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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, February 14, 2011, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2011

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, our fortress and source of freedom, You are always attentive to our pleas. We need to be more attentive to Your response and Your commands. Or we are left to ourselves.

You are loving with those who love You. With those sincere, You show Yourself to be sincere. With the cunning, You can undo their cunning.

So shed Your light upon the House of Representatives; that step by step, in a unified effort, we may build a society where stability and creativity will flourish and we may even glimpse Your glory, both now and forever. 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.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered. The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. ALTMIRE 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 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

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

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, when future generations look back at the 112th Congress, they should be able to remember us as the Congress that made the tough decisions that got our economy back on track and restored America to greatness. That's why I fully support the commitment to cut at least \$100 billion from the President's budget. We're a country that is over \$14 trillion in debt, which is placing every

American, regardless of political party, at serious and increasing risk.

We're borrowing more than 40 percent of what we're spending, and my 2-year-old grandson is already \$45,000 in debt. And to say that our spending is simply unsustainable, that doesn't quite capture in my mind the gravity of our situation.

To meet the deep obligation that we have to pass on to the future generations the blessings of liberty and freedom, we must act now and act decisively. That's why I'm here this morning to emphatically ask that this Congress, in this session, works together to find our way to \$100 billion in cuts.

PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, the new Republican proposal to eliminate all funding for the many services provided by organizations such as Planned Parenthood are not merely anti-choice, they are also anti-health, anti-woman, and anti-poor.

The Republican proposal would eliminate the title X family planning which gives millions of American women access to primary and preventive health care. These budget cuts would deny crucial health services and cancer screening just to women. Their proposal would set up insurmountable cost barriers to family planning, just for the poor.

Their vision of smaller government would expand the government's power

□ 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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over a women's choices. It is wrong, it is shortsighted, and it is unjust.

Let's turn to the business of creating jobs and economic opportunity and away from the business of ruling other people's lives.

MILITARY TRIBUNALS FOR TERRORISTS ACT

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I recently introduced legislation that ensures that foreign terrorists are tried in military courts instead of civilian courts like common criminals. Attorney General Holder originally wanted some terrorists, including the mastermind of 9/11, to be tried in a New York City courtroom. This proposal was soundly rejected on a bipartisan basis. My bill solves this problem.

The Military Tribunals for Terrorists Act requires terrorists to be prosecuted and sentenced before military courts. This is the appropriate judicial review for terrorists who kill innocent men, women, and children. Classified intelligence may be made public if terrorists are given access to trial in public courtrooms.

I urge all my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING THE GREEN BAY PACKERS ON WINNING SUPER BOWL XLV

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to fulfill my side of a friendly wager with my good friends in the Wisconsin delegation to commemorate the Green Bay Packers on winning Super Bowl XLV.

Quarterback Aaron Rodgers was flawless, throwing for more than 300 yards and three touchdowns without an interception to earn Super Bowl MVP honors. And despite playing much of the game without injured stars Charles Woodson and Donald Driver, the Packers never trailed, and ended their season by winning the trophy named after the franchise's most storied coach, Vince Lombardi.

In winning Super Bowl XLV, current Packer coach Mike McCarthy, a Pittsburgh native, led Green Bay to its 10th NFL championship, the most of any NFL franchise since the league first initiated a playoff system in 1933. Again, I offer my congratulations to the Green Bay Packers.

THE FEDERAL POLAR EXPRESS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the President announced to this Congress that he would freeze all domestic

spending. But this week we heard the administration say it wants to spend billions of dollars for more high-speed rail. And that's not all. The administration wants to give wireless to everyone in the country at taxpayer expense.

It sure would be nice for all Americans to ride on fast choo choos throughout the fruited plane while reading the news on their wireless iPads, but the country's out of money. Our national debt has risen over \$1.7 trillion since last year.

We need to focus on getting ourselves out of this crisis by cutting spending, not more spending. Ask the 44 million people living under the poverty level if they want their taxes to go to the administration's Federal Polar Express.

We need to cut spending, cut borrowing, cut the taxes, and cut the size of government. We are long overdue to stop subsidizing the government's special projects for its special people with money that does not exist.

And that's just the way it is.

REMEMBERING VICTIMS OF THE KLEEN ENERGY SYSTEMS EXPLOSION

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, this past Monday marked the 1-year anniversary of the disaster at the Kleen Energy Systems power plant in Middletown, Connecticut. That blast claimed six lives and injured dozens of others last February. It could have been prevented. Unsafe pipe cleaning procedures and poor ventilation helped ignite a basketball arena's worth of natural gas in an explosion that could be heard across a 30-mile radius in central Connecticut.

One of the six plant construction workers who lost their lives that day hailed from Thomaston, Connecticut, in my district, Peter Chepulis. And as we look back at the terrible events of February 7 last year, it's up to us to honor Peter's memory and those who died alongside him by ensuring that disasters like this never happen again. The cost of powering our homes and businesses should never be measured in lives. Industry and government alike failed Peter that cold winter morning, and we have much work ahead of us to right that wrong. While those who lost loved ones in Middletown a year ago will never be made whole again, we owe them our diligence and our best work to make sure that it never happens again.

□ 0910

REPUBLICAN BUDGET CUTS

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, last year we passed a 2-year

\$850 billion tax cut bill with the benefits skewed toward millionaires; \$24 billion of that was a bonus reduction in taxes on estates of multimillionaires over and above the generous reduction that most had expected. When the bill passed, many of us asked how we were going to pay for it. Well, now we know.

This week, the Republican majority released a list of spending cuts, and look how we are going to pay for it: cuts in heating assistance for low income families, job training programs, National Institute for Health, NASA research, community health centers, and women, infant and children's nutrition programs.

Madam Speaker, the worst part is that the savings from the 70 programs slated to be cut only total \$23 billion, less than the cost of the bonus estate tax changes for dead multimillionaires, a long way from the \$100 billion demanded by the tea party, nowhere close to paying the \$850 billion tax cut bill, and it doesn't fix the long-term structural imbalance in the Federal budget. Madam Speaker, that's not right.

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

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

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise with serious concerns with the lack of debate in this House.

I was taught growing up that there is a right way and a wrong way to do things. The right way is to look before you leap. We are not today looking at the consequences of our actions. Reckless cuts are as dangerous as reckless spending.

While the Democrats talk about creating more jobs, the other side talks about the race to the bottom in fiscal cuts. Think about it. You can't create jobs by removing the foundation that creates an educated workforce. Cutting access to education won't create more jobs. Cutting job training won't create a more competitive workforce. Cutting social safety nets won't save lives.

Not having hearings on the impacts of our cuts is not a smart thing to do. That's why my granddaughter reminds me we should stop, look, and listen before we cross the street. But not the new Congress, which embraces a race to the bottom rather than informed reductions. We should look before we leap. It might save jobs and lives.

DIRECTING COMMITTEES TO REVIEW REGULATIONS FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, proceedings will now resume on the resolution (H. Res. 72) directing certain standing committees to inventory and review existing, pending, and proposed regulations and orders from agencies of the Federal Government,