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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, with the ancient scripture, You advise the Members of Congress today. Wisdom from the book of Sirach may address personal values as well as national economics.

“Good and evil, life and death, poverty and wealth are all from the Lord.

“Wisdom and understanding, the knowledge of human affairs, the depths of love, and the path of virtue all come from the Lord.

“Error and vacuous darkness were formed in the sinner from the day of birth; and evil grows as the evildoer ages.

“But the Lord’s gift remains with the just; blessing brings continual success.

“Someone may become rich through a miser’s life, and this is all he has as off-counted reward.”

When he says, “I can rest now; I need only feast on my possessions,” he does not know how long it will be till he dies and leaves everything to others.

My child, hold fast to your duty; busy yourself with it. Grow in age and wisdom, doing your task. Admire not how sinners live, but trust in the Lord and wait for His light. 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 gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KAPTUR 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minutes on each side of the aisle.

THE HUMANITARIAN DISASTER IN GAZA

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

Mr. KUCINICH. The attack on the U.N. headquarters in Gaza is further proof that a post legal era in world affairs has taken shape where law and moral principles are irrelevant—where might makes right, where retribution and vengeance, even against innocent children, fails to shake us from moral lethargy or political paralysis. Collected punishment is a proportionate use of force. Using U.S. planes, helicopters and ammunitions to attack a wounded, starved and thirsty population of mostly children trapped in a box called “Gaza” has become acceptable, perhaps because we’ve already accepted the deaths of over 1 million innocent civilians in Iraq in a war based on lies.

There is a way out. We must ask those who were given our armaments for defense to stop the aggression and the blockade and the occupation and reconnect with the high sentiments that rallied their own suffering, wounded people of a nation generations ago.

When we recognize the humanitarian disaster in Gaza, when we come to grips with the reality of suffering on both sides, we may yet find a way to save ourselves.

“BANK ROBBERY?”

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, oh, how things have changed. Time was, when you borrowed money from a bank, the bank wanted to know what the money was going to be used for, and you were required to fill out a bunch of forms to receive that money.

Now the big banks have shown up, wanting \$350 billion from the taxpayer. They won’t tell us what they will use the money for, and they haven’t filled out any paperwork to justify receiving more taxpayer money. You see, they don’t want the same standards they require on borrowers to be applied to them when they want money.

It used to be the bad guys robbed the banks. Now it appears that the banks are the bad guys by putting a financial gun to the people, saying, “Give us the loot or you’re all going to die economically.”

It’s like bank robbery in reverse. It seems like the big banking boys’ gang is robbing the people. We call all of this nonsense a bailout, but bailouts have not helped stimulate the economy. Why don’t we just say, “No”? No more money to special interest groups. No more taxpayer money will be spent without accountability. No more spending money we don’t have. We cannot spend, borrow and tax our way out of this economic calamity.

And that’s just the way it is.

THE SECOND ROUND OF THE BAILOUT MISTAKE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the second half of the Wall Street bailout is being jammed at this House today—again, with a cursory review by the committees that should be meeting

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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their constitutional responsibilities. I have a simple question:

Why would any Member trust the very same group who engineered the first bill to do it to America again?

That first bill has not worked. It has made the foreclosure crisis worse, which is at the heart of what is wrong with this economy. Yet Wall Street was handsomely showered with taxpayer billions, and they then thumbed their noses at Main Streets across this country.

I wouldn't expect anything from Treasury in the way of sensitivity to regular folks. Its job is to sell U.S. debt on Wall Street and to collect taxes. They're not designed to do real estate lending or housing workouts or real estate accounting. That's the job of the FDIC, of the SEC and of HUD. They should be in the lead in the mortgage workout process. And frankly, we ought to quadruple the number of financial crimes analysts at the FBI.

I repeat: Why would Congress allow itself to be hoodwinked not once but twice into making the same big mistake? I urge my colleagues to vote no on the second Wall Street bailout bill. Instead let's do what works for the American people by solving the home foreclosure crisis first.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROY BOEHM

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

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Roy Boehm, a true American hero and a longtime constituent of Punta Gorda, Florida.

Mr. Boehm was a retired Navy lieutenant commander, and was the first officer in charge of SEAL Team 2, one of the original Navy SEAL teams. Many would say that he was the first Navy SEAL.

Lieutenant Commander Boehm enlisted in the Navy in 1941, and fought during World War II, Korea and Vietnam. In 1942, he participated in the Battle of Cape Esperance at Guadalcanal, one of the largest, all-surface sea engagements of World War II. In 1961, under orders from President Kennedy, Lieutenant Commander Boehm developed and launched the Navy's elite Sea, Air and Land forces unit known as the SEALs.

Our Nation is grateful for Lieutenant Commander Boehm's service. Lieutenant Commander Roy Boehm set the standards for the Navy SEALs of today, and he will truly be missed. On behalf of all of the men and women who wear or who have worn the uniform, I say thank you for your service.

TARP REFORM

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, the House approved the \$700 billion financial rescue package last October only under the condition that banks would be accountable and that taxpayers would know what the banks did

with the money. We all know that that hasn't happened.

The Bush administration and the Treasury Secretary never held up their end of the deal. They've ignored the measures Congress put in the package to protect the taxpayers. The result: blank checks to big banks and nothing to protect middle class families from foreclosures.

Today, the House is going to vote to change this and will strengthen oversight on what the banks and the administration are doing with the funds. The taxpayers have the right to finally know exactly how their money was spent.

ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WINS CHAMPIONSHIP

(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. I want to talk about a high school champion. I rise to congratulate the 2008 state champions of Texas high school football—the Blue and White Allen Eagles.

Last month, the Allen Eagles defeated Fort Bend Hightower 21 to 14 in a stunning second half comeback to win the Texas 5-A football championship in Houston's Reliant Stadium. The crowd went wild!

Under head coach Tom Westerberg, the Eagles' football program has thrived with stellar seasons in '07, '06 and '05 as well.

I will insert the names of the top coaches into the RECORD.

There is a special story about this team. Each spring, the rising seniors pick a motto for the upcoming season. The players selected: Start strong. Finish strong.

Congratulations to the Allen Eagles. Way to finish strong. I salute you. God bless you, and God bless America.

Go Eagles!

Tom Westerberg, Head Coach, Asst. Athletic Director.

Terry Gambill, Asst. Head Coach, Defensive Coordinator.

Jeff Fleener, Offensive Coordinator.

Jeff Chaney, Special Teams Coordinator.

Mike Carter, Strength Coordinator.

BLOCK THE NEXT CONGRESSIONAL PAY RAISE

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to block the next scheduled congressional pay raise. At a time when the economy is forcing so many of the families we represent to tighten their belts, I believe this is the wrong time to be raising our own pay.

Last month, 524,000 Americans lost their jobs, bringing the unemployment rate to its highest since 1993. Since last year, jobless rates increased in 49 States and in the District of Columbia. In my home State of Arizona, unemployment rose by over 50 percent, leaving nearly 200,000 workers unemployed.

Last week, I introduced House Resolution 156, with Representative PAUL of Texas, to stop the next automatic congressional pay raise from taking effect next year. As of this morning, we have been joined by 77 cosponsors—Republicans and Democrats.

Our Nation is at war. Our economy is reeling. The American people aren't getting a pay raise. We shouldn't either. I will be donating my 2009 pay raise to charity just as I did with the 2008 pay raise.

I urge my colleagues to join our growing coalition and to support the Stop the Congressional Pay Raise Act.

REJECT THE BAILOUT

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, the definition of "insanity" is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

Three months ago, Congress rushed to spend \$350 billion of taxpayer dollars without adequate hearings and deliberation. The result was a lack of transparency and accountability, a disappointment in how the massive funds were spent and a bloated Federal budget deficit. But here we go again. This Congress is now proposing to do the exact same thing.

Another \$350 billion bailout is not the answer my constituents are looking for. The people in my district in Minnesota are struggling to make ends meet, and they're worried about the future. We must take concrete steps to jump-start our economy and put people back to work. It's time to stop exposing taxpayers to any more undue risk. It's time to stop saddling them with unnecessary debt.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should reject another \$350 billion bailout, and instead, it should focus on preserving, protecting and creating jobs to get our economy going again.

MILITARY PERSONNEL

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

Mr. NYE. Mr. Speaker, for most of the past 12 years, I have traveled all over the world with the Foreign Service. In places like Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq, I had the honor to serve alongside the brave men and women of our Armed Forces.

It is now my honor to be here as the Representative of Virginia's Second Congressional District—to represent the people of Hampton Roads and the Eastern Shore—and to represent our military personnel and their families.

We have very important work ahead of us—strengthening the economy, restoring fiscal responsibility and standing up for the families who are working