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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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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,

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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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environmental protection, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid while corporations and the top 1 percent would get tax cuts of nearly \$3 trillion over the next decade. This is not how to protect a democracy.

GOVERNMENT GONE WILD

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the President has finally given us his balanced plan to allegedly avoid the fiscal cliff. He wants to raise taxes by \$1.6 trillion. He wants another stimulus package of \$50 billion. He wants the authority to raise the debt ceiling without asking Congress for approval.

Say it isn't so, Mr. Speaker.

This tax hike will hurt small businesses, which provide 67 percent of the jobs in this country. That may fund the government for a short time. Then what's the plan? Stimulus 2.0. Because the first stimulus worked so well? That was a disaster as well. We have a \$16 trillion deficit, and the President wants to spend more money. Are you kidding me? Spending is the problem. We don't need more of it. Lastly, he wants the power to raise the debt ceiling without congressional approval.

The administration cannot unilaterally issue an edict like a monarchy. Congress, Congress, Congress is in charge of the purse. The government has gone wild.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING LOCAL FIRST CHICAGO

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, the impact that independent, locally owned businesses have on our communities comes as no surprise. The lasting economic, social, and environmental outcomes are essential to the growth and sustainability of our neighborhoods.

More than 7 years ago, a not-for-profit organization called Local First Chicago was formed with one purpose in mind: to educate citizens, community groups, and policymakers about the positive impacts of choosing locally owned businesses. It is a network of locally owned, independent businesses, community organizations, and citizens that has grown to more than 3,000 local business owners. Studies have shown that shifting just a small percentage of our shopping dollars to locally owned businesses could keep millions in our communities.

This is something to think about as the holiday season approaches. Instead of going to a chain, why not branch out and get your coffee at Safari cafe on Southport? Why not get a hot dog at Gene and Jude's in River Grove? Buy a few holiday gifts at a family owned shop as well.

Local businesses are what help build thriving communities. I am honored to have organizations such as Local First Chicago fighting for ours.

THE NEED FOR TAX REFORM

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, the time has come for Congress to enact comprehensive tax reform and to reduce Federal spending in order to create jobs and boost the economy.

Our Nation is facing significant challenges—a weak economy, record deficits, and a Federal Government we can't afford. Many northern Michigan citizens fear for the future of our Republic. The American people deserve solutions to these problems, and comprehensive tax reform is a key part of these solutions.

President Obama has made it clear that his preference is to raise taxes on families and businesses, but that plan won't fix our national debt. It won't improve the economy. Instead, Congress should focus on tax reform and real significant spending reductions.

The American people have chosen divided government, and with that comes a responsibility for us to work together and fix the problems our Nation faces. So I urge my colleagues and the President to work together to resolve this fiscal crisis and to do what's best for the American people.

RENEW THE WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, one of the many challenges that Congress will face during the ongoing negotiations of the fiscal cliff is whether or not to renew the wind production tax credit, which expires at the end of this year. Investing in renewable energy is key to creating new jobs, reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and promoting economic growth.

In Pennsylvania, the wind industry supports 4,000 jobs and powers 180,000 homes, including in the Pittsburgh area. The uncertainty surrounding the looming deadline to renew the PTC has already forced some companies to lay off employees, and if we let it expire thousands more hardworking Americans will be out of work. Two wind farm projects in western Pennsylvania were already canceled this year.

This is an issue on which both sides can come together to do what is right for our country. Letting the PTC expire would damage the competitiveness of the United States and the global economy, so I urge my colleagues to extend this vital job-creating tax credit before it expires.

□ 0910

SOCIAL SECURITY CRISIS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, back in 2007, then-candidate Obama said the Nation is facing "a Social Security crisis." And he was right. Unfortunately, 5 years later, as we deal with a looming fiscal cliff, some in the President's own party are denying the fiscal reality when it comes to Social Security. Here are the facts:

Social Security is the government's most expensive program. Since 2010, it has been bleeding cash, and over the next 10 years, it will do so to the tune of nearly \$1 trillion. As a recent USA Today editorial put it, Social Security is indeed contributing to our deficit. To say otherwise is to lie to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans want, need, and deserve that we work together to address our fiscal challenges. We owe it to current and future beneficiaries to secure this critical safety net. We can make Social Security solvent forever. Let's do it.

THANKING GENEVA B. STALLINGS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

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

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Geneva B. Stallings, an outstanding Augustan who has devoted over 50 years of service to the Richmond County school system. For six decades, Mrs. Stallings has been a leader in the educational community in Augusta. She understands that equal educational opportunity is equal economic opportunity, and she's worked to see to it that all children, regardless of economic circumstance, received a quality education.

Mrs. Stallings has served as a classroom teacher, as a reading coordinator, and as the longest serving director of the Title I pre-K department. In fact, the Board of Education recognized her service by naming the Title I Parent Information Resource Center the Geneva B. Stallings Title I Parent Resource Center.

I know I speak for all who know Geneva Stallings in thanking her for her commitment to the education of our children. Mrs. Stallings, you have the appreciation of many grateful Augustans and of this proud Congressman. Thank you for a job well done.

CONGRATULATING NATION OF GEORGIA

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, on October 1, the nation of Georgia successfully elected a new Parliament and