

decade in our State, and contributing to almost half of the new jobs created over the past 30 years in our State. So the recent establishment of the National Export Initiative, setting a goal to double U.S. exports in the next 5 years, is a step in the right direction. By finally utilizing the resources from the Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Trade Rep's office, the Department of Commerce, the Ex-Im Bank, and the Department of Energy, the administration has made it a priority to help farmers and small businesses increase their exports and create 2 million new jobs here at home.

Now, we in Congress must provide the resources to help them do just that. First, we should support the effort to hire trade experts to serve as advocates for U.S. companies and assist the more than 23,000 American companies who are trading to begin or grow their export sales in 2011.

However, we must not forget that the engine that drives our economy is small business, and that over the last two decades small- and medium-sized businesses have accounted for almost 65 percent of new jobs created here in the U.S. Last year I introduced legislation that directs the Department of Commerce to assist these SMEs in exporting their products, particularly to developing economies like China. From 2000 to 2007, Washington State exports to China grew by 406 percent. This created jobs in sectors likes transportation equipment, crop production, and even processed foods. I know that the U.S. Trade Rep's office has launched an initiative specifically aimed at increasing exports by small- and medium-sized firms here in the U.S. I stand ready to help.

Lastly, our farmers will benefit as well. For every \$1 billion in ag exports, 9,000 jobs are created, and \$1.4 billion in economic activity is generated. Our farmers, our small business owners want to export their products and services. They want to create jobs here in the United States. I am urging my colleagues to help them do this by supporting the National Export Initiative, which will in turn create jobs and launch us on a path towards long-term economic growth.

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 42 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. MARKEY of Colorado) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Chaplain John Beaver, National Chaplain of the American Legion, Mo-

bile, Alabama, offered the following prayer:

Our Lord God, we give You our praise for being so faithful and trustworthy. We give You our gratitude for displaying to us Your awesome presence in a very powerful way. We ask for Your wisdom to be given to each congressman and congresswoman in their deliberations today. Give them a compassionate heart, humility and discernment, and may we sense a unity through Your unending love.

We pray for the men and women in our military. Shield them from all dangers and give them the assurance of Your guidance and strength so that they may safely return home to their loved ones. Give comfort to our wounded warriors in body, mind, and spirit. Comfort those who are now grieving the loss of their loved ones.

Bless all our veterans and military organizations who serve from their hearts. Strengthen us in heart, mind, and spirit as we serve You, our God, and our beloved Nation. 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 Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas 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. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE), the whole number of the House is 432.

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 1, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC 20515

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, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Monday, March 1, 2010 at 2:15 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits a report to the Congress regarding the National Emergency with respect to Zimbabwe.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO ZIMBABWE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-96)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2010.

The crisis constituted by the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions has not been resolved. These actions and policies continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue this national emergency and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 26, 2010.

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 1, 2010.

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, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Monday, March 1, 2010 at 2:15 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits a message to the Congress regarding a proposed Constitution for the United States Virgin Islands.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

CONSTITUTION FOR THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States, which was read and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the requirements of Public Law 94-584 (the "Act"), I hereby transmit to the Congress a proposed constitution for the United States Virgin Islands (USVI). The constitution, drafted by the Fifth Constitutional Convention of the United States Virgin Islands, was submitted to me on December 31, 2009, by Governor John P. deJongh, United States Virgin Islands. In submitting the proposed constitution, Governor deJongh expressed his concerns about several provisions of the proposed constitution, but he also expressed his hope that the people of the United States Virgin Islands continue to "move ahead towards [their] goal of increased local governmental autonomy."

The Act requires that I submit this proposed constitution to the Congress, along with my comments. The Congress then has 60 days to amend, modify, or approve the proposed constitution. If approved, or approved with modification, the constitution will be submitted for a referendum in the Virgin Islands for acceptance or rejection by the people.

In carrying out my responsibilities pursuant to the Act, I asked the Department of Justice, in consultation with the Department of the Interior, to provide its views of the proposed constitution. The Department of Justice concluded that several features of the proposed constitution warrant analysis and comment, including: (1) the absence of an express recognition of United States sovereignty and the supremacy of Federal law; (2) provisions for a special election on the USVI's territorial status; (3) provisions conferring legal advantages on certain groups defined by place and timing of birth, timing of residency, or ancestry; (4) residence requirements for certain offices; (5) provisions guaranteeing legislative representation of certain geographic areas; (6) provisions addressing territorial waters and marine resources; (7) imprecise language in certain provisions of the proposed constitution's bill of rights; (8) the possible need to repeal certain Federal laws if the proposed USVI constitution is adopted; and (9) the effect of congressional action or inaction on the proposed constitution.

To assist the Congress in its deliberations about this important matter, I attach the analysis of the Department

of Justice, with which the Department of the Interior concurs. I believe that the analysis provided by the Department of Justice warrants careful attention.

I commend the electorate of the Virgin Islands and its governmental representatives in their continuing commitment to increasing self-government and the rule of law.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 26, 2010.*

RECONCILIATION—DEMOCRATS CONSIDER MANEUVERS TO PASS GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

(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. Madam Speaker, a government takeover of health care was rushed to happen last July, but during overflowing town hall meetings and then in Virginia, Massachusetts and New Jersey, the American people made it perfectly clear that a Big Government takeover of health care is not an option.

Almost a year later, this message unfortunately hasn't been received by the liberal majority. Instead of working across the aisle and reforming the bill to include less government and more commonsense bipartisan principles, liberal leaders are talking about bending the rules and rushing this by way of a process called reconciliation. This is a legislative maneuver that requires fewer votes than the regular process.

So the American people should listen this afternoon. The liberal majority knows the American people do not want this bill. They are left with a tricky maneuver that ignores what people have been fighting for and saying since last summer. I urge citizens to make their voices heard.

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

My sympathy to the family and friends of Charles Hamel of Chapin, South Carolina, a dedicated patriot.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SAM HOUSTON

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is Sam Houston's birthday. He was born in Virginia on March 2, 1793. He lived primarily in Tennessee, but he got to Texas as fast as he could.

Houston fought with Davy Crockett and Andrew Jackson during the Creek Indian wars of 1812. Later, he served as a Congressman and a Governor of Tennessee.

Sam spent time throughout his life living with the Cherokee Indians where the chief adopted him, naming him "the Raven." He finally pulled up stakes and took off for Texas to help the Texas cause for independence

against Mexico. In 1836, General Sam and the boys successfully led the Texi'ans at the Battle of San Jacinto against Mexico, and Texas became a free and independent nation.

Sam Houston was president of the Republic of Texas, and 9 years later, when Texas joined the Union, he became Governor and then a U.S. Senator. He is the only person in United States history to have served as a Governor and a Member of Congress from two States. The City of Houston and one of my grandsons, Barrett Houston, is named in his honor.

And that's just the way it is.

HAZARDS BILL REAUTHORIZATION

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3820, the Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2009, which we will be taking up later today.

This legislation reauthorizes and amends the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act and the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act, ensuring agencies as diverse as FEMA, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Institute of Science and Technology have continuing appropriate authorizations to research the causes and forecasting of natural disasters, as well as ways to limit their negative impact.

The recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile have certainly demonstrated the importance of developing improved methods of predicting and mitigating natural disasters. The contrast in outcomes between these two quakes has also demonstrated the clear benefit of preparedness and scientifically based building codes in containing casualties from a major disaster, if not the economic losses.

Nearly every part of the United States is susceptible to natural disasters in some form or another, and reauthorizing the programs in H.R. 3820 will ensure we remain at the forefront of this important research.

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 incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

NATURAL HAZARDS RISK REDUCTION ACT OF 2010

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3820) to reauthorize Federal natural hazards reduction programs, and for other purposes, as amended.