

declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 21 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

PRAYER

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

In the great scheme of things, it is You, Lord God, that can make the difference. Day by day, we make judgments and casual decisions. They all add up to a sense of direction. We move along a path in our personal lives. We set a path for this Nation. Guide us every step of the way, Lord.

Representatives in the United States Congress hold the hopes and perspectives of constituents and bring them to light on the floor of the House. To make daily decisions, they take all this into account, and yet they are appointed to be the ones to decide what is of most need for the Nation. Grant them prudence, patience, and perseverance. We ask this calling upon Your Holy Name, 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 his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey 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.

ELECTING A MINORITY MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 277

Resolved, That the following member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee:

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—Mr. Latta.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

KEEP TO THE FACTS IN DEBATING THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, the President has sent his budget proposal to the Congress, and for the next few weeks we will debate it, but let's keep to the facts in debating it.

There have been partisan attacks that claim that President Obama's budget will raise taxes on small businesses. In fact, the President's budget eliminates the capital gains tax for individuals on the sale of certain small business stocks and makes the research and experimentation tax credit permanent.

These proposals will spur investment and innovation to help small businesses. These are the job-creating engines of our economy, and nowhere else but in California can you see them so prominently working in this economy to build those jobs we so desperately need. Ninety-seven percent of all small businesses will not see their taxes increase in 2010.

What else is in the budget for small businesses? Twenty-eight billion dollars in loan guarantees to expand credit availability for small businesses at a time when it is really needed and support for the \$1.1 billion in direct disaster loans for businesses, homes, and homeowners.

THE CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE AND THE REPORTER

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, over the last few years, numerous reporters in the United States have been subpoenaed about their confidential sources.

Law enforcement, namely prosecutors, hear about a story that a news reporter covers regarding scandals, corruption, crime, or coverups, and then has the reporter subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury. The purpose of the grand jury investigation is to find out who gave such information to the reporter, with the goal to bring the confidential source before the grand jury to testify.

Most States protect journalists from having to reveal that source. However, there is no Federal law to shield the identity of confidential sources. The protection of the source's identity is important because, without such a guarantee, sources would be fearful of possible reprisals if they revealed the information. Thus, the public would never know about the information.

With a few exceptions, prosecutors should not depend on reporters and their sources to root out crime. If whistle-blowers and reporters are protected by a shield law, the public's right to know will be enhanced with the free flow of information.

And that's just the way it is.

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud of the work Congress and the President have accomplished in just over 2 months: Expanded health care for 11 million children; assistance to families to maintain their health coverage through COBRA; funds to help States prevent cuts to Medicaid; and investments in safe and cost-saving electronic health record technology.

Some naysayers claim that the President and Congress are doing too much too soon. But we cannot fix our economy without fixing our broken health care system. And that's why I'm here today, to mark Cover the Uninsured Week with a call to action, action to achieve comprehensive health care reform, not next year, not in 4 years, but this year.

We have over 45 million individuals who lack health coverage in this country. Fifty-six billion dollars in unpaid bills are driving up the cost of insurance for everyone.

Reforming health care will strengthen our middle class, help businesses create jobs and be competitive, rebuild the economy and put our Nation on a sound financial footing far into the future.

Now is the time for comprehensive health care reform.

THE DEMOCRAT BUDGET BORROWS TOO MUCH

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. During the last campaign, Hillary Clinton said that she had a million good ideas. She probably never thought that she would be outbid by this new administration that has a million bad ideas that are going to cost American taxpayers literally trillions of dollars.

This current budget spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much. It spends too much, and it's coming up to \$2.3 trillion more than the White House even estimated a short time ago.

It taxes too much because every hardworking American household across this country is going to see their taxes go up by over \$3,000. While they're struggling with paying their bills, their taxes will be rising.

It borrows too much because it's going to increase the debt on taxpayers across this country. Right now it stands at about \$35,000 per capita. It's going to double in 8 years to around \$70,000.

You know, Americans were voting for a change. I think at the end they were really hoping for something better than this.