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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, July 11, 2011, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2011

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the Members of this people's House deliberate these days, give them the wisdom and magnanimity to lay aside what might divide us as a people to forge a secure future for our country.

We pray for all people who have special needs. May Your presence be known to those who are sick, that they might feel the power of Your healing spirit. Be with those who suffer persecution in so many places of our world, and bless our troops who are engaged in the easing of those sufferings. Give to all who are afraid or anxious or whose minds are clouded by uncertain futures the peace and confidence that come from trust in Your goodness and mercy.

We thank You again for the tremendous opportunity You have given the Members of this House to serve their fellow citizens. Inspire them to be their best selves and may they be, in turn, an inspiration to the Nation and to the world.

May all that is done here this day be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings 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 Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FLEMING 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 five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

FAMILIES NEED JOBS

(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 morning's announcement of the unemployment rate proves again the President's economic policies are failing American families.

The unemployment rate has increased to a tragic 9.2 percent. The out-of-control borrowing and spending in Washington continues to kill small business job creation.

It has been 1 year since the President declared an end to the recession and

the beginning of the summer of recovery. The only way to describe the country's job numbers during that time is a failure of leadership. Private employment is now 1.8 million below the level from when the wasteful stimulus passed.

Where are the jobs, Mr. President?

This administration's policies are crippling our economy and killing job creation. The President's reelection campaign says the unemployment rate does not matter, but American families know better.

The House Republicans' "Cut and Grow" plan is very simple: First cut spending, then the economy will grow. This is a practical solution to get Americans back to work.

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

WAR AND WAR POWERS

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Congress is awakening to its constitutional obligations on matters of war and peace. In the past 2 months, we have sparked a great debate on war and on war powers, the implications of which will continue to be felt in this Nation and around the world.

Soon, the war in Libya and the ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq will go beyond foreign policy issues. They will become domestic issues, financial security issues. As we continue to wage these wars, more and more Americans

□ 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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will become aware that this administration has decided that bombing bridges in other countries is more important than building bridges in America with our present and new foreign adventures.

America, under this administration, chooses war, not jobs and wealth building here in America; bombs, not books; financial instability, not Social Security; austerity, not prosperity.

This isn't about partisan politics. This is about an administration that is demonstrating more of an interest in nation building abroad than a rebuilding of America here at home.

It has time to change, but will it?

THE FOX GUARDING THE OBAMACARE HENHOUSE?

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve to know the truth when it comes to Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan's involvement in crafting a defense of ObamaCare during her tenure as Solicitor General for President Obama. This is why I, along with 48 of my House colleagues, am calling for an investigation into the extent of Justice Kagan's involvement in defending ObamaCare and if it warrants her recusal from any and all ObamaCare cases that may come before the High Court.

It is imperative for Americans to have confidence in the impartiality of the Supreme Court. Americans have a legitimate right to know the truth about Elena Kagan's involvement in ObamaCare.

How can any reasonable person believe that she can be impartial when a case involving ObamaCare comes before the High Court? Furthermore, the U.S. Code, section 455, title 28, says she must recuse herself.

CONTINUING BUDGET IMPASSE IN MINNESOTA

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express the frustration that I feel at the continuing budget impasse in Minnesota. Minnesota faces the biggest budget deficit in its history, and with it comes a responsibility to govern and a cautionary tale for this body.

A government shutdown at any level is not only detrimental to the economy and to the success of small businesses, but it's hazardous to the progress of our society as educational programs and nonprofit organizations are put at risk.

Like many of the citizens of southern Minnesota who have written me about this shutdown, I share a concern for the families harmed by this shutdown, working parents who receive child care

assistance, disabled Minnesotans who rely on State services for their better quality of life, roads remaining unrepaired and simple things like campgrounds being closed where families can't spend time together.

A gentleman approached me in Stewartville at a Fourth of July parade. He asked me if I was working this week. I said yes, I was. And he said he wasn't, but he sure wished he was because he was force furloughed.

When it comes to divided government, we all win when no one political party wins. In Minnesota, that means both the Governor and the legislature need to compromise. We need to put politics aside to put Minnesota first. The same applies to this body.

□ 0910

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR JOB CREATION

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, you can hardly turn on the television or the radio these days without hearing about our Nation's debt crisis. And the reason we find ourselves in this crisis is not because Washington taxes too little. Rather, it is because Washington spends too much. Raising taxes on America's job creators, as some here in Washington suggest, is not the answer. It won't open closed factories. It won't stimulate the economy. And it won't put our friends and neighbors back to work.

What we need, and what the American people are asking us to do, is to see that government lives within its means. Over the past few years, hard-working Americans across this country have tightened their belts and lived within their means and cut back on spending. And there's no reason that their government can't do the same thing. It's often been said that it's not in the Federal Government's nature to shrink. And I think here in Washington our colleagues should work to prove them wrong by ending wasteful Washington spending as a way to address our Nation's budget deficit.

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN: WELCOMING A NEW NATION

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

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw people's attention to one of the great, nice spots of what's happening in the world today. There aren't many. We're going to hear about every one of them this morning. But there's at least one happening right now in Africa. Tomorrow we will welcome the newest nation to the community of nations, South Sudan. This is a country that most of us probably never heard of. I certainly didn't until a few years

ago, and I heard about it because of some of the atrocities that are happening there.

South Sudan is a country that is born out of 20 years of internal civil war—20 years—not from outside forces like this country likes to do in Iraq and Afghanistan. They did it themselves on their own, and I just want to stand up here today and tell them congratulations, to welcome them into the community of nations, and to tell them that I, for one, and I believe this House, will stand with them as they struggle to make sure that their new democracy is successful.

They have a lot of threats on every border. They have a lot of internal issues. They are an incredibly poor country with a lot of challenges. But as the greatest democracy in the history of the world, we have an obligation to stand with them as they build their new democracy.

SOUTH SUDAN: PRAYERS FOR A NEW NATION

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the people of South Sudan have endured two decades of wanton violence, rape, torture and hunger systematically imposed upon them by the Bashir dictatorship in Khartoum. More than 2 million people were killed, 4 million people displaced, and countless families decimated.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005 ended the war and put South Sudan on the path to nationhood. Tomorrow, when the people of South Sudan emerge as the newest nation on Earth, tomorrow, when that dream is realized, Americans will join the people of South Sudan in celebrating this extraordinary hope-filled event.

Yet recently at least 100,000 Sudanese have been displaced from the Abyei area, and tens of thousands of Southerners living in South Kordofan State have been recently forced from their homes, some of them murdered. So there are serious remaining challenges.

Nevertheless, we hope and we pray that the people of South Sudan will finally live in peace and enjoy respect for their basic human rights and freedom.

ISRAEL

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H. Res. 268.

America has not had a more pro-Israel President than President Obama. The President has unwaveringly supported Israel's right to self-defense, fought to ensure Israel's military edge, protected her citizens with the Iron Dome anti-rocket system, and worked