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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 29, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDY HARRIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. You have blessed us with all good gifts, and this past week, with thankful hearts we gathered with family and loved ones throughout this great land to celebrate our blessings together.

Bless the Members of the people's House, who have been entrusted with the privilege to serve our Nation and all Americans in their need. Grant them to work together in respect and affection and to be faithful in the responsibilities they have been given.

As the end of the first session approaches and much is left to be done, bestow upon them the gifts of wisdom and discernment that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KUCINICH 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.

COMING TO AMERICA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, those who say that the border is secure and the violence is contained in Mexico are living in a blissful state of ignorance. Case in point: Last week, according to the Houston Chronicle, three SUVs carrying Mexican Zeta cartel soldiers

tried to hijack a tractor truck rig loaded with drugs on a road in north Houston. They unleashed blazing gunfire. A shootout occurred with police who were tracking the truck from Mexico. The truck driver was killed and a peace officer was wounded. Three Mexican nationals and another of unknown citizenship were charged with capital murder.

The local head of the DEA, Javier Pena, said, "we are not going to tolerate these thugs using their weapons like the Wild Wild West." Sadly, this brazen case of violence is a familiar scene on the streets of Mexico. And now it has become a reality in the United States.

Until Washington realizes what happens in Mexico doesn't stay in Mexico, more cartel shoot-outs on American streets are coming our way.

And that's just the way it is.

THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY EMPLOYMENT DEFENSE ACT

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

Mr. KUCINICH. While Congress is in a deadlock over tax and spending cuts, we learn the Feds secretly gave Wall Street banks over \$7.7 trillion. Where did the Fed get that 7.7 trillion? They created most of it from nothing. While our government slid into massive debt, the Fed picked winners and losers and secretly helped big banks tally record profits.

Remember the great debate we had here over \$700 billion in TARP funds? There was no debate over the \$7.7 trillion the Fed gave the banks. Did Congress have a clue? There's another game going on way over our heads, and our constituents are struggling while the banks, with the help of the Fed, have captured control of our government. Now the rating services are threatening us that if we don't come up

□ 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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with a deal, they'll downgrade U.S. debt.

Could the threat to our national sovereignty be any clearer? It's time for Congress to listen to the wisdom of our Founders and reclaim its constitutional primacy over monetary policy. There is a way. It is called the NEED Act. The Fed takes our freedom and gives it to the banks. Let's take our freedom back from the Fed.

SENATE NEEDS TO ACT AFTER SUPERCOMMITTEE FAILURE

(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, last Monday, the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction announced that the bipartisan group had failed to reach an agreement. In an op-ed to *The Wall Street Journal*, Congressman JEB HENSARLING, cochair of the supercommittee, stated that the group "missed a historic opportunity to lift the burden of debt and help spur economic growth and job creation."

Last week, I attended a town hall meeting in Forest Acres, South Carolina, hosted by Mayor Frank Brunson, where we discussed ways to promote small businesses and encourage job growth within the private sector. The message from the constituents is very clear: Congress must reduce Washington's out-of-control spending before it's too late.

As Congress returns from the Thanksgiving Day recess, I encourage our colleagues in the Senate to begin focusing on job creation by considering any of the 20 jobs bills the House has passed with bipartisan support this year.

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

FAILURE OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

(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, it was about a week ago that the Joint Select Committee announced that they were unable to reach an agreement in finding \$1.2 trillion in cuts before their deadline. Now, could they have done this without really breaking a sweat? And the answer is yes, they could have. The entire target for which they were reaching, the \$1.2 trillion to \$1.5 trillion, could have been cut with a single act: repealing the Affordable Care Act.

One point five trillion dollars in new spending that this country cannot afford is contained within the confines of the Affordable Care Act. Now, look, Washington needs to quit pointing fingers and get back to work if we expect to put America back on a path to prosperity. American families are making

cuts at home, and Washington should do the same thing. Families do not have the luxury of missing their deadlines, and neither should Washington.

Americans must reduce our deficit, and we need to put people back to work. The House has passed more than 25 bills that would affect employment. Twenty of these House-passed jobs bills are stalled in the Senate. You can find out more about them going to jobs.gop.gov. Let's get people back to work and focus on ways to reduce the deficit. That means creating more taxpayers, not more taxes.

BOLINGBROOK HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Illinois Bolingbrook High School football team on winning the Class 8A State Championship on November 25.

Coach John Ivlow led the team to a record-breaking season of 13 wins and 1 loss. This accomplishment by the Raiders marks the first State football championship for Bolingbrook High School. Despite the absence of their star linebacker, the Raiders overcame five turnovers and won the championship game by a score of 21-17 against the top-rated Loyola Academy.

Each player this season demonstrated a tremendous level of demonstration and hard work, including seniors Antonio Morrison and Robbie Bain. Other stars of the game included junior Aaron Bailey, who scored the game-winning touchdown, and senior Diaron Rhodes, who sealed the game with an interception.

Mr. Speaker, our community is very proud of these accomplished young athletes. Once again, I would like to congratulate the Bolingbrook High School Raiders on their win and wish them continued success in all of their future endeavors.

□ 1410

IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT WASHINGTON'S SPENDING AD- DICTION

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the so-called supercommittee announced last week that it was unable to come up with a plan to reduce the deficit by \$1.2 trillion over the course of 10 years. That is a sad commentary on Washington, DC's addiction to overspending. After all, \$1.2 trillion is less than 1 year's worth of overspending at the going rate.

It's time to get serious. Just consider the mess in Europe. The eurozone's bailout fund is struggling to keep debt-ridden nations like Greece, Ireland, and Portugal afloat, while Italy also tee-

ters on the brink of insolvency. Europe's sovereign debt crisis is not an abstract economics lesson; it is the painful reckoning after years of the debt-financed government profligacy.

What should unnerve us is that some of these nations being battered by the consequences of high debt level have debt-to-GDP ratios that are close to our own. If Congress doesn't get serious about reducing spending and ending the Federal debt addiction, we're going to find ourselves in the same boat as our friends in the eurozone.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, this Thanksgiving many of us had the opportunity to spend time with our families and loved ones, so I think it's fitting that November is National Adoption Month. I also think it's appropriate to take time during this holiday season to recognize the tens of thousands of families nationwide who are foster families.

Unfortunately, in my home State of Illinois, a potentially tragic situation has unfolded. Faith-based adoption agencies across the State are being shut down because of their belief in traditional marriage. The Illinois Department of Child and Family Services has declined to renew contracts with several organizations. They have decimated these agencies, some of whose work was 70 percent foster care. It's an unfortunate situation, and I'm watching it closely.

But today I want to say publicly that, as we fight to curb teenage pregnancy and abortion, the right to adoption is one thing we really must defend.

OBAMACARE JOBS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, let's be perfectly clear: Our tax policy affects job growth.

When the Federal Government raises taxes, raises rates, or creates new taxes, businesses make decisions regarding their workforce. When the government takes more, businesses have to make due with less.

All told, last year's health care reform law will raise taxes by \$800 billion over the next 10 years. One of the new taxes is a 2.3 percent tax on medical devices.

Michigan-based manufacturer Stryker recently announced that they will reduce their work force by 5 percent so that they will be prepared to pay this new tax beginning in 2013. Stryker is just one of the first to announce reductions in the layoffs.

In the next year, medical device companies will be faced with difficult decisions about where they will cut in