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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 2, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DONNA F. EDWARDS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

AMERICA IS FACING A CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, America is facing a crisis. The budget request projects a \$1.8 trillion deficit this year and a \$533 billion deficit in fiscal year 2013, and red ink is as far as the eye can see.

We have over \$56 trillion in unfunded obligations for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. The national debt is nearing \$11 trillion and growing every day.

Standard & Poor's investment service predicts the loss of America's AAA

bond rating as early as 2012, and that will be devastating.

Every day seems to bring more bad news. The stock market continues to plummet, dropping below 7,000 this morning, and Americans everywhere understand that our Nation is in trouble. When I left my office today, the stock market was down over 200 points.

Most Americans realize that Congress is broken, and it will take a special process to address this runaway spending.

The action that will lead to a solution is the bipartisan commission that Congressman COOPER of Tennessee and I have proposed, with every spending program on the table along with tax policy. Congress, under this process, would be forced to vote on the commission's recommendations, and over 111 Members of the House pledged their support to this last year, and it would be bipartisan.

This process, which also would have outside experts, would help establish confidence. In the Webster Dictionary it says in the definition of confidence, "the faith or belief that one will act in a right, or effective, way." And boy, do we need that now.

Congress is paralyzed by partisan bickering, and so far, this Congress has chosen to hide behind the mantra of "regular order." But this problem will not fix itself.

There is a bridge linking Trenton, New Jersey, with Morrisville, Pennsylvania, and there's a sign on the bridge that said, "Trenton Makes, the World Takes." Well, Trenton doesn't make anything anymore, and the sign ought to say, "The World Makes, Trenton Takes." And all you have to do is get on the train from Washington going up to New York, and all the factories are closed and in decay, and the windows are broken.

A bipartisan commission would renew America's confidence in the economy. It would create a renaissance

in the ability of our elected leaders to act. It would provide a bigger and brighter future for the next generation of America's young people and ensure that we have discretionary dollars for math and science and physics and chemistry and biology and cancer research, research for autism, research for Alzheimer's. It would also help create manufacturing.

For the sake of this country, this Congress and this administration should act to set up a bipartisan panel to help us give some hope to our children and our grandchildren.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I would also say to the leaders of this Congress, this is also a moral issue. This is also a moral issue. Is it appropriate for one generation to be living so well, knowing that their children and grandchildren will have to pay?

And to close, I read a quote by Deitrich Bonhoeffer, who was a Lutheran pastor who stood up to the Nazis and was killed, hung, by the Nazis in Flossenberg Prison just before the end of the war. Deitrich Bonhoeffer said, "The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children."

This Congress, as of now, is failing that moral test.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO) at 2 p.m.

□ 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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PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

In the beginning, You created Adam and Eve, not because You needed mankind but because You wished to share Your friendship and Your gifts with humanity.

Even now, Lord, You do not need our prayers. You need not our service as if You could not shift the pattern of the world without our intent or efforts at goodness and justice.

Rather, it is by Your grace You lead us to do what is right and timely. By following Your commands and prophetic word, we find salvation for ourselves and search out the ways of peace with others. Simply by doing Your will are we led to where we belong and prove our connectedness to You and the world around us.

So, in all we say or do, we can either consciously or unknowingly give You glory, honor and praise both now and forever.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska 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.

GENERAL SAM HOUSTON AND MARCH 2

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, this day, March the 2nd, 1836, marks the day Texas declared independence from Mexico and its dictator, Santa Anna. Texas became a free, independent nation for 9 years.

March 2 also marks the birth of the person who led Texas to independence, Sam Houston. Born in Virginia in 1793, he fought the Creeks with Andy Jackson, became a Congressman and a Governor from Tennessee.

He went to Texas to champion the cause of Texas liberty, and was the commander of the outnumbered Army of Texas that defeated Santa Anna. General Sam became President of the Republic of Texas and, later, Governor and U.S. Senator when Texas was a State.

When the War Between the States broke out—ironically, on Sam's birth-

day and on the 25th anniversary of Texas independence, March the 2nd, 1861—Texas left the Union and joined the Confederacy. Houston refused to take the oath to support the South, so the Texas legislature removed Governor Houston from office.

Houston is the only person to have served in Congress from different States, as Governor of two States and as president of a nation. His last words were "Texas, Texas."

And that's just the way it is.

THE U.S. SENATE'S CONSIDERATION OF THE \$412 BILLION OMNIBUS APPROPRIATION

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

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today, the Senate will consider the \$412 billion omnibus appropriation bill in the same month as the Fiscal Responsibility Summit.

The legislation contains 9,000 earmarks, including 12 potentially criminal earmarks. It is the spending for the clients of Paul Magliochetti & Associates, a lobbying firm raided by the FBI 3 months ago. We expect indictments soon. But the leaders of this House approved those 12 potentially criminal earmarks, and they are separate budget items now, totaling over \$8 million of the taxpayers' funds.

The Politico reported that the Speaker is concerned about the vetting process used by the Appropriations Committee. The concern is well-placed, and now the Senate should delete funding for these 12 potentially criminal PMA earmarks.

HONORING NINE YOUNG MEN WHO HAVE BECOME EAGLE SCOUTS

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate nine young men in my district who exemplify leadership, commitment and perseverance—Kendall Belcher, Carter Boyd, Alec Giglio, and Austin Hunter from Shreveport, Louisiana, and Lincoln Hall, Gabe Castro, David Chatelain, Anthan Adkins, and Samuel Wisner from Natchitoches, Louisiana. They have all been named Eagle Scouts.

The award is the highest achievement in scouting and represents excellence in the three goals of scouting—citizenship training, character development and personal fitness. These nine young men proved they are worthy of an honor given to only 5 percent of all scouts, not to mention the population in general.

I congratulate these young men for this tremendous accomplishment, and I urge them to continue on the path of leadership.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 2, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 27, 2009, at 10:09 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 160.

That the Senate passed S. 387.

Appointments:

Congressional Advisors on trade policy and negotiations to international conferences, meetings and negotiation sessions relating to trade agreements.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

COCOPAH LANDS ACT

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 326) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take lands in Yuma County, Arizona, into trust as part of the reservation of the Cocopah Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 326

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Cocopah Lands Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The reservation of the Cocopah Tribe of Arizona is located in Yuma County, Arizona.

(2) That reservation was created by an Executive order signed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1917.

(3) The Tribe's land holdings are located within 3 noncontiguous reservations comprising a total of approximately 6,226.3 acres of trust land.

(4) The Tribe purchased the additional lands to provide infrastructure to housing areas, water, and economic development to tribal members.

(5) The current trust land base of the reservation is insufficient to provide such needs.

(6) The Tribe acquired 7 parcels of land contiguous to its present reservation lands