

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 59 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 at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: With the Psalmist we pray:

Those who put their trust in You, Lord God, are like the mountains that cannot be shaken. They seem to absorb all the turmoil and controversy. They stand tall and strong forever.

Just as the mountains, as well as the depths of the sea coasts, surround this Nation, so, Lord, Your love holds Your people now and forever.

You will not allow the power of lies and half truths to dominate the air breathed in by the just, nor will You allow fear to paralyze their hands when it comes to defending what is right.

Do good, Lord, for those who seek the common good and are openhearted. Drive away those who are so deceived they create only indecision and dissension among the virtuous.

Give us peace, Lord, now and forever. 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.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. 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.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CICILLINE 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

GOP AGENDA OF MISGUIDED PRIORITIES

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Members: Ignoring the facts, the experts, political reality, and the best interests of the American people, the Republican leadership continues to embrace a spending plan already rejected by the Senate that would destroy 700,000 jobs and derail the economic recovery.

The Republican spending plan is a doctrine of misplaced priorities. They want to lay off teachers, cut Pell Grants, slash programs for homeless veterans, and reduce Head Start, among other shortsighted and harmful cuts.

Incomes and consumer spending increased in February, helping to expand the Nation's economy. First time jobless claims decreased by 5,000 a week. The total number of people receiving benefits fell to the lowest level in 3 years, due, in part, to increased hiring.

The February jobs report shows a gain of 192,000 jobs, a significant employment increase that marks the 12th straight month of private sector growth and a drop in the unemployment rate to 8.9 percent, the lowest level in almost 2 years.

Let's don't hurt our fragile recovery by the Republican majority shutting down the government.

FOREIGN POLICY AND CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, we are in the midst of a foreign policy and constitutional crisis. The administration has committed our Nation to a war against Libya in violation of the Constitution of the United States.

The administration has said they do not have full information about the rebels they are assisting. But it is clear that for the last 30 years, U.S. intelligence has had a relationship with prominent elements within the Libyan opposition.

Further, The New York Times today reports that elements of the opposition may be linked to al Qaeda, and that we are considering arming them.

When it comes to the war in Libya, the administration has subverted Congress and the United States Constitution. Tomorrow, I will present to Congress a definitive 1-hour response to the administration's Libyan war in the form of facts and questions. Congress

must challenge violations of our constitutional principles relating to war and peace.

The critical issue today is not the defense of Libyan democracy but the defense of American democracy.

RECOGNIZING PROVIDENCE VA MEDICAL CENTER

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Providence Veterans Affairs Medical Center for their outstanding service to the heroic men and women who serve in our Armed Forces.

The Providence VA Medical Center is an award-winning health care facility in Rhode Island providing personalized outpatient and inpatient health care to our veterans. Recently the Providence VA received the National Center for Patient Safety's 2010 Cornerstone Recognition Program Bronze Award for successfully providing high quality health services to our veterans.

The men and women who serve in the Armed Forces put their lives on the line every day to protect the freedoms that we enjoy here at home. We owe our troops, veterans, and their families our utmost gratitude and respect, in addition to exceptional medical care for their great sacrifices on our behalf.

I commend the Providence VA Medical Center for their excellent service to our veterans. Congratulations on your achievements, and thank you for your commitment to Rhode Island's veterans.

LOAN MODIFICATION CRISIS

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, last year, I heard from a single father from Haverhill, Massachusetts, who put his life savings into purchasing a home. After a reduction in his salary forced him to modify his mortgage, his servicer stopped returning his phone calls, lost his documents, and refused to provide him with any information to help him modify his loan.

He wrote to me saying, "My bank told me that they had not received the application documents I had sent at the beginning of the modification process. It was ridiculous, as I have the original documents on file with the fax receipt. Nonetheless, I faxed everything again."

Over the course of an entire year, he called and re-sent his documents, speaking with multiple people, none of whom could give him an answer or even find that he had a modification in place.

This story represents just one of the many that I have heard from constituents. We should be doing far more to ensure that these lenders are playing by the rules.

Instead, my Republican colleagues have sought to terminate every step taken by the Federal Government to help homeowners like my constituent, leaving them at the mercy of unscrupulous lenders such as these.

□ 1210

JAPAN

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, in the past few weeks we have seen the devastating images of the massive earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

As someone who lived in Japan, it is hard to believe entire towns and cities in this beautiful country have been destroyed, and I am heartsick for the more than 9,800 lives that have been lost. I can only imagine the grief and shock felt by the families and friends of the victims, and my heart goes out to them.

I am grateful that San Diego's own USS *Reagan* departed for Japan on March 11 to help with relief efforts. With the more than 17,500 people still missing and more than 245,000 people in evacuation centers, daunting challenges lie ahead.

Madam Speaker, I urge this body to stand in solidarity with the Japanese people and reassure our ally that America is ready and committed to giving our partner the support needed to cope with this horrible disaster.

IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, America's broken immigration system continues to wreak havoc in communities across the country.

Real families with real children live in fear that someone they love may be torn away from them. No child deserves to grow up without the love of their parents. We must bring an end to the separation of families. We must all remember that immigrants are not our enemies. They are our neighbors, our classmates, our fellow churchgoers. They are part of the American fabric.

Over the coming month, I look forward to working with CHC and advocates across the Nation to speak on the human impact of our broken immigration system.

Immigration is not just a Latino issue. It is an American issue that impacts all of us. Let's work together to stop this hateful rhetoric and pass real immigration reform.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

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

Mr. Sires. Madam Speaker, I rise today to promote early childhood pro-

grams, which are an investment not only in our children, but in our country's future.

In 1990, the Child Care and Development Block Grant was created for low-income parents who are either working or in school. If the proposed cuts to Child Care and Development Block Grants are signed into law, 150,000 families nationwide will lose child care subsidies. In my home State, the annual cost for child care for an infant can be nearly \$12,000 a year and the annual cost for a toddler can be as much as \$9,000.

Head Start is another vital service that has provided education, health, nutritional and social services for 3- and 4-year-olds since 1965. If the cuts proposed in H.R. 1 become reality, 218,220 children nationwide will lose access to Head Start, and approximately 55,000 Head Start employees will lose their jobs; 3,719 children in New Jersey would be left without access to Head Start, and we already have 9,500 children on the waiting list.

I ask Congress to continue debate in support of the bill.

CUTS TO JOBS AND SERVICES

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

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the loss of jobs and services in America.

So far, this Republican-controlled Congress has had nearly 100 hearings, but not a single one has addressed the real issue in this country, which is jobs. Republican attempts to cut more than 50 percent—50 percent—of funding for Head Start, which will affect more than 200,000 children, and their proposal to cut 62 percent from Community Development Block Grants have hurt our communities. They are depriving hardworking Americans of services they need.

According to the latest Bloomberg national poll, when given five choices of the most important issues facing this Nation, 43 percent of all Americans picked unemployment and jobs as number one. Reducing the deficit and spending came in a distant second at 29 percent.

Madam Speaker, the American people want leadership that will create jobs and jump-start our Nation's economy.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF SAN RAMON VALLEY

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of Soroptimist International of San Ramon Valley for their work to improve the lives of women in our community.

This is the final week of the Women's History Month; and, as such, it is fit-

ting that we recognize an organization that is helping the next generation of women to succeed and make history.

The Soroptimists of San Ramon Valley recently held a conference for the 7th year in a row to help young women gain self-confidence and develop important life skills. The event included presentations from speakers and interactive workshops that promote leadership and help the participants to pursue their life's goals.

The Soroptimists of San Ramon Valley, which is one of many chapters of the Soroptimists International throughout the world, also issue awards to girls who are involved in community service and provides grants to women so they can participate in job training and education programs.

The Soroptimists of San Ramon Valley have made a difference for many in our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the members of this organization for their hard work to improve the lives of women.

SUPPORT MORE DIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, this week I plan to introduce a bill that will allow States to submit three statues for display in the United States Capitol.

This bill seeks to include more diversity among the honored in our Capitol by increasing that number of statues to include more notable women, minorities, and other ethnic groups that have contributed significantly to our history.

Currently, there are 100 statues on display given by the States, and only 16 are women or minority groups. Ten are women with three Native-Americans; three statues are Native-American males, two are Hispanic, and one is a Pacific Islander. Although there have been many noteworthy African Americans and Asian Americans in our history, no State has submitted a statue honoring one of them. This disparity must be rectified.

If you walked through the Capitol and looked at the statues, you would think all the heroes and leaders were granite white men. This bill is to express that equal representation of all Americans is essential in our historical perspectives and the educational value that the Capitol offers its thousands of visitors.

I urge my colleagues to look at the bill, to support it, and to have more diverse representation among the statuary in the United States Capitol.

GROW THE ECONOMY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask the American people to