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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. WEBSTER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 19, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL WEBSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 624

In the Senate of the United States, December 18 (legislative day, December 17), 2012.

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye served the people of the State of Hawaii for over 58 years in the Territorial House of Representatives, the Territorial Senate, the United States House of Representatives, and the United States Senate;

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye became the first Japanese American to serve in both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate;

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye represented the State of Hawaii in Congress from before the time that Hawaii became a State in 1959 until 2012;

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye served as the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Defense, the first Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, Chairman of the Democratic Steering Committee, Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Chairman of the Rules Committee, Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Secret Military Assistance to Iran and

the Nicaraguan Opposition, and Secretary of the Democratic Conference;

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye delivered the keynote address at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Illinois, in which he expressed a vision for a more inclusionary Nation and famously declared "this is our country";

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye served as a medical volunteer at the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, and volunteered to be part of the all Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II at a time when Japanese Americans were being systematically discriminated against by the Nation he volunteered to defend;

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye was wounded in battle and honorably discharged as a Captain with a Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star, Purple Heart with cluster, and 12 other medals and citations; and

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye was, awarded the Medal of Honor by President William J. Clinton in June 2000, along with 21 other Asian-American veterans of World War II for their actions during the war: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret of the death of the Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Senator from the State of Hawaii;

(2) the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed concurrent Resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 63. Concurrent resolution correcting the enrollment of S. 2367.

S. Con. Res. 64. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the lying in state of the remains of the late Honorable Daniel K. Inouye.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recog-

nize 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 11:50 a.m.

THE FISCAL CLIFF

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the reality behind the fiscal cliff is that, if we really get down to work, talking with one another, digging into the details, it really is not that hard.

The nuclear arsenal is a prime example and something that doesn't get nearly the attention it deserves. It is an illustration of why the fiscal sequestration level over the next 10 years for the Department of Defense, which would bring it down to 2007 spending levels, adjusted for inflation, is really not that draconian.

During the Cold War, the United States spent, on average, \$35 billion a year on its nuclear weapons complex. Today it spends an estimated \$55 billion.

The nuclear weapons budget is spread across the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, the Department of Homeland Security. And the government doesn't publicly disclose how much it is, but the last year that the elements were aggregated together, it spent at least \$52.4 billion. That's in 2008, according to the Carnegie Endowment for Peace.

That doesn't include classified programs, and it was 5 times the State Department budget, 7 times the EPA, and 14 times what the Department of Energy spent on everything else it does.

□ 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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Indeed, the President agreed to a \$200 billion modernization in order to secure the approval of the strategic arms reduction treaty in the Senate.

Well, perhaps it's time for us to take a step back and ask what is actually the purpose. Who is the enemy that this nuclear arsenal is going to deter?

The nuclear arsenal didn't stop Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons. It's not helping us at all with the terrorists who are now the central focus of our security concerns. It doesn't help in Iraq or Afghanistan, and we basically have a stalemate between Russia and China.

Nuclear weapons have not been used since World War II. They likely never will be, so why do we need land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, bombers, and submarine launch delivery systems, all three of them?

Do we really need 12 new strategic submarines that will cost almost \$5 billion a year, if we're lucky and contain costs?

Who actually is being deterred by this massive spending and buildup?

Exactly what are the circumstances 30 years from now that call for this massive stockpile of weapons and three redundant delivery systems?

You know, recent articles in the Post by Walter Pincus really focused on this. There's Dana Priest's work also in the Post; GAO reports—you don't have to dig very deeply to find out that this is a bloated, flawed program with little technical benefit for us now, a great deal of fiscal pain currently and well into the future.

Twenty-one years ago, President George H.W. Bush unilaterally announced the elimination of thousands of land-based tactical nuclear weapons stationed in Europe and an end to the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons on surface ships, attack submarines, and land-based Naval aircraft.

Billions had been spent over the years on such weapons, but there was really never any plans for how to use them. Most have been dismantled, and the United States today is no weaker. Most, frankly, have not even noticed.

What could we accomplish over the next 10 years with the same sort of bold thinking on the part of the President, the Pentagon, and Members in Congress?

It's time that we find out.

LET U.S. MARINE JON HAMMAR GO

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 27-year-old Marine Corps veteran Jon Hammar honorably served two tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. While he was on Active Duty, Hammar's battalion was hit very hard in Fallujah, and 13 of his fellow Marines were killed in action.

When he came home to America, he suffered from PTSD, as many of our

warriors do. He spent time in a recovery facility in California to cope with the mental wounds of war.

Then, in August, Jon decided to get some R&R. He wanted to go to Costa Rica with a fellow marine, Ian McDonough, and they wanted to go on a surfing trip. According to McDonough, surfing gave Jon peace of mind and really helped with his therapy.

So the two packed up their car with their surfboards and began their journey from Florida to Costa Rica. Their trip took them through Texas to the border, in Brownsville, Texas. There they crossed the international border into Matamoros, Mexico, and that is as far as they got.

On the trip, Jon carried with him a 100-year-old antique gun, a family heirloom that belonged to his grandfather. When they arrived at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Texas, Jon did what he was supposed to do; he filled out all the necessary paperwork. He talked to U.S. Customs and verified with them that the rifle did not violate any Mexican law.

The two allegedly handed the Mexican officials the paperwork regarding the rifle. But instead of continuing on their way to Costa Rica to go surfing, Hammar was immediately detained and dragged away to a notorious prison in Matamoros where they house narco-terrorists.

Now, Mr. Speaker, here's a photograph of our marine when he served America. This is a photograph of him recently taken in the Matamoros prison. As you notice, he is in solitary confinement, and, similar to the old days, chained to his bed where he cannot go anywhere. This is all because of a misunderstanding and a mix-up about what the law is and what should have happened to him at the border.

□ 1010

So he's being held as a criminal because the size of the barrel on that rifle was, apparently, too long—even though U.S. Customs told Hammar he was not violating any American or Mexican law in having the rifle. Hammar had no criminal intent when he took that old rifle into Mexico.

Jon Hammar should not have to spend another holiday away from his family—holidays he spent when he served as a marine—and certainly he shouldn't spend a holiday away from his family in a Mexican jail where he is illegally being detained. Obviously, there appears to be a misunderstanding between U.S. and Mexican officials, with Hammar literally caught in the middle of this. So Mexican President Enrique Nieto should intervene and have Hammar released. It is in the power of the Mexican President to solve this international incident and do so in a diplomatic way. So I ask that he do so and release Hammar by Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, this marine and veteran has spent his life defending freedom,

defending America, taking care of America. It's time that America take care of him by asking for and expecting his release from this Mexican prison where he ought not to be.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING OUTGOING CBC CHAIRMAN REPRESENTATIVE EMANUEL CLEAVER

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, for over 40 years, the Congressional Black Caucus has strengthened and enhanced the work of the people's House. It does so by carrying into this Chamber the voices of millions of Americans who, for too long in our history, were voiceless. It represents millions of our citizens who contribute greatly to building our economy, defending our hard-won freedoms, and fighting for equal justice and equal opportunity for all of our citizens. The Congressional Black Caucus has been rightly known for a long period of time as the conscience of the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, since he arrived here 7 years ago, our colleague and my friend, EMANUEL CLEAVER, has been the conscience of the CBC. Representative CLEAVER, as most of us who served with him know, but many Americans might not know, wears multiple hats. He is not only the former mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, but he is also an ordained Methodist pastor. Pastor CLEAVER is frequently called upon for words to deliver at my whip meeting on Thursday mornings. I have said that they are the highlight of our week in many respects.

EMANUEL CLEAVER speaks to us about humanity, about caring, about respecting each of our colleagues on either side of the aisle, of respecting and honoring our responsibilities to our fellow citizens. In short, EMANUEL CLEAVER, on a weekly basis, appeals to the best that is within us to reflect the best that is America.

EMANUEL CLEAVER will shortly be succeeded as president of the CBC by MARCIA FUDGE from Ohio—like EMANUEL CLEAVER, a leader of conscience, a leader of great ability, and a leader who will reach out to all of us as well and continue to lead this organization that we know as the conscience of the Congress.

As we talk about creating jobs, as we talk about caring for one another, as we talk about making life better for all Americans, there is no more compelling voice than the Congressional Black Caucus towards that end. There has been no more compelling voice than that of my friend, EMANUEL CLEAVER.

EMANUEL, I expect your leadership to be enhanced as the days go by. You have shown us an example of how one can serve with dignity, with grace, and with effectiveness. Thank you.