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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You that You have been our help in decades past and will be our hope for years to come. We pause in Your presence and ask guidance for the men and women of the people's House.

Send Your Spirit of Wisdom as they face this day with difficult decisions to be made, work to be done, burdens to be carried, and life to be lived as best they can.

Keep love's banner floating over all of us as we walk in the way of those who act with justice, love with mercy, and walk with humility before You. Help us to fashion our desires, our duties, and our deeds in accordance with Your will, that we may labor for a better world filled with good people who labor for the well-being of all.

Bless us this day and every day. And may all that is done within the people's House this day be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. CHU 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

AMERICAN FAMILIES NEED JOBS

(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, this morning's announcement of an increase in the unemployment rate indicates yet again that the President's economic policies are failing American families. The out-of-control spending is killing small business job creation.

Sadly, more than 14 million people are still without jobs, and the average price of gasoline is almost \$4 a gallon. The President pledged to reduce unemployment to 8 percent and failed. He pledged to skyrocket energy costs and he succeeded. This is a failure of leadership on job creation and gas cost. American families are at risk.

Earlier this week, the President asked Congress to increase the debt limit by \$2.4 trillion with no meaningful reforms. Reforms are needed because American families need jobs. The President's request was defeated in a bipartisan vote.

House Republicans presented the "Cut and Grow" congressional plan. It's a commonsense plan: first cut spending, then the economy will grow. That's how to create jobs.

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

REPUBLICAN PLAN TO END MEDICARE

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are trying to sell America's seniors a false bill of goods. Republicans claim that seniors won't be impacted by their plan to end Medicare. That simply isn't true.

What's true is that insurance bureaucrats will be placed in between seniors and their doctors. What's true is that a senior in my State of California will be forced to pay \$6,000 extra in out-of-pocket expenses; then, once the Republican plan to end Medicare takes full effect, those out-of-pocket expenses will double. Imagine our seniors being turned away at the pharmacy. Imagine seniors having to reach deeper into their wallet after a doctor's visit.

The GOP plan to end Medicare is unacceptable. We must keep our promises to our seniors.

COMMENDING NORTH DAKOTA VOLUNTEERS

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

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the countless volunteers who have given time and resources in the wake of unprecedented flooding.

As thousands of North Dakotans fight to protect their homes and communities, North Dakotans have come together to fill sandbags, to help those in need, providing food for volunteers and shelter for those who have been displaced by flooding.

This has truly been a team effort, working together with Senator CONRAD and Senator HOEVEN, Governor Dalrymple, mayors and Federal officials to ensure that North Dakota receives the vital support to fight this

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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