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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 14, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROB BISHOP to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. 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 1:50 p.m.

AMERICA'S DEBT

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, the President today released his budget, and it is a pretty ugly thing.

We reach another record deficit next year in his projection and we have deficits that go on as far as the eye can see. We are rapidly heading towards the time when our national debt will equal the economy; 100 percent of GDP. The last time that occurred was in 1944 and 1945, when we were fighting World War II.

There is a big difference between now and then. Then, we were fighting a war. At some point, that war would end and the spending would drop. In fact, it did. After 1945, we didn't reach that level of spending again for 30 years. However, this time, the spending is projected to increase every year as far as the eye can see.

Then, we financed this debt by Americans through war bonds. Americans financed their own debt. Today, 47 percent of our debt is held by foreigners. We are giving them a power and a control over us. But almost more importantly, back then we were fighting a world war to preserve freedom and our way of life, and that's what drove the deficit and the debt.

Today, our deficit and our debt are driven largely as we create bureaucracies, free health care and free retirement plans that the person receiving them doesn't have to pay for, and, in fact, no one in this generation is going to have to pay for. This debt is from the wrong place, it is for the wrong reasons, and it will be with us until as far as we can see.

This debt is now the greatest threat to the prosperity, security, and hegemony of the United States of America.

Our economy is like a patient, like a person. We have an infection; we have an infection of debt. If allowed to continue, that infection will kill the patient. In the last 4 years, the Democratic Congress and this President in the last 2 years have made this infection much worse, and it has grown and it has festered such that the condition of the patient is substantially worse than just 4 years ago. We have to kill this infection before it kills us.

We have three strong antibiotics we can give it. First, reduce spending. Second, raise revenues by growing the economy. Raising tax rates at this level will not raise revenue. And, reform the entitlements, which are the majority of our spending.

This week, we will start with the first of those antibiotics. We will begin for the first time in a long time to actually reduce spending instead of just to talk about how much it's going to grow.

Now, there are those who are decrying on both sides of the aisle how much we are cutting or reducing. I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that the bill that's coming before us tomorrow doesn't actually cut enough.

You know, we have increased discretionary spending—that's the spending over which Congress has annual control—by 38 percent in the last 4 years, since 2006. Now, in that 4 years there hasn't been a lot of inflation. Mr. Speaker, have most Americans seen their spending increase by 38 percent? Have most Americans seen their income go up by 38 percent? No. Was the government so bad 4 years ago when we were spending 38 percent less that it couldn't function? Were there great tragedies and trials on the street that we don't have today because we increased spending by 38 percent? No. We have to act and we have to reduce spending, and there is plenty of spending to reduce.

Mr. Speaker, this debt is our greatest national security threat. This debt is the challenge of our generation. We must be up to that challenge. Let us not fail. Let us begin now.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 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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□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God of history and ever-present to our needs, this weekend the commemoration of President Abraham Lincoln's birth brought to mind stirring words he wrote in 1863:

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.

"But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us. We have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient, too proud to pray to the God that made us."

So it seems fitting and proper that God should today be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged with one heart and one voice by the whole American people.

Therefore, in that same Spirit and with the words of President Lincoln himself, "I invite you my fellow citizens to thank and praise our gracious Father who dwells in the heavens" and beg for God's continued hand of blessing upon our Nation.

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. SCHOCK. 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. SCHOCK. 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 Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SCHOCK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE POWER OF PEACE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on this day when around the world we celebrate the transformative power of love, it is also appropriate for us to think about a world as one, that the world, in fact, is interdependent, interconnected; and if we can have this realization of the power of love, then we can also have a realization of the power of peace.

Peace is not simply the absence of war. It is an active presence of an understanding of the capacity that we have to relate to each other in a way which is not only nonviolent but which is loving.

So on this day when we think about love, let us also think about peace. Let us think about peaceful relations at home and peaceful relations with people around the world.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHOCK). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1710

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SCHOCK) at 5 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 14, 2011.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on February 14, 2011, at 2:35 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits his Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2012.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-3)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

America is emerging from the worst recession in generations. In 2010, an economy that had been shrinking began to grow again. After nearly 2 years of job losses, America's businesses added more than one million jobs. Our capital and credit markets are functioning and strong. Manufacturing is coming back. And after teetering on the brink of liquidation just 2 years ago, America's auto industry is posting healthy gains and returning money to the taxpayers who helped it through a period of turmoil. The determination and resilience of the American people and the tough choices we made over the past 2 years helped to pull our economy back from the brink of a second Great Depression.

Two years after those dark days, the stock market is booming. Corporations are posting record profits. Momentum is building. Yet, in America, we have always had a broader measure of economic health. We believe in a country where everyone who is willing to work for it has the opportunity to get ahead; where the small businessperson with a dream or entrepreneur with a great new idea has their best chance to make them a reality; where any child can go as far as their talent and tenacity will take them. That is the genius of America. That spirit is what has built the greatest prosperity the world has ever known.

So even as recovery begins to take hold, we have more work to do to live up to our promise by repairing the damage this brutal recession has inflicted on our people, generating millions of new jobs, and seizing the economic opportunities of this competitive, new century.

These must be the priorities as we put together our Budget for the coming year. The fiscal realities we face require hard choices. A decade of deficits, compounded by the effects of the recession and the steps we had to take to break it, as well as the chronic failure to confront difficult decisions, has put us on an unsustainable course. That's why my Budget lays out a path for how we can pay down these debts and free the American economy from their burden.

But in an increasingly competitive world in which jobs and businesses are mobile, we also have a responsibility to invest in those things that are absolutely critical to preparing our people and our Nation for the economic competition of our time.

We do this by investing in and reforming education and job training so