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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC

April 4, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ALLEN WEST 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.

CONFLICT IN LIBYA

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address three aspects of the conflict in Libya. The first of these is I think the most important. Our efforts to bring freedom and democracy to Libya should not be the occasion to undermine democracy and the rule of law here in the United States. Now there is considerable constitutional argument about the powers of the President. There are those who say he cannot

take any military action without first an action by Congress. But in 1802, President Jefferson sent American naval and marine forces, in the words of the song, to the shores of Tripoli, and the founding generation of this country thought that that was consistent with Presidential power. So those who think that the President has no power to ever engage, I think must look at our history, as well as the text of our Constitution.

At the same time, there are those who say the President can do anything without congressional approval, and I think those folks go way too far. The answer is the War Powers Act, the law of the land, and we need to make sure that it is followed.

Now that law not only requires various reports and consultation, it says that if hostilities are to continue for more than 60 days, that Congress must pass in both Houses a resolution authorizing such activity, and that if after 60 days Congress has not passed such resolution, then the President has 30 days to withdraw. This is the law of the land.

And yet last week in both private session and in public hearings, high ranking members of the State Department declared by their vagueness that they might not follow the War Powers Act. That is why it is critical that we as a Nation demand that even those who are sworn to uphold the law, follow the law themselves, and that we in Congress add to any spending bill a provision that says no funds shall be spent for the purpose of violating section 5 of the War Powers Act which some also refer to as the War Powers Resolution.

Second, who pays for all of this? The cost is far greater than the \$500 million to \$600 million being estimated by the Defense Department. I am a CPA. They are using the marginal cost approach, which is widely discredited. Any full costing will show what the American

people fully understand, and that is that this is costing us billions of dollars every week. Now, we have seized \$30 billion of Libyan assets, assets of Qadhafi that were invested here in the United States. Those assets should be used first before we use money collected from American taxpayers.

Libya produces more oil per capita than any nation you can find on a map without a magnifying glass; more oil per capita, per person, than even Saudi Arabia. I realize Libya will need to be rebuilt, but its oil revenues will return and provide for that. And we should quietly insist that the Benghazi council pass a resolution authorizing the United States to use those seized Libyan assets to fund our military efforts.

But there is something even more that we should insist on from those who are running eastern Libya, and that is that they use their best efforts, and I realize they are disorganized, to cut off their contact with and even seek to extradite those in their midst who have American blood on their hands. There is, for example, Mr. al-Hasadi who fought us in Afghanistan and Pakistan who brags that he dispatched soldiers to kill America's finest in Iraq, and who is now one of the rebel commanders. We should insist that such individuals be turned over to the United States, and if they can't find them, that they at least disassociate themselves.

Now, the administration responds by saying that Qadhafi has American blood on his hands. And I am sure that Qadhafi has, after Pan Am 103, more American blood on his hands than do any collection of rebel leaders. But is this the standard by which we judge those that we ask our men and women to die for, to put themselves in harm's way for, to kill for?

I do not think that it makes sense to say that the rebels should be aided as long as they have less American blood on their hands than does Mr. Qadhafi.

□ 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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The test of whether these rebels will be allies and friends of America, or the opposite, is whether they turn over or use their best efforts to turn over al-Hasadi to the United States.

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 8 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 pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Lord God, Your loving and sustaining presence breaks through certain moments of time. You enlighten Your people to take the next step and make the necessary decisions that will lead them through the maze of present needs.

Guide the Members of the House of Representatives, that priorities will reflect the full promise of Your compassion for those most in need, build greater justice, and secure the path of peace in this fragile and complex world.

Lord, be with us now and years to come.

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 Kansas (Mr. POMPEO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POMPEO 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.

DO WHAT IS RIGHT THIS WEEK

(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, this is an important week for American families. The continuing resolution expires Friday. Liberals are

clearly responsible for a possible government shutdown.

The American people know spending is out of control with a record deficit in February of \$223 billion. Borrowing from creditors overseas is \$5 billion a day, putting American jobs at risk. Senior citizens are threatened with their savings and Social Security becoming worthless. Young people are being burdened with crushing debt which will lead to oppressive taxation.

How did this week arise?

The budget for this year was not adopted by the liberal House last year. The continuing resolution for this year was passed by the new conservative House but has not been adopted by the current liberal Senate.

Speaker JOHN BOEHNER has fought for the Pledge to America which the voters supported last November with a record of over 63 liberals being defeated. Senate liberals have been revealed scheming inflammatory name-calling of Republican Whip KEVIN MCCARTHY, instead of good faith negotiations.

I hope this week the Senate liberals put politics aside and do what is right for commonsense government. We cannot mortgage the future to happiness.

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

A COUNTRY WHERE WE MUST BRING DEMOCRACY

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

Mr. KUCINICH. It is said our government runs on a system of checks and balances. But when it comes to war, the administration writes all the checks and Congress doesn't know what the balance is. The administration can wage war and ignore Congress, says the Secretary of State. Shut up and keep giving them the money.

Expanding war expands the Pentagon, costing more than \$700 billion this year. That's 50 percent of discretionary spending. The United States funds 25 percent of NATO's military expenses.

All of these wars cost trillions. As of today, we will have spent \$805 billion to bring democracy to Iraq, \$443 billion to bring democracy to Afghanistan, perhaps over a billion dollars already to bring democracy to Libya.

I have an idea. Let's bring democracy to America. Instead of cutting programs for the poor, for children, for pregnant women, or shutting down the government, let's shut the wars down. Build bridges at home—don't blow them up abroad. Bring democracy to America. Jobs for all, health care for all, education for all, retirement security for all. End the wars.

CONGRATULATING WSU SHOCKER BASKETBALL

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

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the tremendous accomplishment of Wichita State University and its men's basketball team. Shocker Basketball is rich in tradition, with 10,000 screaming fans at nearly every game.

For the first time, Wichita State University is now the reigning champion of the National Invitation Tournament. Last Thursday, they finished their tourney run with a convincing victory over a worthy opponent, the Crimson Tide of the University of Alabama. This was a glorious cap to an excellent season.

This year, the Shockers won 29 games, the most in the university's history—losing two games to Final Four opponents during the season by a total of only five points.

It is my honor to congratulate Wichita State University, its President Don Beggs, athletic director Eric Sexton, the basketball team's head coach Gregg Marshall and his staff, and all the great young men who played their hearts out in New York to bring the title back to Wichita.

A great season for the mighty Shock-er Nation.

MTXE. Go Shox.

THE HUNGER FAST OF 2011

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Hunger Fast of 2011, the efforts by anti-hunger leaders to highlight the draconian cuts to important, lifesaving programs included in H.R. 1, the House Republican budget proposal, continues to expand.

Every day the number of Hunger Fast participants increases. Every day awareness of these cuts to those programs that provide a circle of protection rises. Every day the resolve to fight these cuts grows.

I am thankful and proud of these brave Americans who are giving up food to fight against these harmful cuts to programs like WIC, as well as other important safety-net programs. This weekend, more joined this effort, including the heads and members of SEIU, MoveOn, and many others.

Budgets are moral documents, and the cuts in H.R. 1 cross that moral line. I stand with the participants of Hunger Fast in opposition to H.R. 1. Instead of cutting programs that help people get access to food and nutrition, we should commit ourselves to ending hunger in America.

Please go to www.hungerfast.org for more information.

TRIBUTE TO STACY LEWIS

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a milestone in the