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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.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 we are a Nation fashioned out of diverse peoples and cultures, brought forth on this continent in a way not unlike the ancient people of Israel. As out of a desert, You led our American ancestors to this promised land, where they declared their independence and constituted a new Nation founded upon unalienable rights given to us by You, our Creator.

Bless our Nation with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, and bless the Members of this people's House. Renew in us the adoption by Your spirit, that we may affirm our freedoms, not only with the conviction in the way we understand others, but in ourselves by actions proven beyond words.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here be 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 North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

TIME TO SUBMIT A CREDIBLE PLAN

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, families budget, small businesses budget, cities budget, churches budget, schools budget, my state of North Carolina budgets, but Washington does not.

Instead, year after year, budgetless Washington spends every single cent of the money it takes from the American people and \$1 trillion more.

Not since 2009 has the Democrat Senate bothered to pass a budget, and not since 2010 has President Obama submitted his plan for a budget on time.

When you don't plan, it's easy to overcommit. And when a country overcommits year after year after year, it ends up \$16.4 trillion in debt.

That debt doesn't just rob our future; it hurts Americans looking for jobs today. While government spending ballooned, 8.5 million more people have given up looking for work since 2009.

Mr. Speaker, the unchecked spending has got to stop. It's time to get this government on a budget. It's time for the President to submit a credible plan.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Yesterday, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta bluntly warned if sequester happens on March 1 it's going to badly damage the readiness of the United States of America. It will go right at readiness, right at maintenance, right at training.

The Navy has told us too it will cancel maintenance on 23 ships, reduce flying hours on deployed aircraft carriers by 55 percent, cancel submarine deployments, and reduce steaming days by 22 percent.

The Bipartisan Policy Center has warned us that 1 million jobs will be lost if sequester happens.

What is the response of the majority party? The Budget chair, Mr. RYAN, simply said, "Sequester is going to happen. We can't afford to lose those cuts."

For the sake of our economy, for the sake of our national defense, we have to do better than that. Congress must adopt the President's balanced plan and avoid the economic and military calamity, a calamity that can easily be avoided.

REPLACING PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SEQUESTER

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, President Obama missed a great opportunity today to help our economy. This was supposed to be the day that the President submitted his budget to the Congress, but it's not coming. It's going to be late. Some reports say that it could be as long as a month late. I think that's too bad. Our economy could use some Presidential leadership right now.

On Thursday, the President disbanded his jobs council after a grand total of four meetings in two years. Then, as Americans got to work on Friday, they learned that our economy still isn't creating enough jobs. The unemployment rate actually went up.

Now, if government spending does cause growth, as the President believes, we shouldn't be having these problems. And then maybe it wouldn't be so disappointing that his budget is late.

□ 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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