

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all to whom the authority of government is given. We pray that Your spirit of reconciliation and peace, of goodwill and understanding, will prevail on the hearts and in the lives of us all.

Encourage the Members of this House, O God, to use their abilities and talents in ways that bring righteousness to this Nation and to all people. Ever remind them of the needs of the poor, the homeless or forgotten, and those who live without freedom or liberty.

May Your spirit live with them and with each of us, and may Your grace surround us and those we love, that, in all things, we may be the people You would have us be in service to this great Nation.

May all that is done within the people's House 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. HOLDING. 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. HOLDING. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GABBARD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic 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 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

OBAMACARE

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

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today unable to understand why we stand by and watch as our country's future is threatened. It seems as though each week delivers a new disastrous element to the train wreck that is in ObamaCare.

Now that that implementation of ObamaCare's employer mandate has been delayed, more uncertainty has been created among business owners.

Mr. President, you cannot bargain with America's economy in hopes that your political philosophy succeeds.

I find it ironic that the President has now conveniently chosen to listen to the American people, when business owners like myself have been screaming for years. This administration is struggling to prove the merits of ObamaCare it initially advertised and now resorts to excuses. Delay after delay proves ObamaCare is unsustainable.

The bill was passed. We now finally know what's in the bill. Now it's time to repeal it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

STOP THE STUDENT LOAN RATE HIKE

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. My, my, Mr. Speaker.

Jade Andrushka is a Palm Beach State College student with big dreams and a small bank account. Her mother is a hospice social worker, has solely supported Jade while paying back her own student loans for over 20 years so that she and her daughter could have a better life.

Well, Mr. Speaker, July 1 has come and gone, and the Federal student loan rates have doubled, making college more expensive for millions of American families, including Jade and her mom, who now face two generations of loans.

Mr. Speaker, it takes a simple fix by Congress to do the right thing, reverse this excessive rate hike, and clear the path to one of the most important pathways to American prosperity—a college education.

My, my, my, Mr. Speaker. Can't we all work together to get this done?

GAS AND GROCERIES

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, when I go to the grocery store at home on Saturday mornings, I talk to Hoosier moms and dads concerned with high prices at the pump and the checkout line.

According to reports last month, gas prices in the five Midwestern States ranked in the top nine States nationally, with some folks in Indiana, motorists, paying \$4 per gallon.

A Starke County constituent wrote to me on the Fourth of July and said he canceled his holiday plans because he needed to save money for a tank of gas. He wondered what is Congress doing about it.

How can we help hardworking Americans keep more money in their wallets and pay less for gas and groceries?

The House passed two bills to address high energy prices, to create more jobs, and move our country closer toward energy independence. I supported these commonsense measures for single parents, for families, college students, senior citizens struggling to make ends meet during these tough economic times.

I urge the Senate and the President to join the House and pass this legislation to open more offshore areas for the development of natural resources.

A trip to the grocery store or a stop at the gas station should not be breaking the bank of Americans. Let's show the American people Congress can work together on basic solutions to make their daily lives a bit easier.

SO MUCH LEFT UNDONE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, so much left undone.

Our students are crying out. Maybe they're saying, "Mercy."

To avoid this 6.8 percent increase in their rates, putting hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt on our college students, Congress must act immediately, and we must push and drive those who believe our students are not important.

Undone. The high unemployment of youth. In our meeting with the President yesterday, I mentioned the idea that we must construct a program that deals with underemployed or unemployed youth, particularly those high numbers in our minority community.

And then, of course, the prevention of youth violence, gun violence, that is a crucial issue for all of us. The Congressional Black Caucus will be working extensively with the President to help drive legislation that will pass reasonable gun violence prevention legislation but, more importantly as well, keep our young people alive, keep them

in school, and, yes, keep them studying, understanding and preventing gun violence from making them a victim.

This Congress must act now and end sequestration to make sure that America is treated well by this Nation.

OBAMACARE COSTS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the true cost of the Affordable Care Act is being revealed day by day. We knew from the beginning that the law was double counting more than \$716 billion in cuts to Medicare to pay for the new entitlements. Another \$115 billion in implementation costs were left off the books. Then we saw the \$70 billion in projected revenues evaporate as the long-term care insurance plan was proven to be unsustainable and abandoned.

Now the President is telling us he needs more than double the anticipated amount to pay out the law's subsidies. Could this be because the administration will use the honor system to determine eligibility for subsidies, with no verification procedures in passing out subsidies?

Maybe we should use the honor system more often. We could trust that everyone paid their taxes. That would save us all money we spend on IRS agents.

We could trust that industries aren't polluting. That would save a lot of money we spend on the EPA.

Reagan used to say, "Trust, but verify." The byword for this administration is "Trust, and hope you aren't being defrauded."

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, last month, the Senate passed historic comprehensive immigration reform, and now is the time for the House to act.

It is because of our family values that we cannot wait another year, another month, or another day to finally fix our broken immigration system. We must pass a bill that keeps families together, and we must do the right thing, the humane thing, and bring 11 million immigrants out of the shadows and into society. We must ensure that all who want to call this country home have a fair and reasonable road map to do so.

I urge the Republican leadership not to choose the partisan path. Instead, we should come together and pass bipartisan comprehensive legislation that will fix our immigration system and finally revitalize the American Dream.

The time to act is now.

CELEBRATING LUDINGTON PUMPED STORAGE PLANT'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate something. I'd like to take a moment to recognize a major milestone for the Ludington Pumped Storage unit that was built in Michigan's Second District four decades ago and continues to be a great success today.

Construction of the project, as the locals call it, began in 1969 and was completed in 1973 on the shores of Lake Michigan, south of Ludington. Today, employees back there are celebrating the plant's 40th anniversary.

The Ludington Pumped Storage Plant was the largest pumped storage hydroelectric facility in the world when it was constructed. It is 842 acres and is 2½ miles long and holds 27 billion gallons of water. There are six generating units at the plant that can produce enough electricity to power a city of 1.4 million residents.

This plant is an example of successful co-ownership between Consumers Energy and Detroit Edison, DTE Energy. By displacing higher costs, Ludington Pumped Storage Plant saves consumers and DTE customers millions of dollars each year.

What makes the plant's 40 employees most proud are the national awards that they've been earning for safe operation of the plant, however.

The future looks bright for the project. There is an \$800 million investment that's being made on behalf of the customers from both utilities to overhaul and upgrade the plant to improve efficiency, and we just want to congratulate this plant today as it works to fit into our all-of-the-above energy plan.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, after President Obama's historic announcement of his climate action plan 2 weeks ago, we returned home to our congressional districts for a week, and some of us saw record-high temperatures and drought. Others witnessed unseasonably heavy rainfall and tidal flooding. And yet this week we return to a House that's heading in the wrong direction.

The Energy and Commerce Committee is debating a bill that would give the Department of Energy veto authority over EPA's public health rules. The Energy and Minerals Subcommittee spent yesterday in a hearing on the wonders of subsidized coal production.

Fighting climate change is the biggest imperative of our time. The stakes are high, and ignoring it will not make the problem go away.

President Obama's plan is a step in the right direction, and I'm encouraged that EPA is moving quickly on meaningful standards for power plants. Strong power plant standards are an imperative if we're going to avert the worst impacts of climate change.

We've got a lot of work to do, Mr. Speaker, and it's time to get this House headed in the right direction on climate policy.

HONORING DUSTIN DEFORD

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dustin Deford, a 24-year-old Montana native who was among the 19 Hotshot firefighters who recently died while battling a wildfire in Arizona.

The son of Reverend Steve and Celeste Deford, Dustin grew up in the small town of Ekalaka, Montana, where he was well known for his joyful spirit as well as his deep faith in Christ.

Dustin also had a passion for community service at an early age. In fact, he volunteered for the Carter County Rural Fire Department as soon as he turned 18 and continued working as a county firefighter every summer from 2007 until this year, when he earned a position on the Granite Mountain Hotshots in Arizona.

Cindy and I join all the people of Montana in mourning the loss of Dustin and all the brave firefighters who lost their lives on June 30. We are keeping Dustin's family and loved ones in our thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

□ 1215

PRIDE MONTH

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

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize San Diego's LGBT Pride Parade and Festival that will take place this weekend.

Messages of diversity and inclusiveness are at the heart of the LGBT community. I'm proud to stand with San Diego's LGBT community and LGBT men and women across the country in commemorating their history and working for their future success. From that iconic night at Stonewall to Harvey Milk to the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell to the overturning of DOMA and Prop 8, we've experienced uneven but unmistakable progress toward equality.

As we recognize and celebrate our LGBT family and friends, we must also do the right thing and pass a trans-inclusive Employment Nondiscrimination Act so that all Americans are safe from the worry of being fired because their employers disagree with who they are and who they love.