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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, Your wisdom is profound beyond our grasp and Your love penetrates all You create to reveal Your infinite beauty in everything and to everyone.

Bless the House of Representatives, its Members, and all who work here serving the people of this Nation. May the vision of righteousness, where justice and peace reign and where truth and true patriotism are standard, remain the constant guide in the daily labor to enact just laws and clear policies.

Gracious God, in truth we recognize that our own insights and powers are not able to right all the wrongs or find the paths to peace and reconciliation. So we turn to You, all powerful Lord, and place our trust in Your faithfulness, now and forever.

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 New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SLAUGHTER 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute speeches from each side.

HOPE VS. REALITY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the President's speech last night was long on hope and short on reality.

The administration's answer to America's problems is more investments, which is a fancy word for more spending and more government control.

The administration plans to freeze domestic spending, but domestic spending is already too high. Since last year the national debt has gone up over $1.7 trillion.

Once again, the administration presents an incomplete solution to America's economic problems: A spending freeze is not enough to fix the deficits or the debt. We must go one step further and actually cut massive out-of-control government spending to get us out of this spending madness.

If we cut spending, then we need to also cut taxes. Putting money back in the hands of the American people is the proven way to stimulate the economy. We must cut both taxes and spending to reboot the American economy. We need less spending, fewer taxes, and less government. Congress needs to deal in reality, not hope.

And that's just the way it is.

UNEMPLOYMENT

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the President gave a great speech last night. In it he mentioned the word ''jobs'' 31 times; he used the word ''innovate'' 11 times. But he didn't mention the word ''unemployment'' a single time.

That's because creating jobs is different than ending unemployment. In America capitalism and entrepreneurship have created great things and great wealth. To name a few, the automobile, the personal computer, the airplane. It is my hope that the cure for cancer will come from an enterprising entrepreneur.

But there is one persistent problem that innovation has not solved: unemployment. As FDR said, ''Necessitous men are not free men.''

So I challenge our leading innovators to help find a way to eliminate unemployment, since Democrats and Republicans have run out of ideas.

Mr. Gates, Mr. Buffett, Mr. Zuckerman, Mr. Immelt, Mr. Mulally: Put your organizational genius, your job-creating skills to use so that our Nation can be free from the threat of unemployment. But don't give us ideas that have been tried before, because none of them have eliminated unemployment.

Our task as leaders should be to end the scourge of unemployment once and for all so that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness can really be available to all Americans.

IRANIAN CHRISTIANS

(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, on an early morning last month, over 70 Christians in Iran were suddenly arrested and detained by the Iranian authorities. As these Iranian Christians were taken to a notorious Tehran prison, one married couple was forced to leave a 2-year-old child behind. Another mother was taken while breast-feeding her baby.

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