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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

August 2, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Imam Nayyar Imam, Suffolk County Police Department, Yaphank, New York, offered the following prayer:

We beseech God Almighty, calling upon Him by the most noble of His characteristics. We bear witness in testimony that He is the sovereign, the omnipotent, the exalted, the all knowing.

God Almighty, we ask that You bestow upon all of our elected officials guidance and patience required to carry out the solemn task of legislation before them. Grant them commitment to serve before being served, a sense of fraternity before partisanship, and dedication to the interests of our country before the interests of even their own selves.

The final prophet of God, Muhammad, peace be upon him, stated:

The leaders of a people are a representation of their deeds.

We ask God Almighty that He make our elected officials true representatives of honesty, equality, and the values that represent the uniqueness of our Nation.

We ask You, Almighty God, that You look to us with glance of mercy, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, or political party. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WITTMAN 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PROCRASTINATION IN WASHINGTON

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, after today, Congress completes its business until September without finishing critical items, leaving many sectors across this country uncertain about their fiscal future. Looming defense cuts, or sequestration, still hang over the Congress as unfinished business.

I'm extremely disappointed that Congress is leaving town without addressing such pressing issues and with so little time scheduled in the rest of this legislative year. Many Americans in America's First District are frustrated with Washington's lack of action and

accomplishments as this country struggles to rebound from these tough economic times. Virginians, and all Americans, have the right to be upset with such irresponsible procrastination.

Sequestration threatens our country's national security and sends the wrong message to the American people and to the world about our commitment to defend this great Nation in the future. Congress should stay in Washington to finish the business of the people. I am prepared to stay in Washington as long as it takes. These issues are too important to wait.

THE INNOVATION PROMOTION ACT

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. To strengthen our economic competitiveness in a global economy, we must create the right environment for private sector growth in cutting-edge industries. As we work to reform our corporate Tax Code, it's critical that we consider policies that reflect our 21st century economy, an innovation economy, and promote new domestic manufacturing based on the best ideas developed right here in America.

Today, I will introduce a plan to incentivize manufacturing, innovation, and research and development right here in the United States. The Innovation Promotion Act keeps American businesses competitive by reducing their tax rate on patented products by more than half to 10 percent.

This lower tax rate is a major incentive to keep production here in the United States and will better ensure American companies that choose to stay in the U.S. can compete with foreign competitors, expand to new markets, and hire new workers.

□ 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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I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting American entrepreneurship, American innovation, and American jobs. Sign on to the Innovation Promotion Act to build America's economic leadership in the world and promote job creation right here at home.

WE HAVE A JOB TO DO

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, traditionally, Members of Congress return to their districts during the month of August to avoid the hottest, muggiest month of the Washington year, but given our current circumstances and the invention of air conditioning, I think we should break that tradition.

Senate Democrats have passed the President's plan to raise taxes. A family of four earning \$50,000 a year will see their taxes increase by more than \$2,000 per year. House Republicans have passed the only plan in Washington to stop the tax hike in its entirety.

A new report finds the tax hike will cost more than 700,000 American jobs. I stand by the House leadership who stated this week that if the Senate takes action to address these threats, the House will be in Washington in August for the purpose of sending solutions to the President's desk.

We have a job to do, and 23 million unemployed Americans are waiting.

GUN SAFETY

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the need for stronger gun safety laws in our country. This Congress has not only failed to address the issue of gun violence in the United States, it has actually weakened gun safety laws.

I am proud that my home State of Massachusetts is a leader in gun violence prevention and has the lowest firearm fatality rate per 100,000 population of any urban industrialized State.

I am proud of the work being done by antigun violence advocates across the Commonwealth, including Boston's mayor, Tom Menino, and John Rosenthal, founder of the organization, Stop Handgun Violence. Today, Stop Handgun Violence is hosting a rally in Boston calling on Congress to pass stronger gun safety legislation. I applaud their work and the efforts of other organizations like the Brady Campaign as they continue to educate and advocate for sensible legislation.

What more will it take for this Congress to bring commonsense gun control measures to the floor? How many more tragedies? Silence is no longer acceptable.

TAXES

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I'm a CPA by trade. I've spent many years in my former life wading through volumes of Tax Code trying to ensure my clients followed every last letter of the law while also trying to ensure they don't get stuck paying more taxes than they owe. But the American people and the people of south Mississippi don't need a CPA to tell them that we need a simpler, fairer, and flatter Tax Code.

Last week, the U.S. Senate sent a strong message when it voted to raise taxes on small businesses and families. In south Mississippi alone, the proposed tax hikes would increase taxes by an average of \$2,200 per family. That's a total of more than \$723 million more that south Mississippians would have to pay.

In addition to that extra tax burden, a recent study from Ernst & Young shows that we could lose as many as 710,000 jobs, and wages could decrease by almost 2 percent.

Now, I'm no rocket scientist, but I'm pretty sure that the American people and the people of south Mississippi don't need a rocket scientist to tell them that these tax hikes are the last thing we need right now. That's why the House stepped forward yesterday and passed legislation to stop the tax hike, and that's why we're committed to continue working on tax reform to make our Tax Code simpler, fairer, and flatter for all Americans.

THANKING ERNIE ALLEN FOR A JOB WELL DONE

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

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay my respects to a tireless crusader in the quest to protect America's children from violence and exploitation.

Ernie Allen recently retired as the president and chief executive officer of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, where his mission was to protect our Nation's children.

Under Ernie's leadership, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children played a crucial role in recovering some 74,000 children. With Ernie at the helm, they saw their recovery rate for missing children climb from 62 percent in 1990 to 94 percent today.

While there's no official record book of what Ernie has accomplished over the years, his record lives on in the lives he has saved and the families he has reunited.

I know I speak for my colleagues in the Congressional Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children's Caucus and for thousands of grateful families all across the Nation in thanking Ernie Allen for a job well done.

□ 0910

LET'S INVEST IN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, our economic problems are eminently solvable. They just require confidence in the American people. But the American people have lost confidence in Congress, and it's easy to see why.

Exhibit A: the inability to reach a deal on a grand bargain on debt reduction. Last year, the Speaker and the President negotiated a plan to reduce the debt by \$4 trillion through a mix of spending cuts and revenue increases, revenues that would come, not from raising taxes, but closing special deals, institutionalized corruption.

That plan represented a balanced and bipartisan approach. The economy today would be performing much better had that deal been enacted. But the Tea Party-controlled Republican House rejected the deal.

Exhibit B: the refusal to act boldly to create jobs and rebuild the infrastructure of America. We just spent \$89 billion rebuilding the roads of Afghanistan. Last week we passed a bill to spend just \$52 billion a year in rebuilding roads and bridges right here in America. That's a weak plan. In fact, it's pathetically weak. That is why the American people have lost confidence in Congress.

The best tax policy is to invest in America and the American people and to bring lost taxpayers back to work.

OBAMA CARES AND YOU SHOULD, TOO

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Obama cares, and you should, too.

ObamaCare provides access to much-needed contraceptives for women.

First of all, it's my body, not yours. I alone bear the burden, pain, and joy that it brings. Please stop trying to regulate my reproductive organs. They belong to me.

Have you ever had a menstrual period? Have you ever felt unbearable pain in every bone of your body during childbirth?

Will you be there for a mother when she needs prenatal care, formula, diapers? Will you support the Head Start program? Will you focus on creating good public schools again? Will you reform foster care and stop greasing the prison pipeline with unwanted children?

There are grandmothers living in trailer parks and public housing, singlehandedly raising millions of grandchildren. Where are you when Grandmother is trying to feed Jerome, Shaquita, Pedro, Heather, and John?

The only time I see you is on the floor of the House trying to take away