

Ellison	Lewis	Quigley
Engel	Lipinski	Rahall
Enyart	LoBiondo	Rangel
Eshoo	Loeb	Richmond
Esty	Lofgren	Roybal-Allard
Farr	Lowenthal	Ruiz
Fattah	Lowe	Ryun
Frankel (FL)	Lujan Grisham	Ruppersberger
Fudge	(NM)	Ryan (OH)
Gabbard	Lujan, Ben Ray	Sánchez, Linda
Gallego	(NM)	T.
Garamendi	Maffei	Sanchez, Loretta
Garcia	Maloney,	Sarbanes
Gibson	Carolyn	Schiff
Grayson	Maloney, Sean	Schneider
Green, Al	Massie	Schrader
Green, Gene	Matsui	Schwartz
Grijalva	McCarthy (NY)	Scott (VA)
Grimm	McCollum	Scott, David
Gutierrez	McDermott	Serrano
Hahn	McGovern	Sewell (AL)
Hanabusa	McIntyre	Shea-Porter
Hastings (FL)	McKinley	Sherman
Heck (WA)	McNerney	Sinema
Higgins	Meeks	Sires
Hinojosa	Meng	Slaughter
Holt	Michaud	Speier
Honda	Miller, Gary	Swalwell (CA)
Horsford	Miller, George	Takano
Hoyer	Moore	Thompson (CA)
Huffman	Moran	Thompson (MS)
Israel	Murphy (FL)	Tierney
Jackson Lee	Napolitano	Titus
Jeffries	Neal	Tonko
Johnson (GA)	Negrete McLeod	Tsongas
Johnson, E. B.	Nolan	Turner
Jones	O'Rourke	Van Hollen
Kaptur	Owens	Vargas
Keating	Pallone	Veasey
Kennedy	Pascrell	Vela
Kildee	Pastor (AZ)	Velázquez
Kilmer	Payne	Visclosky
Kind	Pelosi	Walz
King (NY)	Perlmutter	Wasserman
Kirkpatrick	Peters (CA)	Schultz
Kuster	Peters (MI)	Waters
Langevin	Peterson	Watt
Larsen (WA)	Pingree (ME)	Waxman
Larson (CT)	Pocan	Welch
Lee (CA)	Polis	Wilson (FL)
Levin	Price (NC)	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—15

Castor (FL)	Himes	McHenry
Costa	Joyce	Nadler
Foster	Luetkemeyer	Rush
Gardner	Lynch	Schakowsky
Hanna	Markey	Smith (WA)

□ 1224

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 75, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for the following votes due to a family funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Yes: Previous question

Yes: Adoption of the rule for H.R. 803 the SKILLS Act

No: Approval of the Journal

No: Tierney Substitute Amendment

No: Democrat Motion to Recommit

Yes: H.R. 803—Support Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, on March 15, I was unable to be present for a series of votes. Had I been present for rollcall vote 73 on H.R. 803, I would have voted "yea." Had I been present for rollcall vote 74 on H.R. 803, I would have voted "yea." Had I been present for rollcall vote 75 on final passage of H.R. 803, I would have voted "nay."

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-2)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COTTON) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Joint Economic Committee and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States

This year's Economic Report of the President describes the progress we have made recovering from the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. After years of grueling recession, our businesses have created over six million new jobs. As a nation, we now buy more American cars than we have in 5 years, and less foreign oil than we have in 20 years. Our housing market is healing, and consumers, patients, and homeowners enjoy stronger protections than ever before.

But there are still millions of Americans whose hard work and dedication have not yet been rewarded. Our economy is adding jobs, but too many of our fellow citizens still can't find full-time employment. Corporate profits have reached all-time highs, but for more than a decade, wages and incomes for working Americans have barely budged.

Our top priority must be to do everything we can to grow our economy and create good, middle-class jobs. That has to be our North Star. That has to drive every decision we make in Washington. Every day, we should ask ourselves three questions: How do we attract more jobs to our shores? How do we equip our people with the skills needed to do those jobs? And how do we make sure that hard work leads to a decent living?

We can begin by making America a magnet for new jobs and manufacturing. After shedding jobs for more than a decade, our manufacturers have added about half a million new jobs over the past 3 years. We need to accelerate that trend, by launching more manufacturing hubs that transform hard-hit regions of the country into global centers of high-tech jobs and manufacturing. We need to make our tax code more competitive, by ending tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas, and rewarding companies that create jobs here at home. And we need to invest in the research and technology that will allow us to harness more of our own energy and put more people back to work repairing our crumbling roads and bridges.

These steps will help entrepreneurs and small business owners expand and create new jobs. But we also need to provide every American with the skills and training they need to fill those jobs. We should start in the earliest years by offering high-quality preschool to every child in America, because we know kids in programs like these do better throughout their academic lives. We should redesign America's high schools to better prepare our students with skills that employers are looking for right now. And because taxpayers can't continue subsidizing the soaring cost of higher education, we should take affordability and value into account when determining which colleges receive certain types of Federal aid.

We also need to reward hard work and declare that no one who works full-time should have to live in poverty by raising the minimum wage so that it's a wage you can live on. And it's time to harness the talents and ingenuity of hardworking immigrants by finally passing commonsense immigration reform—continuing to strengthen border security, holding employers accountable, establishing a responsible path to earned citizenship, reuniting families, and attracting the highly-skilled entrepreneurs, engineers, and scientists that will help create jobs.

As we continue to grow our economy, we must also take further action to shrink our deficits. We don't have to choose between these two important priorities—we just have to make smart choices.

Over the last few years, both parties have worked together to reduce the deficit by more than \$2.5 trillion, which puts us more than halfway towards the goal of \$4 trillion in deficit reduction that economists say we need to stabilize our finances. Now we need to finish the job. But we shouldn't do it by making harsh and arbitrary cuts that jeopardize our military readiness, devalue priorities like education and energy, and cost jobs. That's not how you grow the economy. We shouldn't ask senior citizens and working families to pay down the rest of our deficit while the wealthiest are asked for nothing more. The doesn't grow our middle class.

Most Americans—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—understand that we can't just cut our way to prosperity. That's why I have put forward a balanced approach to deficit reduction that makes responsible reforms to bring down the cost of health care for an aging generation—the single biggest driver of our long-term debt—and saves hundreds of billions of dollars by getting rid of tax loopholes and deductions for the well-off and well-connected. And we should finally pursue bipartisan, comprehensive tax reform that encourages job creation and helps bring down the deficit.

The American people don't expect their government to solve every problem. They don't expect those of us in

Washington to agree on every issue. But they do expect us to put the Nation's interest before party interests. They do expect us to forge reasonable compromise where we can. Our work will not be easy. But America only moves forward when we do so together—when we accept certain obligations to one another and to future generations. That's the American story. And that's how we will write the next great chapter—together.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 2013.

□ 1230

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO THE WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 4(b) of the World War I Centennial Commission Act (Pub. L. 112-272), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following individual on the part of the House to the World War I Centennial Commission:

Mr. TED POE, Humble, Texas

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151), as amended by section 1601 of Pub. L. 111-68, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Open World Leadership Center:

Mr. FORTENBERRY, Nebraska

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. I yield to my friend, the majority leader, Mr. CANTOR of Virginia.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland, the Democratic whip, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday the House will meet at noon for morning-hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour and noon for legislative business. On Thursday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m. On Friday, no votes are expected.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a few suspensions on Monday, a complete list of which will be announced by close of business today. In addition, we'll take up an expected Senate amendment to the House's continuing

resolution, ensuring that the Federal Government remains funded beyond March 27. We'll also consider a resolution providing for the funding of the House's committees. This is a responsible resolution that makes tough choices and abides by sequestration.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Republican House will consider and pass a budget resolution on time for a third consecutive year. The Republican plan, put forward by Chairman PAUL RYAN in the Budget Committee, will increase economic growth and job creation, cut wasteful government spending, and strengthen our entitlement programs. And for the first time in recent memory, the House budget will balance in 10 years.

Before I yield back, I would like to acknowledge the launch of the House Historian's new Web site, "The House and Selma: Bridging History and Memory." This important historical record is now available for the public to explore at History.House.gov. It will soon include oral testimonies from Members of Congress, like JOHN LEWIS, describing their role and contributions to the civil rights movement.

I was proud to have joined Congressman JOHN LEWIS, Congresswomen TERRI SEWELL and MARTHA ROBY, the gentleman from Maryland, as well as others, in that trip to Selma and Montgomery this year. But to those in particular who were actively involved in the unveiling of this project, I look forward to its growth in the years to come.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments, and I would remark that I was pleased that he had the opportunity to go to Selma with JOHN LEWIS and others of us who had the opportunity to go to the birthplace of our colleague, TERRI SEWELL. Congresswoman SEWELL is on the floor.

The March to Selma, of course, which was interdicted by members of the Alabama State Police at the direction of the Governor, was one of the advances, the gentleman knows, that led to the introduction, passage, and signing by President Johnson of the Voting Rights Act. We are privileged to serve with someone whose contribution to this country and to the realization of its promise of equality to all was so enhanced by the life and commitment and courage of JOHN LEWIS, our colleague. And I was glad that the gentleman participated with us on that. I also am very pleased to hear about the Web site. I think that's a very positive step. I want to thank the gentleman also for the information about next week.

Mr. Leader, I would first like to ask about the budget resolution that you referenced that will be coming next week. I wondered if there's any plan on the floor to replace the sequester, which all of us seem to think is irrational—at least I think it's irrational and most of the colleagues I talk to think that it is irrational in that it is a meat-ax approach, and we have of-

fered a number of times to get to the same budget savings—but notwithstanding that, whether there was any thought of replacing the sequester with its cuts to high priority and low priority by the same percentage to replace that. Is there any plan to do that, as far as you know?

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman knows, the CR, and the amendments that the Senate is working on, contains within it measures dealing with certain sectors of government that prescribe for spending plans that avoid that very blunt, indiscriminate approach that the gentleman speaks about in the across-the-board sequestration formula. The gentleman knows I agree with him. These kinds of cuts are not smart. They are indiscriminate. They cut good programs just like they cut bad programs.

I don't think any of us would choose to do things that way. I look forward to working with him to see what we can do to even expand the prescription to go beyond that which is in the sequester.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments, and that would be a positive effort, I think, towards that. Of course, if we could adopt a budget and if we could adopt appropriation bills and Ways and Means recommendations pursuant to such a budget, that would be a very much appreciated option to the sequester. Having said that, the Budget Committee did a markup this week on Wednesday, and I know members of the committee worked well into the night, both Republicans and Democrats. And I wanted to ask the gentleman, I know that normally when we bring a budget—both sides have brought a budget—which does in fact allow for substitutes, but for the most part it does not allow individual amendments.

Now I say that because so many amendments were rejected in the committee. Mr. CÁRDENAS from California offered an amendment to protect the mortgage interest deduction for the middle class. That amendment was voted for unanimously by Democrats and unanimously opposed by Republican members of the committee. Mr. CICILLINE offered an amendment to protect workers from privatizing Social Security. Again, on a partisan vote, with Democrats supporting the Cicilline amendment and Republicans opposing it, it was rejected.

Mr. JEFFRIES from New York offered an amendment to prevent the student loan interest rate from doubling, which as the gentleman knows is set to occur on June 30 without our action. Again, unfortunately, on the same partisan vote—the Democrats voting for the Jeffries amendment and Republicans voting against it—it failed. Mr. POCAN of Wisconsin offered an amendment to protect middle class Americans from tax increases. It seems to me that we have agreement on that; but, nevertheless, that amendment was rejected,