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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR of Arizona).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 3, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED PASTOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

In You, Lord, is found the fullness of life and love. No wonder then, the human heart always longs for more. We seek You, Lord, sometimes without knowing it.

Lord, our God, people within our borders, within this Chamber, pray for this Nation. Others around the world pray for the United States of America as well. So many see our potential for good, for doing the right thing in the search for justice and peace. They long for our success.

Answer the longing of Your people, Lord. Draw closer to us. Help us realize the promise You have placed within us. Not by our words alone, but by our actions, reveal us as Your people of promise who give You glory 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 his approval thereof.

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ARCURI. 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 pro tempore. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SIREs 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

REGULATING WALL STREET

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, a year ago, as a result of 8 years of mismanagement of Wall Street, our financial system was on the brink of collapse. Over

the past year, this Congress and President Obama have made the tough choices and taken the necessary steps to bring back our economy from the verge of disaster. In order to continue to protect consumers, create jobs, and grow our economy, our next step must be to enact comprehensive financial regulatory reform; for history has shown, we cannot rely on Wall Street to regulate itself.

In the coming weeks, we must work to pass our commonsense rules to guarantee that taxpayers are never again on the hook for Wall Street's risky decisions, the financial savings of our families and businesses are protected from unnecessary risks by lenders and speculators, consumers must be protected from predatory lending practices, and transparency and accountability are injected into our financial system.

I look forward to ensuring that our hardworking families and small businesses will no longer be hurt nor our economy jeopardized due to an unregulated financial system.

JOBS SUMMIT SHOULD ADDRESS "STOLEN" JOBS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today the President is hosting a jobs summit. But he is ignoring the 8 million jobs held by those in the country illegally that should go to American workers. With a 10 percent unemployment rate, the President should put the interests of Americans first.

While the administration ignores the 8 million stolen jobs, Republicans hold the lead in voter trust on immigration with a 12-point lead over the Democrats. That's nearly double the GOP's lead a month ago.

We should hold the administration accountable for its failure to enforce

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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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the Nation's immigration laws, which allows 8 million illegal immigrants to remain in the workforce. Those jobs rightfully belong to citizens and to legal immigrants.

Enforcing the law is not only the right thing to do, it is what the American people want. Any jobs summit that doesn't address the jobs occupied by illegal immigrants ignores American workers.

PROMOTING JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

Mr. MICHAUD. Almost every Mainer has been affected by this recession or knows someone who's been struggling. Moving forward into the new year, our Nation's record unemployment rate threatens our economic recovery.

While I do not support a second stimulus bill, we must refocus our efforts on initiatives that create jobs and promote long-lasting economic development. We must continue to help those who are unemployed in this country support their families until they are able to find a job. And we must pass serious reforms and make efforts to reduce our unsustainable debt, because we cannot grow our economy on the backs of future generations.

Any initiatives considered by Congress must be targeted and fiscally responsible to build a foundation for long-term economic growth.

HONDURAN FREE ELECTIONS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the people of Honduras just completed their successful national elections.

In June, Honduran President Manuel Zelaya tried to change his elected office into a dictatorship. He's the guy that's buddies with Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chavez. Zelaya organized a mob and tried to nullify his term limits to hold on to power. His actions were illegal under Honduran law. Zelaya was arrested by the army under order of the Honduran Supreme Court. And even though the United States inappropriately tried to interfere, he was removed from office by their Congress for violating their constitution.

On Sunday, the people of Honduras elected Porfirio "Pepe" Lobo, a conservative businessman, as their new President. Congratulations to the people of Honduras for sticking to the rule of law despite great odds. They held free and fair elections. This national triumph for the people of Honduras is a victory for all those anywhere in the world who live in freedom and seek freedom over tyranny.

And that's just the way it is.

IN MEMORY OF ARMY SPECIALIST JESUS FLORES, JR., OF LA MIRADA, CALIFORNIA

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen soldier from my district.

Jesus Flores, Jr., 28, from La Mirada, California, was killed in action on October 15 of this year in Afghanistan. He leaves behind his mother, father, four sisters, and one brother.

Jesus enlisted in the Navy straight from high school and served for 4 years. In 2003, he enlisted in the Army. He became a combat specialist and was deployed to Iraq from February to May of 2009. He was on his first tour in Afghanistan when he was killed in action.

One of his sisters spoke of Jesus in this way: A loving son. A generous brother. A soldier who loved military life. This was apparent in the many medals adorning his uniform.

The people of this body and people throughout this country could not exist without the dedication and sacrifices from the soldiers who serve. Soldiers like Jesus. Soldiers who, above all else, want to honor this country, preserve our freedoms, and protect our families.

There is nothing that I can say or do to take away the pain his family feels at the loss of Jesus. But I hope they are comforted by knowing the memory of Specialist Jesus Flores will remain, and we will continue to honor his service every day.

WHITE HOUSE JOBS SUMMIT

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

Mr. PENCE. Today, in the midst of a harsh recession, the President will convene a jobs summit at the White House. Coming nearly 1 year after the passage of the so-called "stimulus" bill that Speaker PELOSI said was about jobs, jobs, jobs, unemployment remains at record levels in this country.

Today's White House jobs summit is a tacit admission that the economic policies of this administration and this Congress have failed. But, Mr. Speaker, we can bring America back by applying fiscal discipline here in Washington, D.C., and giving the American people fast-acting tax relief for working families, small businesses, and family farms.

Jack Kemp said years ago, There is a wisdom and intelligence in ordinary men and women far superior to the experts. Well, let's heed that wisdom and intelligence of ordinary Americans. Let's reject the politics of borrowing and spending and bailouts. Let's embrace what has always worked. And let's bring America back with fiscal discipline and tax relief today.

TAKING CARE OF THINGS AT HOME

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

Mr. KUCINICH. America is in the fight of its life. And the fight is not in Afghanistan; it's here. We're deeply in debt. Our GDP is down; our manufacturing is down; our savings are down; the value of the dollar is down. Our trade deficit is up; business failures are up; bankruptcies are up; foreign borrowing is up.

The war is a threat to our national security. We'll spend over \$100 billion next year to bomb a nation of poor people while we reenergize the Taliban, destabilize Pakistan, deplete our Army, and put more soldiers' lives on the line.

Meanwhile, back here in the USA, 15 million people out of work; people losing their jobs, their health care, their savings, their investments, their retirement security; \$13 trillion in bailouts for Wall Street, trillions for war.

When are we going to start taking care of things here at home?

VICTORY IN AFGHANISTAN

(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, success in Afghanistan should be defined in the tradition of Ronald Reagan; we win and the terrorists lose.

While his decision was long overdue, I was pleased the President announced sending 30,000 reinforcements to Afghanistan. The President has listened to our commanders on the ground for a counterinsurgency to secure Afghanistan, which protects American families. This decision will defeat al Qaeda terrorists and the Taliban in Afghanistan. Along the border with Pakistan, U.S. troops are denying al Qaeda and Taliban safe havens in which to operate.

For the sake of our mission, American families at home, and our brave men and women in uniform, I hope the President will rally congressional leaders behind his strategy and our troops' mission for victory in Afghanistan. Supporting the President's decision shouldn't come down to party lines. Terrorists do not differentiate between Republicans and Democrats as targets.

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

UPS WORK-A-DAY AND SMALL BUSINESS

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

Mr. HALL of New York. Earlier this week, I spent a day working alongside Al McDonnell, a delivery driver for UPS. Together, we delivered packages to small businesses in downtown