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No. 169

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, December 9, 2013, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2013

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 2, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

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

You have blessed us with all good gifts; and this past week, with thankful hearts, we gathered with family and loved ones throughout this great land to celebrate our blessings together.

Bless the Members of the people's House, who have been entrusted with the privilege to serve our Nation, and all Americans in their need. Grant them to work together in respect and affection, and to be faithful in the responsibilities they have been given.

As the end of the first session approaches and much is left to be done, bestow upon them the gifts of wisdom and discernment, that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas 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.

OBAMACARE IS WRONG SOLUTION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, discussions about health care often turn into discussions about jobs and the economy. The two are undeniably linked. ObamaCare—its unfunded mandates, broken policy incentives, and tax penalty structure—is exacerbating the crisis of underemployment in this country.

My constituent Sandy from Winston-Salem knows this firsthand. She contacted me to share how ObamaCare is impacting adjunct professors in North Carolina community colleges. She said:

Our hours have been cut because of the "Unaffordable Health Care Act." This legislation is the worst thing that could have happened to the average American.

Her story isn't unique. Stories abound of community colleges working to figure out how they will manage to comply with ObamaCare's costly employer mandate. For some, it means cutting part-time employee hours, which shortchanges both workers and students.

Americans care about health care, and they care about jobs. ObamaCare is the wrong solution for both.

OH, WHAT A DEAL

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House

□ 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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for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the secret nuke deal with Iran over Thanksgiving is “alarming,” sayeth the Saudi prince.

Prime Minister (Neville) Chamberlain would have been proud after the West gave the snake oil salesman of the desert, Mr. Rouhani, exactly what he wanted—time and money—to pursue his quest for nuclear intimidation.

Although the former Czechoslovakia was not in the trade, it looks like the appeasement West was willing to sell out Israel and Saudi Arabia for “peace in our time.” Israel and Saudi Arabia, like the former Czechoslovakia, did not get to vote on this deal of the century. Neither country likes the bad deal because they are the meal in Iran’s hostile appetite.

To make matters worse, Iranian state news reports the United States unfroze \$8 billion in Iranian assets and reduced sanctions even before the United States gave away the farm and the mineral rights. Isn’t that lovely?

Iran left Geneva with a smile, pockets of money, and fewer sanctions. The United States got the promise that Iran will be nice and not nuke its neighbors. Oh, what a deal.

And that’s just the way it is.

OBAMACARE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, 4 or 5 years ago when health care reform was being talked about on the floor of this House, one of the ideas that the Republicans put forth was increasing competition, the sale of health insurance across State lines. We all see with the sale of automobile insurance, 15 minutes can save you 15 percent. Everybody knows that. Why not afford that same cost savings for people buying health insurance? But the Democrats have never accepted it.

But now the Affordable Care Act requires that some of my constituents in Texas purchase their insurance on the D.C. exchange; clearly, that is selling across State lines. The problem is it is not lower cost; it is higher cost. And the problem is it doesn’t increase your access to a physician; it decreases your access to physicians.

High deductible health plans, I have had a high deductible plan for 15 years. One of the highest deductibles I ever had was last year of \$3,500. That cost now is almost doubled in the bronze plans that are available in the exchange in my district, and we don’t allow constituents to pair that up with a health savings account. If we really wanted to get the correct market incentives, we would allow the pairing of these high deductible plans with the health savings accounts.

What about the fact that 47 percent of people are paying higher premiums,

according to eHealthInsurance? Why don’t we allow them the same deductibility in the small group market that we allow employers in the large group market.

These are just a few of the things that could have been done 4 years ago which were omitted by the Democrats in charge.

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE HURTING

(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, small business is the backbone of our economy. America’s greatness is heavily dependent on small businesses’ success in creating jobs.

In South Carolina, small businesses make up half of our economy. Sadly, these hardworking business owners have been suffering devastating setbacks due to the President’s job-destroying policies. More recently, the failed implementation of ObamaCare has forced higher taxes and extensive regulations on these employers. This unfriendly business climate has prevented small business owners from expanding and creating jobs.

When traveling around South Carolina’s Second Congressional District, I continuously hear from small businesses, local chambers of commerce, the National Federation of Independent Business, and employees who are plagued with uncertainty. Smaller paychecks, inability to meet insurance requirements, and reduced hours are some of the concerns. Congress must work together to replace ObamaCare with commonsense solutions, as long proposed by Congressman TOM PRICE of Georgia.

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

Congratulations Connor Shaw, Jadeveon Clowney, Coach Steve Spurrier, and President Harris Pastides for the Gamecock victory Saturday.

EXTENDING EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, this countdown clock at democrats.waysandmeans.house.gov says 25 days and 10 hours, and it is ticking. That is the countdown to an immediate cutoff of emergency unemployment insurance for 1.3 million Americans. Without an extension of this vital program, they will lose their entire coverage—every dime of it.

Who are they? They are Americans laid off through no fault of their own, struggling to find jobs and recover from the worst economic crisis in 70 years. They are an estimated 20,000 veterans who have exhausted their State

benefits after leaving the military and are unable to find work. They are mothers and fathers to an estimated 2 million children. And they are counting down to December 28.

So far, the economic recovery has left them behind. Congress must not simply do so as well. We must extend this vital insurance.

IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this Thanksgiving as our family gathered joyfully for dinner, we thought not only of our happiness, but of the many families that can be torn apart by our broken immigration system. We gave thought to those who were gathered at that very moment here on The National Mall going without food, fasting for justice. And they have been doing that now for weeks.

Thanksgiving is about the first immigrants in this land, this land of opportunity. But today, we find too many of our neighbors are denied opportunity because of their immigration status. They can’t board a plane. They can’t come out of the shadows. They don’t know when they go to work in the morning if they will find their family members there at night. This is not right, and the time to fix that is right now.

The only thing preventing a bipartisan response to the immigration problems we have in this country is the unwillingness of the Speaker to permit a bipartisan vote on reform legislation.

And to those who are not moved by their heart, they should be moved by their pocketbook because of the economic potential of permitting these individuals, two-thirds of which, in Mexican families in Texas without documents, have been here for at least a decade. Let them contribute to America.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

NOVEMBER 22, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 22, 2013 at 10:52 a.m.:

Appointments:
United States Commission on Civil Rights.
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair