

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 33 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

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "Open the door. Heighten the security. Gather the people. Proclaim a fast. Through the medium of television, enter in, and ready yourself to listen, America."

Lord God, today this House Chamber and its Members prepare this place and this Nation to welcome President Barack Obama tonight to listen to his State of the Union.

Guide and protect him, Lord. Grant him health, wisdom, prudence, and forbearance.

Help all Americans, Lord, for "we the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty" do assemble and ready ourselves to hear the President's message and act according to the Constitution that holds us together as a new order both now and for ages to come.

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 Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas 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.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 52

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Doggett, Mr. Blumenauer, Ms. McCollum, Mr. Yarmuth, Mr. Pascrell, Mr. Honda, Mr. Ryan of Ohio, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Ms. Moore, Ms. Castor of Florida, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Tonko, and Ms. Bass of California.

(2) COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—Ms. Schwartz, to rank immediately after Mr. Higgins.

(3) COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION.—Ms. Zoe Lofgren of California and Mr. Gonzalez.

(4) COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS.—Ms. Linda T. Sánchez of California, to rank immediately after Mr. Michaud.

Mr. ALTMIRE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 15 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

FOREIGN AID TO CHINA—
ABSURDITY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the government is going broke. Government spends too much. It borrows too much. It taxes too much. One idea is to raise the government credit card limit.

It's like when my four kids went off to college. When they reached the maximum on their credit cards, the credit card company would simply raise their limit. Thus, they could spend more money by borrowing money. However, they all found out how difficult it was to get out of debt until they quit spending money.

Instead of more U.S. debt, why not cut spending? Start with foreign aid. There are 194 countries in the world, and the United States gives to over 150 of them.

Did you know we give money to dictator Chavez of Venezuela, the tyrant of South America? Did you know we give money to Russia?—and the zinger of all—did you know we give money to China? Yes, the country that owns most of our debt gets foreign aid.

This absurdity must cease. No more foreign aid to the likes of Venezuela, Russia or China.

And that's just the way it is.

BIPARTISANSHIP AND JOBS

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, at tonight's State of the Union Address, it is vitally important that President Obama lays out an effective strategy for new job creation.

The economy is improving, and with more than 1 million private sector jobs created in the last year, more people are going back to work; but far too many Americans still find themselves without jobs, especially in my district in the Inland Empire, where unemployment is 14 percent.

At this time of enormous challenges, we must all recognize that the problems we face cannot be solved by a Democrat or a Republican solution alone. Only—and I state only—by working together and finding common ground will we overcome the obstacles in front of us.

I stand ready to work with all of my colleagues, Republicans and the tea party included, to think outside the box and create a better future for our children and our country.

As we prepare for the President's address tonight, I ask my friends on the other side of the aisle: Are you ready to work with us to move forward?

GIVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE A
NEW DIRECTION

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, tonight the President of the United States will appear in this Chamber, as nearly every President has for more than 150 years, and report on the State of the Union, and we will receive him with the respect that is due his Office.

We are told in press reports that the President will focus on the future, on winning the future; but as the President said last Friday, "The past 2 years were about pulling our economy back from the brink"—and we expect to hear the same thing today.

But frankly, as most Americans know, during the last 2 years, this administration and the former majority in Congress met our present crisis with an avalanche of borrowing and spending and bailouts and taxes and takeovers and mandates. Far from pulling our economy back, the weight of debt and taxes and regulation have stifled our economic recovery.

Mr. President, we will not win the future with the failed economic policies of the past. As you come into this hallowed Chamber tonight, we urge you, Mr. President, for not just a new speech. Give the American people a new direction.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). Members are advised to direct their comments to the Chair.

BUDGETLESS RESOLUTION

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with serious concerns about the misguided agenda our friends on the other side of the aisle are pursuing.

While Democrats continue to make job creation, economic recovery, and debt reduction top priorities, the majority continues to engage in political theater. In fact, their first actions after assuming control of the House haven't created a single job or protected a single American business.

Instead, the other side's top priority has been to repeal the patient protections provided by the new health care reform bill; and their so-called "budget resolution" they have offered today is a one-page document with no specific cuts to reduce spending, no budget numbers and, most importantly, no ideas on job creation or on economic recovery.

Mr. Speaker, we were sent here to create jobs and get the American economy back on track, both the Republicans and Democrats. Let's stop the political gimmickry, and let's get to the work of putting the American people back to work.

DEFICIT REDUCTION PLANS—NOT
AMBIGUOUS GOALS

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, as we look forward to tonight's State of the Union Address, it is important for all of us to keep in mind the most important issues to the American people: jobs, the economy, and deficit reduction. In the weeks and months ahead, we look forward to working together, Democrats and Republicans, to focus our legislative attention on these issues.

As we debate these issues, it is easy to simply identify the problem. We all know that unemployment is too high, that recovery is not as fast as we would like, and that the deficit is out of control; but the time for simply defining the problem has long since passed, and realistic solutions are long overdue. As we near completion of our first month of the new Congress, the American people are still waiting to hear the majority's specific recommendations on how to address these issues.

Tonight, we will hear from the President. I look forward to soon hearing from the majority some specific details about their deficit reduction plans, not just ambiguous goals.

□ 1210

HONORING FALLEN OFFICERS IN
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

(Ms. CASTOR of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifice of two St. Petersburg, Florida, police officers who were killed in the line of duty yesterday.

Sergeant Tom Baitinger and Officer Jeffrey Yaslowitz were following up on a Fugitive Task Force warrant when they and a deputy U.S. marshal were ambushed and shot. Officer Yaslowitz was fatally shot while trying to arrest the dangerous fugitive; Officer Baitinger was shot while attempting to rescue his colleagues.

Officer Yaslowitz was 39 years old. He was a K-9 officer and had worked with his canine partner, "Ace," for the last 2 years. He is survived by his wife, Lorraine, and three young children. Sergeant Thomas J. Baitinger was 48 years old. He is survived by his wife, Paige.

As my colleague, Congressman BILL YOUNG, stated yesterday from this floor, we pray for their families, the St. Petersburg Police Department, Mayor Bill Foster, and Police Chief Chuck Harmon, and we honor the sacrifice of our community heroes and all who wear the uniform of service.

TONIGHT'S OFF-BROADWAY
PERFORMANCE

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I want to give folks a preview of tonight's off-Broadway performance that will follow the President's State of the Union Address.

The stage will be the House Budget Committee hearing room. The actor in the one-man show will be Republican Representative PAUL RYAN from Wisconsin. The script will begin with something like, Hello, I'm Representative PAUL RYAN, and I'm speaking to you from the very location where the Democratic job-killing spending binge unfolded during the last 2 years. Unfortunately, the script for tonight's performance will not include the fact that Democratic investments have created more jobs during the last 2 years than were created during the entire 8 years of George Bush. You also won't hear about the one thing that Republicans fought tooth and nail for during the last 2 years: an extension of a budget-busting \$700 billion tax break for wealthy Americans.

Coming attractions? The chairman will have another show in the next week where he pulls a budget number from a hat filled with rabbits. That will be our budget number. Enjoy the show.

CALLING FOR TRANSPARENCY IN
CAMPAIGN FINANCE

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss the importance of reducing the influence of corporate special interest money in our elections.

As a result of the Citizens United decision, corporations and other special interests are free to pump unlimited sums of money into campaign attacks. And worse yet, because of this decision there is no good mechanism to keep money from foreign sources out of our elections. We need reform that brings transparency to the campaign finance system and protects the best interests of middle class families.

I will call on the new majority to work in a bipartisan fashion to bring transparency to the campaign finance system. I supported the DISCLOSE Act last year, and I believe this bill is a good first step. I will continue standing up for middle class families.

USING AMERICAN RESOURCES TO
CREATE JOBS

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, tonight we will hear about the State of the Union. I hope we hear the sometimes painful truth about the State of the Union: more jobs lost in the last couple of years and we need to do something about that.

But the answer is not more spending that leads us to a greater deficit and more borrowing from China. The answer is not to continue to have higher gas prices because we are buying our oil from OPEC, which they use to build their lavish palaces and drive their Rolls Royces while our communities are trying to find ways to afford the patching compound to patch up our potholes. What we need to be doing is taking action that uses our resources to create American jobs.

A bill that I am going to be reintroducing from last year is one that says, Let's stop this moratorium that prevents us from using our oil, from drilling our resources. We can actually create jobs and have about \$3 trillion-plus in Federal revenue without raising taxes, without raising our trade deficit, and without sending more money to OPEC.

I hope this is something this Congress considers and this President has an open mind to dealing with so that we can create jobs without creating more deficit.

STANDING TOGETHER FOR THE
ECONOMY

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