The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (MRS. MILLER of Michigan).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC, December 8, 2011.
I hereby appoint the Honorable CANDICE S. MILLER 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:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for what we do in this country. American justice because justice is indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Given the generous of heart, and the courage of true leadership, to work toward a common solution to the many issues facing our Nation. This might call for compromise, even sacrifice on both sides. As true statesmen and -women, may they find the fortitude to make judgments to benefit all Americans in their time of need.

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 her approval thereof.

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam 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.

Mr. PITTS. Madam 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

(Mr. MILLER of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Wall Street may be in disrepute with most Americans, but their power here, their political power in Congress, is undiminished.

Americans strongly support a consumer watchdog, the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, but the CFPB has become Republicans’ newest favorite agency, which greatly pleases their friends on Wall Street.

Months ago, Republicans in the other body announced that they would block the confirmation of the first Director...