

and well-trained staff are helped to meet the standards that are required to do that. And we cannot win the future if we turn back all of the newly gained benefits and savings in the Affordable Care Act. We will never win the future if we allow the Republicans to pass a budget that causes us to lose those provisions which enable minorities, rural residents, and the poor to achieve better health, to be more productive, and to have a better quality of life. These health equity provisions will begin to end the inequality and injustice in health care that Dr. King called shocking and inhumane.

And we cannot win the future if we don't do all that we can to make sure we address the mortgage crisis and help families keep the homes they need to raise their families in. We cannot win the future without jobs and more jobs. And I'm talking about good jobs.

So we know that there will have to be limits of spending, but we want to make sure that it starts at the most effective time and that the sacrifice is fairly spread, that those who have sacrificed over the last decade while corporations and the rich made off like bandits will not be the ones that continue to bear the brunt of the cuts and continue to suffer while Big Business and the wealthy continue to amass more wealth at their expense. That is an affront to the principles of fairness and equity that this country was founded on.

And so we want a realistic budget, not one that the Republicans are preparing that will cause us to lose more jobs, send more people into dire poverty, that will deny education and health care to those who need it most, that will continue the loss of homes, that will weaken programs like Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security which so many depend on, and one that will decrease the deficit and continue to drive this country into decline, continuing what the Republican policies over the last decade have done.

That is not what we want. That is not what the country needs. That is not the kind of budget that will win the future.

And so we in this Congressional Black Caucus are willing to roll up our sleeves, put on our thinking caps and work with our President and our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to pass a different, a better budget, one that will create jobs, that will give people the tools to lift them and their families out of poverty and keep them in their homes, one that will create an educational system that will put all of our children first, and a health care system that ensures quality health care to all Americans, a budget that will provide the retirement security our seniors deserve and keep our country competitive and strong and number one in the world, a budget that will win the future. We know it can be done because we have shown how it can be done every year with the CBC budget.

Working together, I know we can create a budget worthy of this country,

one that lives up to our ideals, one based not on political ideology, but one that responds to the needs of our country and the needs of the people who are waiting and depending on us.

CBC BUDGETARY PRIORITIES

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to debate the budget, and as we have already begun to debate, it is a budget that in many instances and in many ways spells gloom and doom for people who have been expecting and looking for some opportunity to move our government and our country forward.

In order to really understand how we got to where we are, I think it is important for us to remember that President Clinton left President Bush with a 10-year projected surplus of \$5.6 trillion in 2001.

□ 1030

Whereas President Bush on January 20, 2009, left President Obama with a \$1.2 trillion deficit. And let's keep in mind that this was the deficit on day one of the Obama administration, weeks before the President enacted a single piece of legislation and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The failed economic policies of the Bush administration led to this enormous deficit: the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts totaled \$1.3 trillion over 10 years, in which most of the tax relief went to the top 1 percent of income earners; a Medicare prescription drug benefit with a 10 year cost of nearly another \$1 trillion that was not offset; two overseas war that are near a cost of \$1 trillion; a \$700 billion bailout of Wall Street banks.

And all of these unpaid-for policies were compounded by the worst economic recession in 70 years that began in 2007, which led to huge shortfalls in Federal tax revenue and increased reliance on unemployment insurance and other Federal social safety net programs.

In order to get these huge deficits under control, we have some tough decisions to make. We have some very serious and some difficult decisions as we attempt to balance the budget and as we attempt to continue to promote and project economic recovery.

I have always been told that you can measure the greatness of a society by how well it looks after its young, how well it looks after its old, and how well it looks after those who cannot look after themselves effectively. So as we begin to talk about cuts, where I come from, I have been told that if all that you do is cut, cut, cut, all that you are going to get is blood, blood, blood; and, of course, the blood of the people will be on the hands of those who have the knives.

So as we cut, let's look seriously at the Community Services Administra-

tion, the one little program, one little agency, one little area that still provides resources to fund programs like those established during the OEO War on Poverty days, when we took a good look at poverty and what was causing it.

As we begin to cut, let's understand that health is essential for wealth, so let's make sure that we don't tamper with what I consider to be one of the most effective ways of providing primary health care to large numbers of poor people in this country, the community health centers, that provide primary care to more than 20 million low-income Americans without regard in many instances to their ability to pay.

And let's understand that our prison system has become the largest in the world. More than 2 million people are incarcerated, so let's not cut or decimate the little justice programs that we are funding to help these individuals try and successfully reintegrate back into society.

So, I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I urge that when we cut, let's make good cuts, and not those that cut the poor.

How much longer can we afford to extend the Bush-era tax cuts? The President and Congress extended all of them through 2012 at a two year cost of \$800 billion. A ten year extension of all these tax cuts will cost \$3.8 trillion—\$3 trillion of which are the popular middle-class tax cuts.

Earlier this week, the Congressional Budget Office released its latest projections of the Social Security Trust Fund. It was previously projected to go into a cash deficit in 2017, but now CBO has projected that the trust fund is now running a deficit. The trust is expected to be exhausted in 2037.

We can no longer operate under the assumption of the last decade, that we can increase spending and reduce taxes without having to pay for it.

The last Congress took important steps to restore some important tools that were used to produce the first budget surplus in more than a generation in the late 1990s, such as Statutory Pay-As-You-Go—meaning if Congress wants to increase mandatory spending, we have to offset it by reducing spending elsewhere in the budget or increase taxes to cover the increase.

Unfortunately, the new Republican Majority has changed House rules gutting PAY-GO's effectiveness in the Congressional budget process. The so-called CUT-GO rule prohibits offsetting any new mandatory spending with a revenue increase. This makes it nearly impossible to offset any new spending or tax cuts with revenue increases and will require only spending cuts.

In another unprecedented change, the House last week voted to give the House Budget Committee Chairman the sole responsibility for setting discretionary spending levels for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2011. The House of Representatives as a whole will be deprived of the right to vote up or down the Budget Chairman's levels.

We have to remember that what we do with Federal budget touches everyone. Our fiscal problems are very complex and they need to be addressed, but there is no simple, one-size-fits-all solution.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 34 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

Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archdiocese of Washington, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Let us take ourselves in the presence of God.

Good and gracious God, You call us to make our way through this life with You and challenge us to walk arm-in-arm with each other. As we confront the human condition, You bless us with intellect and free will to establish institutions to guide our human affairs, to confirm the possibility of freedom, personal development, and prosperity for the common good.

We ask You to bless and strengthen all who strive to improve the human condition and foster a caring respect for each person. In Your goodness, bless the Members of our Nation's House of Representatives. May all their deliberations and discussions be inspired by the wisdom and vision of Your kindness. And may the work conducted here today bear rich fruit that nurtures all of the citizens of this Nation and our dreams for a better world.

All of this we ask in Your Most 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania 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.

WELCOMING CARDINAL DONALD WUERL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to welcome His Eminence Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, D.C., and to thank him for offering the opening prayer as we begin our work today.

Like many of his parishioners, I know Cardinal Wuerl to be a man of generous spirit and immense gifts, a true leader of the faithful. When he was elevated to the College of Cardinals last fall by Pope Benedict, it was a proud and humbling moment for all of us. His elevation came nearly a quarter of a century after being ordained a bishop by His Holiness John Paul II. Cardinal Wuerl went on to serve as Bishop of Pittsburgh, where he was born and raised, until his appointment here in Washington, D.C.

Around the world, Cardinal Wuerl is respected and admired for his efforts on behalf of Catholic education. He currently serves as chancellor of the Catholic University of America and is a champion of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, which helps disadvantaged students gain access to quality education.

Again, on behalf of my colleagues, it is an honor to welcome Cardinal Wuerl to the People's House.

WELCOMING CARDINAL DONALD WUERL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as a Member who represents the area of Pittsburgh that is also part of the Pittsburgh diocese, I would also like to welcome Cardinal Wuerl to the House of Representatives. He is a great leader in the faith community and a friend, and certainly a friend to everybody in the Nation now as well as those in the Pittsburgh region.

He began his career as an assistant pastor at Saint Rosalia Parish in Pittsburgh. There he became secretary to Pittsburgh Bishop John Wright. Then at Saint Paul's Seminary in Pittsburgh, he worked as a rector. In 1988, Bishop Wuerl was installed as the 11th Bishop of Pittsburgh, where he led 18 years. He led 800,000 Roman Catholics in 214 parishes throughout southwestern Pennsylvania.

I should say we also knew him from his television series called "The Teaching of Christ," which was distributed throughout the Christian Associates cable channel, and his best-selling catechism of the same name, which is now I believe in its 30th year of publication, translated into over 10 languages.

I echo the comments made by our Speaker in terms of the Cardinal's leadership and the esteem we all hold him in. We are most grateful that he came here today and led us in prayer.

COMMUNICATION

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

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN,
Washington, DC, February 10, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Attached is a facsimile of a letter of resignation submitted by Rep. Christopher J. Lee to the pertinent Executive authority in the State of New York. It was received in the Capitol last evening. The facsimile previously laid before the House was addressed to the Governor rather than to the Secretary of State. This document will round out the papers of the House on this matter.

Sincerely,

JOHN V. SULLIVAN.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 9, 2011.

Hon. RUTH NOEMI COLON,
Acting Secretary of State, State of New York,
Albany, NY.

DEAR SECRETARY OF STATE COLON: I hereby submit my resignation as United States Representative of the 26th District of New York, effective 5:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, February 9, 2011. Attached is the letter I submitted to Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER J. LEE,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NEED TO WORK ON CREATING JOBS

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to roll up its sleeves and begin to work together. Democrats and Republicans must come together to create new jobs for the American people, strengthen our recovery, and reduce the debt.

Yet instead of finding some common ground solution, Republicans have put forward an agenda that only serves to divide the American people. Yes, we must lower the deficit and national debt, but it is wrong to balance the budget on the backs of honorable Americans with dangerous cuts that may lead to double-digit unemployment.

In my district in California in the Inland Empire, our unemployment rate is nearly 14 percent. My constituents can't afford to have Congress play politics with the budget and the national debt. They need jobs. They need to make sure that they are putting food on the table and paying their mortgage, not another government shutdown.