

As part of the Recovery Act, we enacted the Build America Bonds program that leveraged \$4 billion in Federal funds to \$181 billion in private sector funding, completing more than 2,000 projects in every State in the country. I introduced a bill to extend this successful program because there remain unmet needs in our communities, and there are millions of construction workers awaiting the opportunity to return to work and communities that would benefit from the projects. We haven't even had a hearing on that bill.

Mr. Speaker, Dwight Eisenhower did not subscribe to the current Republican mantra that investing in America was something to be shunned. Ronald Reagan did not share the current Republican dictum that serving one's country in public service is somehow a less-than-noble endeavor and the way to prosperity is through devastating cuts to the public sector.

Congress must act to ensure long-term fiscal responsibility, but it should not come at the expense of millions of Americans struggling to get back to work. As we contemplate our economic policies, we really should ask: What would Ronald Reagan do?

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 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask today that You bless the Members of this assembly, to be the best and most faithful servants of the people they serve. Purify their intentions, that they will say what they believe and act consistent with their words.

May they be filled with gratitude at the opportunity they have to serve in this place. We thank You for the abilities they have been given to do their work, to contribute to the common good. May they use their talents as good stewards of Your many gifts and thereby be true servants of justice and partners in peace.

As elections across our Nation highlight the competition of ideas, grant that those who sit in the people's House will place the good of our Nation and its citizens above political gain. It

is a difficult task—all the more, it is why we ask Your grace during these days.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS MUCH HIGHER THAN ADVERTISED

(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, the President's policies are failing our families and destroying jobs. Since the President was sworn into office in January 2009, our citizens have lost a net of 740,000 jobs, as was discovered on Friday.

For the past 40 months, the unemployment rate has remained above 8 percent. Sadly, during the month of May, this rate increased from 8.1 percent in April to 8.2 percent. The biased liberal media can no longer conceal the truth of the President's failed policies.

And to make matters worse, if the number of Americans who want to work but have stopped looking for a job and those who are forced to work part-time were factored into the equation, the real unemployment rate would rise to 14.8 percent.

House Republicans have passed over 30 bipartisan bills which would promote job creation. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to take immediate action on these pieces of legislation and help put American families back to work.

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

QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. This year marks the Diamond Jubilee—the 60th year—of Queen Elizabeth II's reign as Monarch

of the United Kingdom. As our closest relation, it's only fitting that we join the United Kingdom in celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Queen Elizabeth II's coronation as Queen was on June 2, 1953—when she was just 25 years old—following the death of her father, King George IV.

Her Majesty is the second-longest-serving Monarch in British history. She has conducted regular meetings with every British Prime Minister since Winston Churchill. She serves as a patron of over 600 charities. Over the last 60 years, she has conducted 261 official visits to 116 different countries. Her Majesty has received eight Presidents of the United States and made five State visits to the U.S. Last year, she became the first British Monarch since 1911 to visit the Republic of Ireland, a significant and historic move for peace and reconciliation.

Throughout decades of change, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, has served as a constant and steadfast presence in the United Kingdom and the world. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and celebrating Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

OBAMACARE GRANTS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in today's Wall Street Journal, Dr. Steven Greer relates his disastrous experience trying to review grants for a program created by ObamaCare.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation will hand out more than \$10 billion in the coming decade. Dr. Greer was one of the chairmen overseeing panels of outside experts who were supposed to review grants for projects to train new types of health care workers. The team had only 2 weeks to review applications that ran more than 100 pages. Among other things, work was lost to poor computer systems, leading some panelists to quit in disgust. Dr. Greer himself quit after his complaints went unanswered.

Despite the problems, the money went out the door—\$1.9 million to a George Washington University project that only saves \$1.7 million, \$4.5 million to a San Antonio project that only saves \$5 million, and \$5.8 million for the University of Chicago to create 80 jobs. All this poorly supervised spending while we rack up more than \$1 trillion in debt every year. More evidence that our debt problem is a spending problem.

LOOMING STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE CRISIS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, unless Congress acts in the next 25 days, the Stafford student loan interest rate will

double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent, adding millions of dollars of additional student loan debt to middle class families.

Unfortunately, the do-nothing House is in session only 2 full days this week and 6 full days for the rest of this month. The Republican whip announced yesterday that there is no action planned on this issue this week.

It is no wonder that President Obama will once again this week reach out to college students all across America to demand action before July 1. Not only that, he is announcing today a historic agreement with colleges and universities to establish a financial aid shopping sheet, which will better inform families about the true cost of tuition as a way of avoiding debt, and will announce new lower repayment caps for the Stafford loans to reduce the burden of high debt.

One branch of government is doing its job to help with the cost of college. It is time for the Republican leadership to do the same.

HEALTH CARE TAX

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Now more than ever the President and Congress need to cut spending and pass legislation that promotes job growth. Instead, the government is just months away from enacting a job-killing tax on medical devices that will drastically harm our Nation's medical industry. An estimated 43,000 jobs could be lost and could force these American factories to relocate overseas. President Obama wants to implement this harmful tax as a way to pay for his nearly \$2 trillion health care law. This is insane.

The government has a spending problem. American taxpayers shouldn't have to foot the bill for this disastrous law, and businesses shouldn't have to fork over more of their money to pay for Washington's reckless spending spree.

It's time to promote real solutions—let's cut spending, repeal ObamaCare, and protect hardworking taxpayers from these destructive taxes. Americans want, need, and deserve real solutions, and we can take action now and vote this week to eliminate this tax.

□ 1410

PROVIDE TRANSPARENCY IN HEALTH CARE PRICES

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, the current health insurance system has essentially insulated people from the actual cost of medical care that they receive. But maybe, by pulling back the curtain on these opaque areas of the

health care market, over time we could lead to the development of a more rational pricing structure, at least from the consumers' perspective.

Once we understand the actual cost, then we can begin to make effective changes, leading to fair physician reimbursement, appropriate patient billing, and better medical services.

To that end, the Health Care Price Transparency Act of 2012, H.R. 5800, is bipartisan legislation that is a long-term solution to runaway medical costs. The bill calls upon States to establish and maintain laws requiring a disclosure of information on hospital charges. This means that State law will require health insurance providers to give patients an actual dollar estimate of what the patient must pay for health care items and services within a specified period of time.

It's commonsense legislation. It's far past time for us to do it. I encourage Members to join me in cosponsoring H.R. 5800. Let's get it done.

MEDIA BIAS AGAINST FAITH REPORTING

(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, last month, 43 Catholic institutions across America joined together to defend the First Amendment and filed a total of 12 lawsuits against the administration in order to protect their right to freedom of religion on behalf of all Americans.

This is the most significant religious lawsuit in U.S. history, and Christian leaders all across America have joined in support of these Catholic institutions. Despite the unprecedented and historic nature of this event, the national media largely ignored it.

The Catholic institutions filed the lawsuit due to new ObamaCare regulations that force some religious institutions to pay for coverage of anti-abortion drugs, regardless of the employer's religious and moral objections.

How can the liberal media ignore 12 different lawsuits being filed in Federal courts that each charge the administration with violating the First Amendment right of freedom of religion?

The liberal national media continues to show their bias by their scanty coverage of this historical event.

COMMUNICATION FROM CONSTITUENT SERVICES DIRECTOR, THE HONORABLE MIKE PENCE, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Karrie Pardieck, Constituent Services Director, the Honorable MIKE PENCE, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 23, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a trial subpoena ad testificandum issued by the State of Indiana's Delaware County Circuit Court No. 4.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will determine whether compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

KARRIE PARDIECK,
Constituent Services Director,
Congressman Mike Pence.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the further consideration of H.R. 5325, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCKINLEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 667 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5325.

Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) kindly take the chair.

□ 1413

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes, with Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Friday, June 1, 2012, an amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) had been disposed of, and the bill had been read through page 22, line 11.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. MCCLINTOCK

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 22, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$514,391,000)".

Page 56, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$514,391,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.