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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, January 3, 2014, at 11:45 a.m.

House of Representatives

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2013

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 26, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRED UPTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend David Godleski, S.J., U.S. Jesuit Conference, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Gracious and life-giving God, we come before You this day in the midst of the holiday season, a time for joyful gatherings with friends, family members and other loved ones and a time for recalling the blessings we have received. We are mindful and grateful for the many gifts You have bestowed on us, both as individuals and as a Nation, especially the gift of freedom, the gift of our abundant natural resources and the gift of opportunities to pursue our hopes and aspirations.

We pray for Your continued blessings on our country and on those in positions of leadership and governance, especially in this House of Representatives. Bless all its Members with wisdom and understanding to discern how best to serve the people of these United States—to promote the common good, to provide for our Nation's security, and to work for justice and peace for all people.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 6(a) of House Resolution 438, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HOYER 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.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 30) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 30

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Friday, December 20, 2013, through Tuesday, December 31, 2013, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 11:45 a.m. on Friday, January 3, 2014, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Monday, December 23, 2013, through Tuesday, December 31, 2013, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 3, 2014, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. (a) The Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble at such place and time he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the Senate adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by the Majority Leader or his designee, the Senate shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 3. (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by the Speaker or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the concurrent resolution is concurred in.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, arguably, Mr. Speaker, this Congress is the least productive one in which I have served over the last 33 years. Both from a humanitarian standpoint and an economic one, this Congress has earned the disdain of the American people irrespective of their party affiliation.

I rise, Mr. Speaker, specifically to express my and the Democratic minority's strong objection to adjourning this first session of the 113th Congress without extending unemployment insurance eligibility for the 1.3 million Americans, including 20,000 military veterans, who will lose that support in just 48 hours. This number will increase by 73,000 people, on average, every week that we continue to block an extension.

That is both a moral outrage and another congressionally inflicted blow to our economy, and it is unprecedented. Whenever unemployment levels have been as they are today, the Congress has extended benefits.

It is, sadly, consistent with our failure to pass meaningful jobs legislation proposed by the President.

It is, sadly, consistent with our failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform, which is broadly supported by business, labor, farmers, farm workers, and an overwhelming number of religious leaders and members of the faith community.

It is, sadly, consistent with our failure to pass a farm bill, which could give confidence to those in dire need of help putting food on their families' tables that this Congress will not abandon them; and ironically, Mr. Speaker, we do so at the very time that our Nation celebrates a message of giving and hope.

All this we leave undone after passing a so-called budget ''compromise,'' whose only virtue was that it was slightly better than the draconian and the irrational sequester—condemned on both sides of the aisle as unworkable, unrealistic, and ill-conceived. So, it is a so-called ''compromise'' that will be tested in just a few short weeks and which failed to assure that America will pay its bills in the months ahead.

Mr. Speaker, if I thought objecting to this motion to adjourn by unanimous consent would lead to an extension of unemployment for the 1.3 million Americans who have been unable to find work or to a House leadership bringing to the floor issues that I have listed, I would object to this House adjourning with so much of the people's work undone, but sadly, Mr. Speaker, such an objection would have no such effect. I and my party deeply regret that reality.

Mr. Speaker, we will return in January of 2014, urging our Republican colleagues to address the needs of so many millions of Americans who want us to do the work they sent us here to do.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, sadly, I withdraw my reservation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the concurrent resolution is concurred in.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore UPTON on Monday, December 23, 2013:

H.R. 623, to provide for the conveyance of certain property located in Anchorage, Alaska, from the United States to the Alaskan Native Tribal Health Consortium;

H.R. 767, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to modify the Pilot Project offices of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project;

H.R. 2319, to clarify certain provisions of the Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act of 1994;

H.R. 3304, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3343, to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to clarify the rules regarding the determination of the compensation of the chief financial officer of the District of Columbia;

H.R. 3487, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act to extend through 2018 the authority of the Federal Election Commission to impose civil money penalties on the basis of a schedule of penalties established and published by the Commission, to expand such authority to certain other violations, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 623. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain property located in Anchorage, Alaska, from the United States to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

H.R. 767. An act to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to modify the Pilot Project offices of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project.

H.R. 2319. An act to clarify certain provisions of the Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act of 1994.

H.R. 3304. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3343. An act to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to clarify the rules regarding the determination of the compensation of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia.

H.R. 3487. An act to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act to extend through 2018 the authority of the Federal Election Commission to impose civil money penalties on the basis of the schedule of penalties established and published by the Commission, to expand such authority to certain other violations, and for other purposes.

BILLS AND A JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on December 19, 2013, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills and joint resolution:

H.J. Res 59. Making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1402. To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3588. To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to exempt fire hydrants from the prohibition on the use of lead pipes, fittings, fixtures, solder, and flux.

H.R. 2251. To designate the United States courthouse and Federal building located at 118 South Mill Street, in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, as the ''Edward J. Devitt United States Courthouse and Federal Building''.

H.R. 185. To designate the United States courthouse located at 101 East Pecan Street in Sherman, Texas, as the ''Paul Brown United States Courthouse''.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 30, 113th Congress, the House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. on Friday, January 3, 2014.

There was no objection.

Thereupon (at 12 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, January 3, 2014, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4338. A letter from the Director, Issuances Staff, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Prior Label Approval System: Generic Label Approval [Docket No.: 99-021F; FDMS Docket Number: FSIS-2005-0016] (RIN: 0583-AC59) received December 20, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4339. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a letter to report a violation of the Antideficiency Act in the Coast Guard Acquisition, Construction and Improvement Appropriation; to the Committee on Appropriations.

4340. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act which occurred in the Coast Guard Operating Expenses appropriation; to the Committee on Appropriations.

4341. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule —

Truth in Lending (Regulation Z) received December 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4342. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Risk Management Initiatives: New Manual Underwriting Requirements [Docket No.: FR-5595-N-01] (RIN: 2502-AJ07) received December 20, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4343. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Qualified Mortgage Definition for HUD Insured and Guaranteed Single Family Mortgages [Docket No.: FR 5707-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AJ18) received December 20, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4344. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards [Docket No.: FR-5221-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AI71) received December 20, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4345. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to VEB Leasing JSC of Moscow, Russia; to the Committee on Financial Services.

4346. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to The Milestone Aviation Group Limited (Milestone) of Dublin, Ireland; to the Committee on Financial Services.

4347. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled, ''Medicaid Incentives for Prevention of Chronic Diseases Evaluation: Initial Report to Congress''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4348. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Revisions to Auxiliary Installations, Replacement Facilities, and Siting and Maintenance Regulations [Docket Nos.: RM12-11-000 and RM12-11-001; Order No. 790] received December 20, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4349. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 13-70, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4350. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 13-68, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4351. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 11-13 informing of an intent to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Defense of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4352. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Certification Related to Condition 27(C)(i) of Senate Executive Resolution 75 to Advise and Consent to the Ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Subject to Certain Conditions; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4353. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Continued Implementation of Export Control Reform; Correction (RIN: 1400-AD40) received December 20, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4354. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zabloci Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4355. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Emirates Airline of Dubai, United Arab Emirates; to the Committee on Financial Services.

4356. A letter from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4357. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Inspector General's semiannual report to Congress for the reporting period ending September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4358. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the forty-ninth Semiannual Report to Congress on Audit Follow-up, covering the six month period ending September 30, 2013 in compliance with the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4359. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4360. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting Agency Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4361. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Inspector General's semiannual report to Congress for the reporting period April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4362. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's semiannual report from the Office of the Inspector General during the 6-month period ending September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4363. A letter from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4364. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's report ''Clean Record Settlement Agreements and the Law''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4365. A letter from the General Counsel, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4366. A letter from the Chairman and General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the Board's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4367. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the Board's Performance and Accountability report for fiscal years 2012 and 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4368. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's FY 2013 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4369. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Annual Management Report for FY 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4370. A letter from the Director, Trade and Development Agency, transmitting the Agency's Performance and Accountability Report including audited financial statements for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4371. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Permits and Regulations, Division of Migratory Bird Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Eagle Permits; Changes in the Regulations Governing Eagle Permitting [Docket No.: FWS-R9-MB-2011-0054; FF09M21200-134-FXMB1231099BPP0] (RIN: 1018-AX91) received December 20, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4372. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Permits and Regulations, Division of Migratory Bird Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Migratory Bird Permits; Delegating Falconry Permitting Authority to 17 States [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MD-2013-0110; FF09M21200-134-FXMB1231099BPP0] (RIN: 1018-BA01) received December 20, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4373. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 120306154-2241-02] (RIN: 0648-XD009) received December 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4374. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fraser River Sockeye and Pink Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Orders (RIN: 0648-XC965) received December 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4375. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #12 Through #34 [Docket No.: 130108020-3409-01] (RIN: 0648-XC964) received December 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4376. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,

NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2013 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper [Docket No.: 130312235-3658-02] (RIN: 0648-XC984) received December 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4377. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a notification to designate Curacao as a beneficiary country for the purposes of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, as amended by the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4378. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Medicare Competitive Acquisition Ombudsman's 2011 Report to Congress; jointly to the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII,

Mr. COSTA introduced a bill (H.R. 3809) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain population census tracts for which information is not available as low-income communities for purposes of the new markets tax credit; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 3809.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 1763: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 3658: Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. NUNES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SCHOCK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 3793: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. PETERS of California.