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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, You alone are ever present. All of us, Your creatures, are ever-changing, always limited, and measured by beginning and end.

Since time itself seems to be only measured motion, it is immaterial, yet most important. All around the world, everyone in this Chamber can agree upon what time it is—here—now. Yet we can do nothing to stop its relentless movement.

Lord, help the 111th Congress to accept the time in which it is constituted. As public servants and distinguished Members, empower them to be creative and achieve all that is possible for Your people.

Do not allow them to be distracted by the inconsequential. Rather, bring them together, for time is precious and cannot be wasted. Their moment is now to make decisions that will move the future.

Lord, be with them every moment and in every motion. The consequences will be judged later, yet last forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIRES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SIRES 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.

ELECTING CERTAIN MINORITY MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 78

Resolved, That the following members are, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE—Mr. Cassidy.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—Mr. Aderholt of Alabama, to rank after Mr. Nunes of California, and Mr. Harper.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE—Mr. Scalise.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM—Mr. Schock.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY—Mr. Smith of Nebraska, to rank after Mr. Bilbray.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE—Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Cao, Mr. Schock, and Mr. Olson, all to rank after Mr. Latta.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS—Mr. Lamborn, to rank after Mr. Bilbray, and Mr. Roe of Tennessee.

Mr. PENCE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I would ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIERNEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

WERE ISRAEL'S SECURITY NEEDS INFLUENCED BY THE U.S. CALENDAR?

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Were Israel's security needs influenced by the U.S. calendar? Between the Christmas season and the inauguration, Israel's attack on Gaza killed over 1,300 Palestinians, many of them women and children, with U.S. planes, helicopters, white phosphorus and Congressional support causing over \$2 billion worth of destruction.

Now that this holiday war is over against Gaza, let our new administration and Congress work for the security and peace for both the Israelis and the Palestinians. Let us support full restoration of humanitarian aid and the reconstruction of Gaza. Let us support an end to the blockade, an enforceable cease-fire, and adherence to international law by both Israel and Hamas.

It's time to work for peace in the Middle East through the rule of law, not the rule of arms, through diplomacy, not force.

WHAT THE STIMULUS BILL DOESN'T MENTION

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

Mr. KIRK. The economy is hurting and we should act. A stimulus bill that backed improving highways and airports would blunt the recession. If you look at the stimulus bill the Appropriations Committee approved, you would find 11 appropriations totaling \$65 billion that would put 2 million Americans to work, but the bill spends hundreds of millions more. It spends more money than the entire GDP of

□ 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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Australia. Of the 151 appropriations, only 34 even have claims of reporting jobs.

The bill claims to save 3.7 million jobs, but does so at a cost of \$222,000 each. Private sector jobs only cost \$50,000 each. The bill quotes one economist, Mark Zandi, six times, but doesn't mention the Congressional Budget Office. CBO reports that only \$26 billion of this trillion dollar bill can be spent in 2009.

CBO says over \$70 billion of the spending will not be spent during the entire 4 years of the Obama administration. And one last thing, there is no mention of the \$2 trillion congressional leaders plan to borrow or how our kids will pay it back.

PS-14—A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Bayonne Public School No. 14. PS-14 was recently honored as a National Blue Ribbon School for its innovative gifted and talented program. The school not only prepares students for the technological challenges of the 21st century, but they also offer an accelerated academic program and provide exposure to the arts.

In addition to national recognition, New Jersey Department of Education recognized PS-14 as a "star school" because it implements cutting-edge policies, allows parents, local businesses and the community to get involved, and has not lost focus on student achievement, which is most important.

I want to congratulate principal Janice Lo Re and the Bayonne school superintendent, Dr. Patricia McGeehan, for this outstanding recognition.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we've heard a lot this week about what the Democrats' \$825 billion stimulus package should do or may do or what Democrats hope it will do. Let's look at what it really will do:

It will bill every American household with a \$6,700 tab. That's the cost of the Democrats' plan for every American family. Put another way, it will cost every American—every man, woman and child in this country—\$2,700. The cost of this bill is almost as much as the amount the Federal Government spends every year in discretionary spending.

The bill will spend millions of dollars in digital TV coupons. The bill will spend \$200 million to plant grass on the National Mall. And the bill will ensure our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren will encounter not necessarily a great economy, but an enormous national debt. This is totally irresponsible and should not be allowed to pass.

CONGRESS MUST ACT

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

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, I met with constituents and local leaders. In my district, like districts across the country, families are struggling, parents are losing their jobs, and communities are worried about their future. During these tough times, we can and we must work to create good jobs to turn our economy in a new direction, the right direction.

People across our great Nation have entrusted and empowered us to do our part to get America back on track. They asked for action, and we have to responsibly act.

The people of my district—all across the 16 counties of New Mexico's Third—need clean water for their homes and farms, rural development in our smallest and most isolated communities, renewable energy generation that creates highway jobs, and infrastructure projects that repair roads and create opportunity.

I take this responsibility seriously. And I will work hard to make my district's priority a priority in this Congress.

□ 1015

BIG BROTHER TAKETH AWAY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, they say the economy is going into the abyss because government doesn't spend enough money.

Even though the stimulus packages of last year didn't work and the billions to bail out the elite robber baron banks hasn't been effective, the government solution is "Let's spend more money," like \$850 billion. That's almost a trillion dollars. A trillion dollars stacked up in \$20 bills is 3,000 miles high. That's the distance from D.C. to Peru. All this money will be forcibly taken away from taxpayers.

This bill gives earmarks to special interest groups like millions of dollars for the National Endowment of the Arts, millions for fancy cars for government bureaucrats.

Why not do this: Don't spend taxpayer money! Don't go into debt with China. Cut taxes for everybody that pays taxes, and let Americans decide how to spend their money and not our greedy, big bloated brother, the government.

Government cannot tax, borrow, and spend our way into prosperity. It has never happened. This bill isn't economic stimulus. It's old fashioned squeaky piglet, pork barrel politics that will poison the pocketbook of every American.

And that's just the way it is.

DEFICIT SPENDING WILL NOT EXPAND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in agreement with the gentlewoman from North Carolina, the gentleman from Texas, and the gentleman from South Carolina. As this body considers whether to burden future generations of Americans with more debt in the name of improving the economy, it is imperative that we look at the facts.

The proposed legislation will create or save 3 million jobs. At \$825 billion, the economic stimulus bill, in its current form, will spend \$275,000 per job. Additionally, deficit spending will not expand the economy. If that were true, then the current \$1.2 trillion deficit, the largest in history, would already be rescuing the economy. We wouldn't need another \$825 billion.

Trade groups state that every \$1 billion in highway "stimulus" can create 35,000 new construction jobs. But Congress must borrow that \$1 billion out of the private sector, costing the private sector the same number of jobs. Any type of effective stimulus cannot create jobs for some while costing jobs for others.

Ladies and gentlemen, we do not need to continue down the path of wasteful spending. If we are going to steady the U.S. economy, we must stimulate American enterprise while returning to the practice of making fiscally responsible decisions on behalf of the American people.

URGING SUPPORT FOR TITLE X ABORTION PROVIDER PROHIBITION ACT

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, today, millions of Americans from the National Mall to prayer services in small-town churches will mark the sad 36th anniversary of Roe versus Wade, the worst Supreme Court decision since Dred Scott.

As most Americans know, it is simply morally wrong to end an unborn human life by abortion. But it's also morally wrong to take the taxpayer dollars of millions of pro-life Americans and use it to promote abortion at home or abroad. As many Americans fail to recognize, the largest abortion provider in America is also the largest recipient of Federal taxpayer dollars through title X. This should not be.

Yesterday, with more than 60 cosponsors, I reintroduced the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act, a bill that would deny any Federal funding to Planned Parenthood of America.

On this dark anniversary, let us rededicate ourselves to protecting the unborn and to protecting taxpayers on matters of conscience. I urge my colleagues to join me in bipartisan spirit