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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PALAZZO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 25, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVEN M. PALAZZO 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 17, 2012, 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 time equally allocated between the parties 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 12:50 p.m.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago President Obama promised Congress that the American people would have 6 percent unemployment in exchange for trillions of taxpayer dollars to pump into the economy. Today we know that the stimulus program was mismanaged, ill-conceived, and failed to create the jobs promised by the President. For 38 straight months and counting, the unemployment rate has remained above 8 percent.

The American people realize something that my Democrat friends don't seem to understand: that government cannot create jobs and shouldn't be in the business of handing out jobs. In 2010, the American people sent me and many of my colleagues to Washington to cut government spending and offer real solutions to job creation. We have been aggressively fighting to achieve that challenge.

Our country needs commonsense, pro-growth policies that will help small business regain their confidence. When business owners have faith that the government will not raise their taxes, impose new, unnecessary regulations, and pick winners and losers in the marketplace, they'll invest more. When they invest more, the company grows, and the opportunity for American jobs grows with it.

Just last week, we saw a very clear picture of the different visions for job creation held by folks in Washington. My friends in the Senate voted on but thankfully failed to pass the Buffett rule. The act would impose a tax hike on one class of Americans and would pay for approximately 11 hours of government functioning. Talk about a cynical ruse serving only to divide our country for political purposes.

But while my Democrat colleagues in the Senate are working to raise taxes on Americans and America's job creators, the House is trying to lower them. Last week we passed a small business tax cut, which will give businesses with fewer than 500 employees a 20 percent tax reduction off their active business income and encourage the creation of more jobs for our citizens.

Data shows that 7 out of every 10 jobs in this country are created by companies with fewer than 500 employees. My Republican colleagues and I truly believe that small businesses are the backbone of our country's economy and their success is vital to our economic recovery. We continue to act

proactively and, as reflected in the 27 job-creating measures passed by the House this Congress alone, to ensure job providers are able to create, innovate, and lead.

We hope our friends in the Senate and White House will decide to join us as we say "yes" to American jobs for American people.

AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, a shadowy collection of wealthy businesses and conservative Tea Party Republican State lawmakers is undermining our democracy.

Last week I discussed the connection between the American Legislative Exchange Council, known as ALEC, and the proliferation of shoot first and ask questions later legislation that supported the Trayvon Martin case that we all know about, and other draconian criminal justice laws.

According to the New York Times:

ALEC lawmakers typically introduced more than 1,000 bills based on model legislation each year and passed about 17 percent of them. A members-only newsletter from 1995, found in an online archive of tobacco company documents, bluntly characterized that success ratio as a "good investment."

I agree. ALEC's corporate members have gotten an outstanding return on their investments, but it's been at yours and my expense. Due to ALEC, the NRA, and the private for-profit prison industry, we are all less safe and more likely to be put in jail.

The for-profit prison industry, on the other hand, has reaped huge financial rewards from ALEC-sponsored efforts to incarcerate more Americans and put them, as well as illegal immigrants, into this private prison system. For

□ 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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the private prison industry, where some of the inmates are paid as low as 2 cents an hour to produce goods that are later sold for profit, business is booming.

But ALEC does not stop there. ALEC's corporate members are some of the world's biggest polluters and most profitable oil companies. ALEC's corporate bill factory has ghost-written legislation on their behalf to combat efforts to address climate change and oppose national renewable energy standards, among others.

In 1998, according to the Center for Media and Democracy, ALEC belched a resolution out of its smokestack calling on the U.S. to reject the Kyoto Protocol and banning States from regulating greenhouse gases. ALEC's Energy, Environment, and Agriculture Task Force has since turned out model bills criticizing the Environmental Protection Agency.

Recently, ALEC has focused on what it calls the "EPA's regulatory train wreck," seeking to frame the EPA's enforcement of the Clean Air Act as "higher prices, fewer jobs, and less energy." ALEC's dirty supporters, like the Koch brothers—named one of the United States' top 10 air polluters in a University of Massachusetts study—began attacking every effort to clean up the mess that they themselves have made. Why? Because they want to continue to make more money.

ALEC is dumping its waste right here in Congress. After the Tennessee coal ash disaster, ALEC began pushing a model resolution called Resolution to Retain State Authority over Coal Ash as Non-Hazardous Waste. Can you believe that? This resolution was approved by ALEC on June 3, 2010. Just over a year later, October 14, 2011, this House passed a bill that authorizes States to adopt and implement coal combustion residuals permit programs.

Mr. Speaker, this is only the tip of the melting iceberg. Yes, global warming is at work, and it is melting this iceberg that ALEC represents.

I encourage the American people to visit the alecexposed.org Web site, where you can view leaked ALEC documents, including model bills, as well as a list of ALEC members. About 60 percent of the State legislators in this country are members of ALEC.

Mr. Speaker, I'll return tomorrow with more on how corporations are using ALEC to install their agenda in the States and in Congress, undermining our basic rights and freedoms.

□ 1010

ISRAEL AND AMERICA

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

Mr. POMPEO. I rise today in my role as Representative and with the perspective of both a Christian and a former soldier. I urge this body and our President to do all within our collec-

tive power to defeat Iran's efforts to build a nuclear weapon and delivery system, the combination of which presents a world-changing threat to every American, to every Israeli, and to citizens everywhere in our world.

I've had the privilege to travel twice to the Holy Land. One cannot walk the Golan Heights or travel the hills around Jerusalem and fail to appreciate the momentous nature of these places. Even a quick survey of history reveals that this is among the most geopolitically and strategically important patches of land on Earth, and it is also the focal point of the world's three Abrahamic religions.

Our Declaration of Independence speaks of a humanity endowed with rights by its Creator. The land we speak of here is the land where He walked, the land where He taught, and the land where my faith teaches me that He gave His life for each of us. And now this land is menaced by a dangerous and inimical enemy. One cannot stare long at a map without plotting the strategic course open to this enemy. In doing so, one is struck by the miniscule flight time for a missile departing from Iran for this land loaded with a weapon of mass destruction.

Mr. Speaker, it's election season and our President appears to be more interested in dissuading Israel from defending its people than deterring President Ahmadinejad from achieving nuclear weaponry. Unfortunately, danger—this danger, particularly—knows no timetable, and political calculation amid such peril is an abdication of a Commander in Chief's responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, we hear the President's team has said that an Israeli attack would destabilize the region. It is hard to doubt that, to a degree at least, this is possible. But more destabilizing by an order of magnitude would be the permanent threat of a nuclear-armed Iran. It is a folly to trade temporary peace for a permanent menace to world security.

Mr. Speaker, our President's intelligence chief has said that the Iranians have not yet decided to build a bomb. To me, these words are reminiscent to those of Neville Chamberlain, who doubted that the Nazi command had finalized its decision to invade all of Europe, both east and west. The threat was either ignored or considered too irrational to be possible by a timorous and distracted world bent on avoiding conflict.

Mr. Speaker, this body must unambiguously oppose the weakness our President has spoken of on this issue. Our Commander in Chief has fought against every Iranian sanctions measure that we have presented to him; he has casually mused about returning to pre-1967 borders, as if road-testing an idea; and he has consistently sided with the Palestinians on key issues surrounding American national security. It should be no wonder then that President Ahmadinejad feels emboldened, for weakness always

breeds and invites aggression. In such situations, perceptions will influence outcomes—and possibly determine them.

With this in mind, we must emphatically, and in no uncertain terms, display unwavering American commitment to the defense and support of Israel. The perception that we mean it, and that we mean it without reserve, will serve to inhibit Iran's nuclear ambitions as surely as a policy of American doubt, hesitation, and vacillation will serve to strengthen it.

We are mindful, too, that our President has said, when he believed himself to be out of the reach of microphones, that he was tired of President Netanyahu. He said, "I have to deal with him every day." This was an all-too-rare and certainly valuable glimpse into the heart of the President. It seems to confirm to me what many of us suspect and what gives President Ahmadinejad courage: that despite the careful language suggesting alignment between America and Israel, the President will crumble when Israel needs him most.

Mr. Speaker, I will say in front of this microphone and on the record this morning that I'm tired. I'm tired of creating risks for America's democratic foothold in the Middle East; I'm tired of a badly mistaken notion that Israel is some way or another the aggressor; and I'm tired of the President speaking of a moral equivalence between Iran and Israel.

There are but a few moments in history that have set the course for a relationship among nations, and I believe this is one of them. We must make a powerful and unequivocal commitment to the nation of Israel, and we must make an equally powerful and unequivocal commitment to prevent Iran from achieving nuclear weaponry. Iran must not be allowed for even one moment to doubt our will, and it must not be allowed to think twice about our willingness to act. The fate of the Jewish people and the American people—one and inseparable—depends on it.

HONORING DUNCAN CAMPBELL

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Tonight, in Portland, Oregon, there's a special ceremony as Duncan Campbell is honored at the 84th Annual Portland First Citizen Award Banquet. I'm sorry that duties require me to be here in Washington, DC, instead of with hundreds of Duncan's friends and admirers back home in Portland.

This is a very special award for a unique human being. Duncan has a very compelling personal story, working his way through a childhood marred by neglect and alcoholism. He put himself through college at Portland State University and eventually did the same at law school, earning his