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AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God of history, yet ever-present to Your people, as the sunlight is diminished, hot winds of pundits and prophets blow across the land. People complain with increasing volume to one another, but they are not seen crying out to You.

Jeremiah, traditionally the man of tears, has a teaching for people of this information age, how to truly lament. His faith in You is more powerful than any terrorist attack, so he refuses to be negative. The signs of corruption and ruins of former days surround him, but he never allows doubt in You. They are only the consequences of the sinful actions found in the powerful and poor alike.

So believing in the same divine providence which enlightened this Nation's Founders, Jeremiah says:

"Wise men should not boast of their wisdom, nor strong men of their strength, nor rich men of their wealth. If anyone wants to boast, he should boast that he knows and understands Me. He knows My love is constant, and I do only what is kind and just. These are the things that please me. I, the Lord, have spoken."

Let those who hear the Word of God say: "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 Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FLEMING 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.

FULL BODY SCANNERS VIOLATE
FOURTH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a trip to the airport these days leaves Americans with embarrassing choices. Law-abiding citizens can bare it all through a peekaboo body scanner—or

they can get groped in a pat-down search by a Federal employee. Now that's a real choice.

There is no evidence these new body scanners make us more secure. But there is evidence that former Homeland Security Chief Michael Chertoff made money hawking these full body scanners.

The underwear bomber tried to blow up a plane over Detroit last Christmas. Shortly thereafter, Chertoff went on a media tour promoting the full body scanners. This former Homeland Security chief told everyone we had to have the full body scanners at airports to be safe. Too bad he didn't disclose he was getting paid to sell these intrusive devices. Isn't that lovely?

Meanwhile, the populace is giving up more rights in the name of alleged security. These body scanners are a violation of the Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable searches and seizures. There must be a better way to have security at airports than taking pornographic photographs of our citizens, including children, and then giving apparent kickbacks to political hacks.

And that's just the way it is.

EXTEND ALL TAX CUTS

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, in just a few weeks, the Obama tax hike time bomb, otherwise known as the expiration of the current tax cuts, will explode, resulting in the highest single tax increase in U.S. history.

For some, it is tempting to accept the argument that increasing taxes on upper incomes and small businesses will solve our deficit problems. However, any clear-thinking American knows that confiscating more money from Americans through taxes to feed a rapidly growing government will only lead to a continued death spiral of increased taxes and expanding government. Ultimately, we will have a shrinking private sector and fewer jobs.

Mr. Speaker, on November 2, the American people spoke loudly, and they said that we are in desperate need of reform in the way this government does its business. To that end, let me suggest that instead of making tax cuts temporary and spending permanent, that we make tax cuts permanent and spending temporary. It is time for Congress and the President to put the American people first and extend permanently all of the current tax cuts for families and small businesses in order to make this economy sound for generations to come.

VALUE-ADDED TAX

(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 May, 154 of my Republican colleagues and I sent a letter to the President's Fiscal Commission asking them to reject a new value-added tax as a way to balance the Federal budget. With top White House advisers like John Podesta and Paul Volcker talking about the need for a VAT tax, there was great concern that the Fiscal Commission would look to this tax as an easy way to raise more revenue. Last week, I was pleased to see that the cochairs released a preliminary report that did not call for a new VAT tax.

The ease with which a VAT tax can raise revenue makes it especially dangerous. The government cannot create jobs, and a VAT tax would only further deplete resources from the private sector, the true center of job growth.

Now we need to have a serious debate in Congress about the best ways to control government spending and let the private sector flourish, grow, and create sustainable jobs.

LAME DUCK SESSION SHOULD INCLUDE
AIRLINE SECURITY MEASURES

(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 top priority of Congress for this lame duck session should be extending the tax cuts for all Americans in order to create jobs and get people back to work. Once this important matter is completed, I strongly encourage Congress to consider ways to protect the privacy of airline passengers while keeping air travel safe and secure.

Air travelers across America have come to expect a certain level of discomfort and anxiety when they fly; and for the most part, these American travelers are good sports and team players in the name of tight security. Recently, though, the patience and privacy of these travelers has been tested at a whole new level with full body scans. These intrusive scans are one such screening method that Congress should examine this year. I support the Aircraft Passenger Whole-Body Imaging Limitations Act, authored by Congressman JASON CHAFFETZ of Utah, to make sure the images lifted from scanners are not stored, transferred, or shared.

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

CONGRESS MUST ACT TO STOP
TAX HIKE

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago today, the American people registered a historic rejection of American