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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CRAWFORD).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 21, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RICK CRAWFORD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN 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 11:50 a.m.

IN GOD WE TRUST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RANGEL. Good morning, my colleagues.

Like most of you, I have taken so many things around this wonderful Capitol for granted. And this beautiful statement, "In God We Trust," unfortunately for me has been one of them. It has not really struck me like the pledge of allegiance to the flag or the "Star Spangled Banner" or so many other things.

But I think that now is the time that we really need God to guide us to do

the right and the moral thing. And the reason we have to do it is because we're dealing with something that is basic to all religions and faiths and this is our responsibility to make certain that we balance our budget, do what is fiscally necessary for our great Nation to survive. But also to do it in such a way that the poor and the vulnerable, who have nothing to do with the crisis that we face, are not hurt.

So I guess this is what we're talking about when we say "In God We Trust."

But God works through us. We are the tools. We have the responsibility of the missionaries. We don't have lobbyists that come down to say protect those people. And I guess this is one of the reasons why this saying here is a constant reminder to us that even though we're carried away with our ability to create statutes, that we respect our court system and the Supreme Court, in the final analysis it's the higher authority of morality that should be guiding all of us.

Recently, I called upon religious leaders to help us in this guidance, to make the right decisions—Christians, Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, Mormons, Jews, and gentiles. And I was so pleased that a long and dear friend named Jim Wallis—he's a Lutheran pastor, was an adviser to the President, and just yesterday he brought in a group of ministers to help the President to make the moral decision as he struggles so hard to make the proper decision as it affects our budget and how we're going to reduce our deficit.

But the things that he had cited, like Matthews, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me," what it is, is that whatever you have done to assist a poor person or those who are not as strong physically and financially as you and I that you really did this, in a sense, for Jesus because you have done the right thing.

And then he goes on to have something that sounds like statutes when it

says: Woe to those who enact unjust statutes and who write oppressive decrees—oppressive decrees—depriving the needy of justice and robbing poor people of their rights.

Is health care a right? Is Social Security a right? Is decent housing, education, the pursuit of happiness—is all of this a right? And does this permeate the entire budget and every decision that we're trying to make?

Well, in these statements that he made, we have the Torah that says the same thing: If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land, we have a responsibility. The Koran indicates: Believe in Allah and his messengers and spend on charity.

And so my brothers and sisters, it seems to me that now is the time for us to really get in touch with the Gang of Six because it seems like nobody in the House of Representatives has any clue as to what ultimately the President and his advisers will decide. Certainly the Senate doesn't know what we will decide.

But somehow we should include not just the question of revenue, not just the question of trillions of dollars to be cut, but in the course of these negotiations to think of the lesser of our brothers and sisters. Remember that it is a part of our very lives in saying "in God we trust" and to know that you just can't cut services without losing jobs.

In other words, when you have people who are jobless, homeless, who lost their savings, these are God's children and they need hope for the future.

So thank you for once again giving me this opportunity. And what words could better express what I've been trying to say, and that is, Mr. Speaker, "in God we trust."

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman 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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North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. On Tuesday, the House passed H.R. 2560, the Cut, Cap, and Balance bill. I was amazed by the \$120 billion approved to fund the war on terror. I, like many of my colleagues, agree that we must continue to fight terrorism, but I do not understand why we are funding the civil war in Afghanistan.

I do not understand why Members of Congress want to spend \$10 billion a month in Afghanistan when our people back home are struggling. I can assure you the American people do not understand it either. In June a poll was conducted by the Pew Research Center where 56 percent of the American people polled said bring our troops home now, not later.

Mr. Speaker, I brought back the picture of Eden and Stephanie Balduf. Their father, Sergeant Kevin Balduf, and Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Palmer died. And that continues to haunt me, and the way they died continues to haunt me. That's the reason I wanted to bring this picture down here again.

They were given the task to train Afghans to be policemen. The two were shot and murdered by one of the trainees. What really haunts me is the email Sergeant Balduf sent to his wife the day before he was shot and killed. And I quote the email: "I don't trust them. I don't trust them for anything, not for anything at all."

Why in the world do we continue to send our young men and women overseas to get themselves blown up, shot, and murdered by people they are trying to train?

These little girls are standing at their daddy's funeral at Arlington Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, that brings me to the last email I received from a retired marine general. I called him about 20 months ago and I said, I made a mistake on Iraq. I don't want to make one on Afghanistan. Will you advise me?

He said, Yes, I will.

Let me read the one that just ties in to this issue of this sergeant and this marine colonel being murdered by a trainee in Afghanistan. The general said: "Get real with 'training' an army and police force. All we are doing is training eventual new members of the Taliban." He further stated: "Trainers are doing a wonderful job, but we don't have the time to 'make' an army or police force in Afghanistan."

The general closed his email to me by saying this: "Every day someone dies."

□ 1010

It is time to bring our troops home from Afghanistan. How many more children have to cry at a mom or dad's grave site because their mother or daddy went to Afghanistan to prop up a corrupt leader named Karzai that we send \$10 billion a month to? I hope no other children have to cry like Eden and Stephanie.

That brings me to my close, Mr. Speaker. Several weeks ago, Eugene Robinson in his editorial titled, "Afghan Strategy: Let's Go," wrote, "We wanted to kill or capture Osama bin Laden, and we did. Even so, say the hawks, we have to stay in Afghanistan because of the dangerous instability across the border in nuclear-armed Pakistan. But does anyone believe the war in Afghanistan has made Pakistan more stable?"

No, it has not. In fact, it's more fragile now than it's ever been.

"The threat from Afghanistan is gone. Bring the troops home."

Eugene Robinson is not a conservative. We see him on TV all the time. And I will say that he nailed it with this editorial: The threat from Afghanistan is gone. Bring them home.

Mr. Speaker, as I close always on the floor of the House, for these little girls who have lost their father and all the children who have lost their fathers and moms over in Afghanistan and Iraq, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform; I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God, in his loving arms, to hold the families that have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. I ask God to please bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for His people. I ask God to give strength, wisdom, and courage to Mr. Obama that he will do what is right in the eyes of God for his people.

And I will say three times, God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

LET THE BUSH TAX CUTS EXPIRE

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Colleagues, we are truly through the looking glass here into a strange world. The Gang of Six has supposedly met the President's requirements that we would have \$3 trillion in cuts and \$1 trillion in revenues. But actually, they are cutting taxes.

Now how does that work? Well, that only works inside the Washington, DC, Beltway. When you reduce revenues, you will increase revenues because you pretend that you wouldn't have had those revenues otherwise. It's a little bit complicated, isn't it? It is incredibly complicated. There is a lot of smoke and mirrors here.

There is a simple way to deal with this crisis. We need to rein in spending. We also need to make investments that will put people to work. Now, the Republicans don't think the government can invest in anything that puts people to work, except they haven't noticed that we have an infrastructure that's falling apart. We have 20 percent unemployment in construction and related fields. If we were to begin to invest and rebuild America's infrastructure, all private sector jobs put those people to work. They start paying taxes, then

part of the deficit goes away, and the money will be spent on something that will benefit this generation and future generations. But, no, they categorize all Federal spending the same. They just want to slash it all.

So how about a plan that targets investment, putting people back to work that reduces spending appropriately across the government and actually pays for all of this with revenues? How could you do that? Simple. Let the Bush tax cuts expire. Let all the Bush tax cuts expire. That's \$4 trillion. It's not too complicated. It would take us back to those bad old Clinton years when rich people paid taxes. The "job creators" they call them.

You can't make the job creators pay taxes; it will ruin the economy—that's what they said when Clinton raised the taxes back in the nineties. Guess what, we ended up with 3.8 percent unemployment, and we actually balanced the budget and paid down debt. But, yes, the wealthy and all Americans carried a fair share of that burden. I would love to go back to those bad old days.

We've been now, for a decade, living under the theory that reducing taxes creates jobs, especially reducing taxes on billionaires—you know, the job creators—creates jobs. It's not working too well, is it? No, it's really not working at all. But the Obama administration and the Gang of Six have apparently bought into this flim-flam. Let's continue the Bush tax cuts. Let's continue this stupid Social Security tax holiday that hasn't created a single job. Sure, there are a lot of American families that could use an extra \$20 a week. But their spending an extra \$20 a week does not create jobs. And now Obama wants to give employers \$20 a week on each employee, saying, Well, they'll go out and hire millions if they get an extra \$20 a week. Corporations are sitting on trillions of dollars of cash, trillions of dollars of cash. They don't need more cash. And for \$20 a week, they're not going to go out and hire anybody.

So here's the plan: let the Bush tax cuts expire. That's \$4 trillion. We've met the targets. We didn't cut Social Security. We didn't cut Medicare. We didn't cut veterans benefits. We didn't cut student financial aid. But we are \$4 trillion ahead in this game. And then cancel the stupid Social Security tax holiday, but still borrow the money. We're borrowing the money to give people a Social Security tax holiday, borrowing the money to put back in the Social Security trust fund after we reduce the income.

Stop reducing the income to Social Security, go back to the statutory rate of taxes, and guarantee the benefits to people. And borrow, instead, that \$110 billion to rebuild America's infrastructure—\$110 billion, that's about 4.7 million jobs. And that is not just construction jobs, but engineering jobs, small business jobs, manufacturing jobs all across the country. It will put America back to work, and that would reduce the deficit by about another 25 percent.