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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 13, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI 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 7, 2014, 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, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

TOUGH, PERSISTENT DIPLOMACY WITH IRAN

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, next Monday, when our country honors an apostle of nonviolence, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Iran will begin reducing its nuclear stockpile.

This important action is part of an international agreement to begin implementing the interim Joint Plan of Action that was announced in November. Hope for a nonviolent resolution of our conflict with Iran will appro-

priately advance on a day that honors nonviolence.

Some in Congress have been unwilling to accept these negotiations or to acknowledge that the administration has been successful in uniting other countries around the world in enforcing sanctions against Iran.

Indeed, in what appears to have been largely a partisan outcry, some of our colleagues condemned the November agreement late on the Saturday night when it was announced, without knowing what was in it, other than that President Obama had approved it.

As a Member, myself, who has consistently voted here to impose tough economic sanctions on Iran, I believe that these sanctions have worked. The choice is not between sanctions and no sanctions. It is between recognizing that our sanctions have the potential to realize our important goals and not give up on them without even really trying.

The Iranians are well aware that this Congress can act almost instantly to add even more stringent sanctions if they waver from diplomacy.

Can we trust the current Iranian regime? Of course not. That is why the painstaking task of verifying every operational detail of any final agreement is so very important.

If done with the thoroughness required, this is a task that may well take more than 6 months; but as negotiations for a permanent agreement get under way, we will have new, regular inspections to verify compliance, something we have not had in the past.

To prevent a nuclear-armed Iran, and to ensure the safety of our families and families around the world, a measurable, verifiable negotiated agreement is the wiser course over the unknowable, unlimited risk of war.

Those who would intrude on these fragile negotiations now only increase the danger of Iran becoming a nuclear-armed power. They would undermine

the international coalition that has enforced the existing sanctions, and they would empower those hard-line ayatollahs, giving them a pretext to stop progress, giving that to the very people, who reject any cooperation and regularly demand death to America and death to Israel.

Congress must not impede the diplomatic alternative to war. Ultimately, that diplomacy may not be successful. It may not achieve a final, verifiable agreement; but we should make every reasonable effort toward that end.

There are no more important issues considered in this Capitol Building, undertaken by this Congress, than the questions of war and peace.

Just as I do not trust Iran, I do not trust war as the best way to prevent a nuclear Iran, and war is the true alternative offered by those here who would interfere or limit these negotiations.

Starting a war in Iraq cost us so very dearly, and it did not make us safer. Let's not repeat that deadly mistake.

Congress should commend Secretary of State John Kerry, Under Secretary Wendy Sherman, and President Barack Obama for their leadership through tough, persistent diplomacy, through the wise use of American power.

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 5 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. WOMACK) at 2 p.m.

□ 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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PRAYER

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

Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your special blessing among the Members of this people's House. They face difficult decisions in difficult times, with many forces and interests demanding their attention.

In these days, give wisdom to all the Members that they might execute their responsibilities to the benefit of all Americans, especially those who work for less than a living wage and struggle to make ends meet, and those who would work but are unable to find sustainable employment.

Bless them, O God, and be with them and with us all this day and every day to come.

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.

ECONOMIC GROWTH IS NOT PRESIDENT'S PRIORITY

(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, on Friday the Bureau of Labor Statistics released the weakest jobs report in 3 years. In the month of December, the economy only added a dismal 74,000 jobs, less than half those expected to be created. Sadly, more people lost hope and gave up the search for a job, causing the workforce participation rate to tumble to the lowest point in over three decades.

The President's policies are not working. For 5 years, while the President has focused on expanding the size of government, House Republicans have focused on job creation of the private sector.

We have passed dozens of bills that will create immediate jobs, reduce regulations to allow small businesses to begin hiring again, and reform our Tax Code so families will be able to keep more of their hard-earned paychecks.

Big Government destroys jobs and causes more economic uncertainty for families. I hope the President and Senate change course and begin working with us so we can help put the American people back to work.

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

TAXPAYERS SHOULD NOT FUND LIBERAL NEWS ORGANIZATIONS

(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, since 2002 over \$362 million in government grants have gone to fund a liberal news organization by the name of Internews.

The Business and Media Institute describes Internews as a liberal journalism nonprofit, and states that not only does it push a liberal agenda, but it also has helped create three other liberal organizations.

Why are taxpayers' dollars subsidizing a liberal news outlet? This is a misuse of the public's money. People need unbiased information so they can form their own opinions and make educated decisions.

One of the greatest challenges that democratic America faces today is a biased media. It is inexcusable and irresponsible for the Federal Government to give any of the American taxpayers' dollars to a liberal media organization.

JOBS ARE THE BEST CURE FOR POVERTY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week we marked the 50th anniversary of the war on poverty. While the standard of living of Americans has risen in the last 50 years, the number of those who fall under the poverty line has remained largely constant.

In war, good generals adjust when current tactics aren't producing results. Yet we continue to wage war on poverty with the same tired, bureaucratic ideas. This strategy was outdated in 1964; it is antiquated today. The solution to poverty isn't aid programs; it is jobs.

Last week also marked one of the worst jobs reports in years. President Johnson said he wanted "to give our fellow citizens a fair chance to develop their own capacities." My bill, the SKILLS Act, would streamline the Federal Government's overlapping and outdated workforce development programs and help put Americans back to work.

The SKILLS Act passed the House with bipartisan support. It is time for the Senate to take action on this vital legislation.

PROTECTING THE HALLOWED GROUND AT GETTYSBURG

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, it was over 150 years ago, on a battlefield near a small town in Pennsylvania, that President Abraham Lincoln gave what many would argue was one of the most prolific and inspiring speeches in history. His Gettysburg Address may not have been long, but his words lifted a Nation and shone an everlasting light on the immense sacrifice and patriotism displayed on that battlefield only a few months earlier.

Lincoln's words and, to a larger extent, the actions of the brave soldiers who fought at the Battle of Gettysburg must never be forgotten. Today the House will pass legislation to give the National Park Service the authority to incorporate the Gettysburg Train Station into the Gettysburg National Military Park.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's national parks, including Gettysburg, are some of our greatest treasures. It is imperative that we continue working to ensure that future generations of Americans can visit the history, the scenery, the vistas, and the landmarks of our Nation's national parks.

IN MEMORY OF BERNIE ANDERSON

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

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of retired Nevada Assemblyman Bernie Anderson, who passed away Friday at the age of 71.

A graduate of Bishop Manogue High School and the University of Nevada in Reno, Bernie was a high school government teacher in the Washoe County School District. Also, Bernie was a colleague of mine for 14 years in the Nevada Assembly, ruling the Assembly Judiciary Committee with an iron hand for many of those sessions. But behind that iron hand and that gruff surface was a gentleman who had a heart of gold and was basically a loveable teddy bear.

When you talk about a life well-lived, Bernie checked all the boxes. His family, his community, students, constituents, colleagues, and the State of Nevada can all attest to the fact that Bernie was a good man. I am privileged to have called Chairman Anderson my friend. Nevada is better off because of his service.

I offer my sincere condolences to Bernie's wife, Clyda; their children; his family and friends.

Rest in peace, my friend.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair