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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. YODER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 23, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KEVIN YODER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

Pastor Frank Hampton, Jr., Church of God, Jackson, Michigan, offered the following prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, we are eternally grateful for the opportunity to approach Your throne as we open this session of Congress in prayer.

We pray for Your particular blessings on those in authority. Please give them guidance, the understanding to recognize the gravity of their responsibilities, and the courage to be unwilling to compromise integrity and moral convictions for any political advantage.

Lord, we are cumbered with critical issues and we are exhausting our resources. In this time of chaos and confusion, we need Your mercy and divine assistance as no other time in our Nation's history. And You said, if we would acknowledge You in all our ways, You would direct our path.

Although circumstances are mounting, Your Word gives us hope. It says, "If My people, which are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

So Lord, at this time we are honestly appealing to Thee in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
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.

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

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

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

Ms. FOXX. 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 pro tempore. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CICILLINE 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.

WELCOMING PASTOR FRANK HAMPTON, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Michi-

gan (Mr. WALBERG) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WALBERG. Pastor Frank Hampton, Jr., has been praying over his congregation at the Church of God in Jackson, Michigan, since 1967. Today, it's an honor to have him praying over the U.S. House of Representatives.

Back in Michigan, Pastor Hampton has lived, worked, and served the Jackson community for over 45 years and is a well-respected man of God. Local business owners, elected officials, and pastors from around the country seek his counsel on matters of faith and life itself. I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn from his wisdom and to call him my friend.

I first met Pastor Hampton in 2003 and admire him for his sincere faith and heart of service. His impact has been long and consistent, whether in his church, community, the family barbershop, or his ministry to prisoners in the court system. Pastor Hampton's influence has extended beyond the State of Michigan, speaking at venues in Panama, the Cayman Islands, Honduras, Haiti, and Jamaica.

I sincerely appreciate Pastor Hampton's presence today and his thoughtful prayer. My hope is that Pastor Hampton will continue to have many opportunities to share his faith and uphold this great country in prayer.

May God bless you and all the work you do.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 5 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

□ 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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H2915

IT'S TIME TO BUILD THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

(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, for over 1,700 days, the administration has delayed the Keystone XL pipeline application. According to a recent Pew Research poll, two-thirds of the American people from both political parties support the project. Last night, there was a bipartisan vote to promote the pipeline from Canada, America's best energy partner. The completion of the Keystone XL pipeline will create 120,000 jobs and produce 830,000 barrels of oil each day, helping to grow our economy.

Two years ago, I had the opportunity to visit Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada, and I witnessed firsthand the Canadian oil sands and positive impact that exploration has for American families. In South Carolina's Second Congressional District, companies like Michelin Tire Corporation of Lexington and MTU Detroit Diesel of Aiken County will create jobs due to Keystone's production.

As the American people and a bipartisan Congress support it, let's create jobs and build the Keystone pipeline.

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

Our sympathy goes to our British allies in this war who were cowardly attacked at the Royal Artillery Barracks in London yesterday.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF RECENT TORNADO IN OKLAHOMA

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathies for the victims of this week's tornado in Moore, Oklahoma, and the surrounding area. I want to especially pay my respects to my colleagues, Congressmen TOM COLE and JAMES LANKFORD, and their constituents as they begin the difficult work of rebuilding their community following this natural disaster. All of us in this Chamber mourn today for the 24 individuals who were killed, including 9 children, 7 of whom died in their local elementary school. Our thoughts and prayers remain with them and their families.

In the face of such loss, we ask how so many American lives could be taken so quickly. But as we have in the past, through scores of other natural disasters, our country will get through this difficult time, confident in our capacity to persevere through any trial and committed to doing all that we can to help each other. If the spirit of America, in one Nation, indivisible, means anything at all, it means all of us will

come together to help Oklahomans through this difficult and painful time.

On behalf of all of the residents of Rhode Island's First Congressional District, I offer my thoughts and prayers to the people of Oklahoma.

PASS THE FARM BILL

(Mrs. NOEM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. NOEM. Today, I rise in support of passing a 5-year farm bill for rural and urban America. The House Agriculture Committee acted last week to pass a bipartisan farm bill by a vote of 36-10. It saves nearly \$40 billion and makes substantial reforms to the food stamp program and farm programs. The bill eliminates direct payments and consolidates many of the conservation programs. Through this, it also saves money but promotes a strong safety net in a way that is accountable to taxpayers.

We recognize that the agriculture community will take some cuts, given our Nation's fiscal situation, but we need to continue to support good policies that support our ability to grow our own food in this country. The farm bill we passed out of the committee represents the first reforms to the food stamp program since 1996. We've put a lot of work into this reform and making sure the money goes exactly where it's needed. It closes loopholes in order to crack down on waste, fraud, and abuse. The reforms we make ensure that we can keep integrity in the program. It ensures assistance goes to those who need it most.

I believe we need to hold the Federal Government accountable to the taxpayers, and this bill is a step in the right direction. Our number one industry in South Dakota is agriculture. I'm proud of the families in my State that have dedicated their lives to growing our food.

□ 0910

JOBS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this week, the class of 2013 graduates from college. This Congress is offering them a terrible graduation present. The bill we're voting on today would increase the long-term cost of student loans in order to pay for a budget deficit that college students did not create. But worse, this Congress is doing absolutely nothing to address the core challenge in their lives: jobs, jobs, jobs.

The class of 2013 is entering the most difficult job market of any graduating class in memory. Many who have the good fortune to receive jobs will not be using their university-level skills or earning a living wage.

It has been 872 days since I arrived in Congress, and not one vote on jobs. Mr.

Speaker, for the sake of the class of 2013, I urge you to bring the American Jobs Act to the floor for a vote. It deserves a vote. Our mantra should be: jobs, jobs, jobs.

ENERGY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as House Republicans continue to get to the bottom of what happened last September in Benghazi, it's important to bear in mind how events around the world affect such things as your family's gas bill here at home.

We import a lot of our energy in this country—that's a fact. It's just a natural part of our global economy. But considering how volatile things can get elsewhere in the world, wouldn't it be a good idea to develop as much energy as we can right here at home? You'd think that would be a commonsense idea, but apparently it hasn't occurred to the Democrats who run Washington.

The Keystone XL pipeline, for instance, would be able to transport 830,000 barrels of oil per day. That's about half the oil the U.S. imports from the Middle East.

The more energy we can produce right here in America, the more jobs and more secure future we create. It's time for the President to approve this pipeline.

STUDENT LOAN BILL

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

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of affordable student loans for America's students.

I attended California's public schools from kindergarten through undergrad, through medical school. I could afford to go because of Federally funded student loans. My country made an investment in me, and we need to make that same investment in the next generation of students.

Yesterday, I offered an amendment to the Rules Committee, and they rejected it. This amendment would have made student loans more affordable for today's students. That's what we have to do, invest in the next generation.

Unfortunately, the bill that is coming to the floor today is going to make college less affordable for the next generation. We must make education more accessible. Vote "no" on the Making College More Expensive Act.

FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1910, the bipartisan Foreign Manufacturers Legal Accountability Act, which I've introduced