



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2013

No. 8

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of Heaven and Earth, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing upon the Members of the people's House during these opening days of the first session of the 113th Congress.

Bless the Members of this assembly with wisdom; inspire them to act with justice; and empower them to work toward legislative solutions to the many challenges facing our Nation.

Bless all the people of our Nation as they return to their homes following the celebrations of the past few days. May the work of their hands issue forth to the betterment of their own lives and the strength and vitality of their communities.

And may all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

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.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. 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. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COFFMAN 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

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. Emerson), the whole number of the House is now 432.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

ENDING THE CONGRESSIONAL PENSION

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I'm introducing legislation to put an end to the defined benefit retirement plan currently available to Members of Congress.

These are extremely difficult economic times. We are in a debt crisis that will require sacrifices on the part of all Americans. I served in both the U.S. Army and Marine Corps, and I was

taught that leaders should never ask others to do anything that they themselves would be unwilling to do. Congress needs to set an example and lead the way for the country. I think ending the congressional pension system is a good start.

My legislation will honor any retirement benefits accrued prior to the passage of this bill and will keep Social Security and the Thrift Savings Plan in place for Members of Congress.

I believe that Members of Congress should feel the same economic pressures the rest of society does, and I firmly believe that the current effort to reduce spending and constrain the size and scope of government requires that all possible solutions be taken, including cuts to the congressional budget.

I urge the passage of this bill.

IN HONOR OF PAT COLLINS

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a dedicated educator, a true Miami treasure, a man who inspired me and many others, Mr. Pat Collins.

Mr. Collins has been a social studies teacher and a department head at Belen Jesuit Preparatory School since 1971. Currently teaching AP U.S. Government and Politics and U.S. Government, Mr. Collins moderates Belen's chapter of Amnesty International. Pat is instrumental in the success of Belen Jesuit's model United Nations program, founded the overseas study program in 1994, and teaches civic responsibility to his students.

A charter member of the U.S. Historical Society, Pat has received numerous awards, including the Cornell University Outstanding Educator and the Close Up Foundation's Linda Myers Chosen Award for teaching excellence in civics.

□ 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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Mr. Collins has inspired and educated many thousands of students, many who serve in public service like myself.

HONORING THE 16TH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH BOMBING VICTIMS

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

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, let me rise to announce bipartisan legislation that my good friend and colleague, TERRI SEWELL, and I are introducing today to honor the four little girls that were killed in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham with the Congressional Gold Medal.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of this pivotal event in the history of the civil rights movement, which less than a year later resulted in the passage of the Civil Rights Act. We know today that the evil that occurred in this place of God on September 15, 1963, galvanized the conscience of the Nation and led to the passage of laws to ensure equal rights for every American.

The innocent young children killed in the bombing—Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley, and Denise McNair—were eulogized as martyred heroines by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and it is fitting and proper that this Congress recognize the historic significance of their lives.

Ironically, they were studying about the love and forgiveness of God at the time of their death. Let us be mindful that despite this act of violence and the killing of a young 16-year-old black boy and 14-year-old black boy the same day, the civil rights leaders were committed to nonviolence, and they kept true to that commitment.

Despite the violence done to them, they showed forgiveness against the people, and our colleague JOHN LEWIS and others helped us avoid, by their commitment to nonviolence, the calamities and replaying of grievances that have destroyed the fabric of many other countries. To them, we should be eternally grateful.

In closing, let this legislation bring us together. I commend your support for it, and I ask for your cosponsorship.

□ 0910

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, consider the following: if the United States had an adopted policy of equal pay, it would put \$200 billion more into the economy every year. That comes out to about \$137 for every white woman per paycheck and to approximately \$300 for every woman of color, who is doubly discriminated against. These women are not going to put their money into a Cayman Islands bank account. Instead, they'll spend it; and this will

boost our economy, create jobs and help families.

With a record number of women in the workforce, wage discrimination hurts the majority of American families both in terms of their economic security today and their retirement security tomorrow. The Institute for Women's Policy Research found that wage disparity will cost women anywhere from \$400,000 to \$2 million over a lifetime of lost wages. That means fewer resources to pay the mortgage, to send kids to college, or to have a decent retirement. Also, due to rising employment rates, an unprecedented number of women are now the family breadwinners, making pay equity even more critical, not simply to family economic security but also to the Nation's economic recovery.

As we look for ways to create more jobs and grow the economy, it is astounding to me that Congress has not yet passed legislation ensuring equal pay for equal work. It is a powerful policy with what would be powerful and positive economic outcomes. That is why I support the Paycheck Fairness Act. It ensures that employers who try to justify paying a man more than a woman for the same job must show that the disparity is not sex-based, but job-related and necessary. It prohibits employers from retaliating against employees who discuss or disclose their own salary information with their coworkers, and it strengthens the remedies available to wronged employees.

Pay inequity due to gender discrimination is real, and it should not be tolerated. The House of Representatives should address this issue.

NO BUDGET, NO PAY

(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, the primary reason the government is in economic turmoil and is destroying jobs is due to a lack of fiscal responsibility.

The House has fulfilled the most basic responsibility of governing and passing a budget. On the other hand, the liberal-controlled Senate has failed to complete a budget for nearly 4 years. Hardworking American families and small businesses plan to spend within their means and abide by a budget. The Federal Government should do so as well.

Today, House Republicans will consider legislation aimed at putting this fiscal irresponsibility to a halt by voting on the No Budget, No Pay Act. This bill will raise the debt ceiling for 3 months with the provision that both Houses of Congress must pass a budget. If either body fails to achieve the task, the Members' pay will be withheld.

It is past time to hold the President and the liberal-controlled Senate accountable for out-of-control spending. If hardworking Americans strive to

succeed in their jobs, the Senate must do so as well.

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

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court decision that formally recognized a woman's right to make decisions regarding her own reproductive health care.

On January 22, 1973, this monumental decision came as a result of decades of relentless activism and litigation on the part of great women advocates; but today, there are still those who would prefer to roll back these fundamental rights and turn the clock back on women's health care. We've seen them use the same tactics over and over again during the last 40 years. In fact, according to the Guttmacher Institute, more than 40 laws were passed to restrict access to abortion in 19 States just this past year.

That's why, as we commemorate the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, it is more important than ever to commit ourselves to protecting these basic rights and to ensure that women across our country have full control over their personal well-being and health and that they retain access to any health care services they require.

NO BUDGET, NO PAY

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the House is poised to pass H.R. 325 today. I respect the sincerity of its supporters, but I must firmly dissent.

This bill accommodates spending at ruinous levels far beyond the limits set by the House budget. It sets a terrible precedent by abolishing the debt limit for nearly 4 months, giving an unlimited credit card to this administration. I think Members will be stunned by the borrowing that this moratorium makes possible. Certainly, thousands of dollars of new debt will be heaped on every household in America.

House Republicans have passed two budget plans that put our Nation back on a path toward fiscal solvency. If the debt limit were increased within that trajectory at 2-month intervals, it would require only small and incremental reforms each time. That would both avert default now and the fiscal crisis that we are fast approaching. I believe that it is achievable and far preferable to the bill to be voted on today.