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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

We ask today that You bless the Members of this assembly to be the best and most faithful servants of the people they serve. Purify their intentions, that they will speak the truth about what they believe and work to legislate responsibly, realizing that others are doing the same and that beliefs do differ.

Therefore, we ask a special blessing of patience, an ability to listen, and a shared desire to bring hope to the American people, their constituents, through a united effort to pass legislation that will help all in this Nation during these difficult times.

May the Members be filled with gratitude at the opportunity they have to serve in this people's House. We thank You for the abilities they have been given to do their work. May they use their talents as good stewards of Your many gifts and thereby be true servants of justice and partners in peace.

We thank You as well for this marvelous forum where the important business of this Nation has been done in the past and is done today. May the work being done now be guided by Your Spirit.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN IS RIGHT: DEMOCRATS OWN THIS ECONOMY

(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, during a radio interview last week, Vice President JOE BIDEN acknowledged the current administration has responsibility for the economy. The Vice President stated, "Right now, we are the ones in charge. I don't blame them for being mad. We're in charge, so they're angry." I agree with the Vice President.

While the national unemployment rate continues to remain above 9 percent, this administration continues the failed policies of borrow and spend. It is a failed course.

Last week, I met with constituents across the Second Congressional District of South Carolina during the annual District Bus Tour, and without complaining, they urged: reduce spending, cut taxes, create jobs.

House Republicans have introduced numerous jobs bills designed to encourage hiring and long-term economic growth. Now is the time for liberals and the President to change course. They own it.

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

RECOGNIZING FILMMAKER KEN BURNS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, for two decades documentary filmmaker Ken Burns has been helping America understand who we are. Tonight, in the Visitors Center, there is a 5 o'clock reception and a 5:30 special screening of his new documentary on prohibition. He's had amazing productions dealing with the Civil War, baseball, jazz, the national parks, but this, I think, is going to be perhaps his best.

Based on what I saw last night, nothing is more timely, more profound for the challenges that we face today. And I can't wait for the next two episodes that will be aired tonight at 8 p.m. and again tomorrow.

Thank you, Mr. Burns. Thank you, PBS. Thanks to previous Congresses for support and the "pre-funding" that allows long-term projects like this. Here is another example of the unique and critical role played by public broadcasting, and Congress should make sure that it continues.

SOLYNDRA

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, just before we left last week, two executives from a company called Solyndra came before the Energy and Commerce Committee voluntarily, but ultimately did not testify, invoking their Fifth Amendment rights.

Most Americans by now are becoming aware of the Solyndra story, a company that was initially denied a loan guarantee in the last days of the Bush administration but was hastily added to a list of projects that were covered by what was called the stimulus bill in

□ 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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February of 2009. In a rush to get the money out the door—ahead of a photo op with the Vice President—apparently mistakes were made, and in the early days of September of this year Solyndra filed bankruptcy. This is a story that is yet to be completely understood. But, Mr. Speaker, here's the important part:

For almost 6 months' time, between February and July, the Committee on Energy and Commerce sought, unsuccessfully, to have records delivered to it from the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Energy. It should not take a subpoena from a congressional committee for branches of the executive branch to supply us those documents. When we have questions, they need to respond. When we ask for information, they need to produce. And certainly, when we have a hearing, they need to attend.

It's time for the Secretary of Energy to come before our committee, explain what he knew about this process, and clear the air once and for all for the American people.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS). Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore HARRIS on Thursday, September 29, 2011:

H.R. 2005, to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006;

H.R. 2017, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 4 p.m.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 4 p.m.

MAKING IN ORDER CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2608, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2608) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment

thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment; that the Senate amendment be considered as read; that the motion be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

UTAH NATIONAL GUARD READINESS ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 686) to require the conveyance of certain public land within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, to support the training and readiness of the Utah National Guard, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 686

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Utah National Guard Readiness Act".

SEC. 2. LAND CONVEYANCE, CAMP WILLIAMS, UTAH.

(a) *CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.*—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, shall convey, without consideration, to the State of Utah all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to certain lands comprising approximately 420 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Proposed Camp Williams Land Transfer" and dated June 14, 2011, which are located within the boundaries of the public lands currently withdrawn for military use by the Utah National Guard and known as Camp Williams, Utah, for the purpose of permitting the Utah National Guard to use the conveyed land as provided in subsection (c).

(b) *SUPERSEDEENCE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER.*—Executive Order No. 1922 of April 24, 1914, as amended by section 907 of the Camp W.G. Williams Land Exchange Act of 1989 (title IX of Public Law 101-628; 104 Stat. 4501), is hereby superseded, only insofar as it affects the lands identified for conveyance to the State of Utah under subsection (a).

(c) *REVERSIONARY INTEREST.*—The lands conveyed to the State of Utah under subsection (a) shall revert to the United States if the Secretary of Defense determines that the land, or any portion thereof, is sold or attempted to be sold, or that the land, or any portion thereof, is used for non-National Guard or non-national defense purposes.

(d) *HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.*—With respect to any portion of the land conveyed under subsection (a) that the Secretary of Defense determines is subject to reversion under subsection (c), if the Secretary of Defense also determines that the portion of the conveyed land contains hazardous materials, the State of Utah shall pay the United States an amount equal to the fair market value of that portion of the land, and the reversionary interest shall not apply to that portion of the land.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 686 is a bill I sponsored. It is a bipartisan bill, and it has the sponsorship of all of the members of the Utah delegation, Republican and Democrat, and directs the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM to convey to the State of Utah lands that have been withdrawn for military use by the Utah National Guard and known as Camp Williams in Utah.

The National Guard has had this facility and trained at Camp Williams since 1912. The 420 acres proposed for conveyance is located within the boundaries of Camp Williams and has already been withdrawn for military use by the National Guard.

The transfer will simply open up property that is along one of the major corridors there to help support the military use of this camp. For obvious reasons, placing the land in the ownership of the State will allow the State to bond for other facilities that need to be built there. The State of Utah will not bond for building facilities on land it does not own. So the transfer of title to those lands also expedites the building and expansion of Camp Williams and the training facilities to improve the readiness of the Utah National Guard.

This conveyance without consideration is consistent with other bills in which you are doing government to government conveyances. The bill includes a provision directing the land revert to Federal ownership if this property is not used for National Guard or national defense purposes.