet David Broder, the dean of the Washington press corps.

Mr. Broder very kindly took me on a tour of The Washington Post newsroom, spent about a half hour with me, and that meeting left an indelible impression on me.

I read the words of the writer and commentator Mark Shields, who the other day said that David Broder, who, as we all know, passed away last week, never fell victim to the disease of self-importance.

I heard that he spent a great deal of time with young reporters, but here I was a young defeated congressional candidate, and he spent time with me. When I had the chance to go on to the Rules Committee, he said, Well, it's a great opportunity you'll find, but remember that committee up there is very small by design. It's to keep us and the press corps out.

Well, I have to say that Mr. Broder, over the years, provided me with friendship and a lot of great advice. His performances before the gridiron were legendary, and I know that he's someone who will be missed all the way across the board.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with the Broder family. And the press corps is a lesser place for his passing.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMPBELL). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.