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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Help us this day to draw closer to You so that, with Your Spirit and aware of Your presence among us, we may all face the tasks of this day.

Bless the Members of the people's House. Help them to think clearly, speak confidently, and act courageously in the belief that all noble service is based upon patience, truth, and love.

You know well the pressing issues facing our Nation. Grant our leaders, especially, the wisdom and magnanimity to do what is best, and may we all join in a common will for the benefit of all constituencies even though this will take some sacrifice.

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. SHIMKUS. 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. SHIMKUS. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. QUIGLEY 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 five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BOUDREAU PRESENTS QUESTIONS

(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, in last Wednesday's The Post and Courier, a retired Foreign Service officer wrote a letter with questions regarding the terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya. Retired Foreign Service Officer William Boudreau worked in the State Department Operations Center, which serves as a direct line of communications to all American missions.

Based on his service, Boudreau is confident that alerts from Benghazi were delivered to the White House during the attack. Boudreau believes the following questions must be explained:

Why the delay in labeling the attack as terrorism? Given prior threats, why did security personnel allow Ambassador Stevens to proceed to Benghazi?

Why did the State Department refuse requests to enhance security? The American people deserve answers to these questions.

Additionally, I appreciate the service of Marty Johnson in promoting Snowball Express and on its success in reaching out to the children who have suffered the loss of a parent serving in our Armed Forces since September 11.

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

THE PREVAILING BUDGET PLAN DOES NOT PROTECT A DEMOCRACY

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

Mr. KUCINICH. You think cutting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid should be part of a budget deal?

America's economic collapse was fed by Wall Street greed in the form of a \$6 trillion housing bubble. This brought large budget deficits. Some who were at the center of the housing crash are pushing for deep cuts to social programs in order to cure the budget deficit. The CEO of Goldman Sachs, which received a \$10 billion direct bailout and tens of billions of loans at below-market interest rates, has preached about cutting Social Security benefits and increasing the retirement age.

While Wall Street was bailed out with tax dollars from Main Street, Main Street Americans have lost more than 40 percent of their wealth from 2007 to 2010. Nearly one in six U.S. residents is officially poor—the highest rate in 50 years. Twenty-two percent of American children live in poverty. We are facing an economic situation that resembles the years leading up to the Great Depression.

Now this prevailing budget plan calls for deep cuts in spending on education,

□ 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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