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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, July 8, 2013, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2013

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

As we approach a week away from the Nation's Capitol, we give You thanks for the many blessings we enjoy.

May Americans rightfully celebrate the greatness of our participative form of government and the ongoing pursuit of ever broader freedoms for all people that marks our history.

Bless the Members of this people's House in the coming week and their constituents with whom they meet. And as they complete the work of this week and this day, give them the wisdom they need to be their best selves in seeing to the issues of our day.

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. WILSON of South Carolina. 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. WILSON of South Carolina. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILLIAMS 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. The Chair will entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GRANDMA

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, today I stand on the floor of the House of Representatives to recognize a true inspi-

ration, a woman who embodies everything about what makes the United States an exceptional Nation. Today, I rise to wish happy birthday to my grandmother Edna Yoder, who turns 102 today.

Born in the heartland of Kansas in 1911, my grandmother was no stranger to hard work. She spent most of her life milking cows, helping bring in the wheat harvest, raising a family of four, and being a true partner to her husband and my late grandfather, Ori Yoder.

Her faith in God, her love of family, and her belief in hard work and humble living define my grandmother. Her generation saw the Dust Bowl, the Great Depression, and many other difficult times over the past century. Her generation's perseverance and dedication to our country helped build the most prosperous nation the world has ever seen.

Today, on her 102nd birthday, she is happy and healthy. She tells great stories about times past, and her smile still lights up the room.

Grandma, we could learn a lot from you. Happy birthday.

STUDENT LOANS

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, in 2 days, interest rates on student loans are going to double from 3.4 to 6.8 percent. It is outrageous, it is unnecessary, and it is cruel.

□ 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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Across this country, the things that will happen in Vermont are going to happen to all our kids and their parents. In Vermont, 20,000 kids are going to have their loan's expense go up \$1,000. That's when the cost of education has gone up 27 percent in the past 5 years. Vermont has the seventh highest student loan debt in the country. Sixty-three percent of our kids, when they graduate, it's \$29,000 that they start out owing. We are first when it comes to debt-to-income ratio—82 percent. It's brutal.

What is this about? It's about our priorities. In a low interest rate environment, government borrowing at 2 percent, we are going to charge nearly 7 percent to our kids. That's almost like usury. It is also a reflection of our priorities.

There is a way we could extend this, as we should. Why do we shovel taxpayer money to oil companies that have \$1 trillion in profits in the past 10 years? It is unnecessary.

Around kitchen tables in Vermont, people are trying to figure out who is going to college and how our kids are going to get started.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS PROMOTE JOBS

(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, according to an editorial in this week's Wall Street Journal:

President Obama's climate speech on Tuesday was grandiose even for him, but its surreal nature was its particular hallmark. Mr. Obama's "climate action plan" adds up to one of the most extensive reorganizations of the U.S. economy imposed through administrative fiat and raw executive power. But over his 6,500-word address, he articulated no such goal for the unemployment rate or GDP.

An energy policy, including higher taxes, more out-of-control spending, and increased government control of our daily lives will not promote jobs. It is a war on jobs. American families need job creation, a clean environment, economic certainty, and hope for future generations.

Today, House Republicans will vote on an all-of-the-above energy bill that will create jobs, increase access to our own energy resources, and stimulate our weak economy. It is time for the Senate and the President to support our efforts for American families to reach their full potential.

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

□ 0910

A WEEK OF MOMENTOUS EVENTS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. This is a momentous week—a path to citizenship passing in the Senate, the Supreme Court striking down DOMA, and, on Tuesday, President Obama recommitting his administration to deal with the moral imperative of climate change.

All around us the evidence is mounting—with extreme weather events, drought, flooding, wildfires, shrinking polar ice caps, invasive plants and pests our farmers have never seen before.

The President outlined new administrative initiatives because Congress is incapable of acting. Sadly, the House of Representatives is led by climate skeptics, climate deniers, and climate cowards.

My hope is, if the Republicans in the House won't allow action, they will at least stay out of the President's way. Protecting the planet and our grandchildren's future ought not to be bringing out the worst in us but the best.

REPEAL CAFE STANDARDS

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, at a time when millions of Americans are out of work and the cost of living continues to rise, the President could not be more out of touch with reality.

For example, President Obama has continued pushing for car manufacturers to produce vehicles that get 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025 through the EPA's Corporate Average Fuel Economy program. What he doesn't understand is that CAFE standards are expensive for manufacturers, increase the cost for consumers, and have caused a significant decrease in vehicle safety by forcing manufacturers to downsize and to use lighter materials in production.

Fuel efficiency has been and always will be important to consumers. Consumer demand is incentive enough for producers to make fuel-efficient vehicles. Some families might trade off miles per gallon for greater safety or more leg room.

The bottom line is that the people should make these decisions, not the Federal Government. The President needs to understand that Americans can make informed purchases without restricting our freedom to choose. That's why I've introduced H.R. 2445, a bill to repeal the CAFE standards.

I hope my colleagues will join me in standing up for the free market by repealing these destructive government regulations.

In God we trust.

IRS ABUSE OF POWER

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it turns out that the targeting of

conservative groups by the IRS was just the beginning of a much bigger problem.

Every week since, we learn something new about how the IRS has abused its power, and this week is no different. Wine, diet pills, romance novels, and even X-rated movies were purchased with government credit cards. Lavish spending isn't the only problem. New reports tell us that the IRS sent nearly \$50 million of taxpayer money to "unauthorized aliens."

Mr. Speaker, folks in my district have had enough, and so have I. They work hard for their money, only to have a Federal agency like the IRS run wild with it and offer no apologies. Every person at the IRS should be held accountable for their actions, and we need to put reforms in place to make sure that taxpayer money isn't misused in the future.

TYRANNY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, the President decided to raise energy prices on all Americans, which adversely affects the poor the most—and he didn't ask Congress.

The President decided to unilaterally reduce our strategic nuclear deterrent when more countries than ever have nuclear weapons. No treaty. That would require the consent of the Senate.

The President has decided which health insurance plans the people are allowed to have. The President didn't ask Congress—or the people for that matter.

The list goes on.

In America, we are either moving more towards liberty or more towards tyranny. I think we should ask ourselves what tyranny would look like in the United States of America:

An executive branch that picks and chooses which laws it wants to enforce; a judicial branch that would allow it to do so on the grounds that the executive branch did not defend the laws in court; the legislative branch would have very limited power because they turned it all over to the President; and the people would feel like they had no representation.

The President told us he was going to fundamentally transform America, and I think that is exactly what he is doing.

ENVIRONMENTAL MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two dear friends and dedicated public servants—State Representative John Fernandes and State