



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2011

No. 38

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CAMPBELL).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 14, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN CAMPBELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, 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 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

CONDOLENCES TO THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for 1 minute.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I rise today to speak on behalf of the people of the Third Congressional District of South Carolina to express our condolences to the people of Japan in the wake of the 8.9 magnitude earthquake that struck off the northeast coast of Japan this past Friday and the devastating tsunami that claimed the lives of thousands of people.

I have visited Japan twice, once back in 2007 and again in 2009 when I took my oldest son. It's a beautiful country; and I know the people of Japan to be a resilient, generous, and hardworking people. In this time of inexpressible suffering and need, please know that the people of South Carolina and the people of America stand with the citizens of Japan.

May God bless them, and may God continue to bless America.

FUNDING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the year-long continuing resolution the Republicans in this House passed last month on a straight party-line vote represents misguided values. House Republicans sought to cut an arbitrary amount of funding and did so with a meat ax, indiscriminately attacking worthwhile investments, giving no concern to the tremendously negative impact this irresponsible attack will have on our economy. In the race for ever-increasing and arbitrary cuts, they have demonstrated they know the cost of everything and the value of nothing.

Moody's Analytics said that this approach would cost the Nation 700,000 jobs. The Economic Policy Institute said 800,000 jobs. Goldman Sachs said the long-term Republican plan would lower economic growth by 2 percent while increasing unemployment by 1 percent. Even the conservative Club for Growth called it a "mistake," stating that "cutting spending is important, but economic growth is even more important."

The need for fiscal discipline, of course, is clear. We must return to a long-term path of fiscal responsibility to reduce deficits, but we must not sac-

rifice our values and our future all in the name of deficit reduction.

Where Americans value health protections, the Republican CR slashes funding for food safety inspection, community health centers, women's health programs, and the National Institutes of Health.

Where Americans value national security, the Republican plan eliminates funding for local police officers and firefighters protecting our communities and slashes funding for nuclear nonproliferation, air marshals, and Customs and Border Protection. Where Americans value the sacrifice our men and women in uniform make to protect us, the Republican plan slashes funding to assist homeless veterans.

Where Americans value a focus on job creation, the Republican plan slashes funds for job training and dramatically reduces educational support. Where Americans value transportation improvements, the Republican plan slashes funding for infrastructure improvements and eliminates the Federal commitment to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

Where Americans value clean air and water, the Republican plan destroys the Nation's long-fought environment protections. In fact, according to the organization Republicans for Environmental Protection, the Republican plan represents an unprecedented assault on America's environment.

The Republican plan defunds the landmark Chesapeake Bay restoration effort, a joint effort of localities, States, and the Federal Government to protect and preserve America's largest estuary. In fact, that plan goes further and repeals longstanding Clean Water Act health protections, such as the ability to enact standards for arsenic pollution, lead pollution, and acid mine drainage in water supplies.

The Republican plan also repeals much of the Clean Air Act, including the EPA's ability to protect us from

□ 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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