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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McCLINTOCK).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 13, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM McCLINTOCK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

On this day we ask Your blessing on the men and women, citizens all, whose votes have populated this people's House. Each Member of this House has been given the sacred duty of representing them.

O Lord, we pray that those with whom our Representatives met during this past week in their home districts be blessed with peace and an assurance that they have been listened to.

We ask Your blessing as well on the Members of this House, whose responsibility lies also beyond the local interests of constituents while honoring them. Give each Member the wisdom to represent both local and national interests, a responsibility calling for the wisdom of Solomon. Grant them, if You will, a double portion of such wisdom.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House this day 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 Virginia (Mr. RIGELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RIGELL 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.

EXPRESSING DEEP CONCERN OVER THE PRESIDENT'S STANCE ON JOB CREATION

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

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, recently the President said this about our most recent new jobs numbers that were greatly disappointing: "People and the markets are still skittish and nervous, and so they pull back because they're still thinking about the traumas of just 2½ years ago."

Mr. Speaker, I want the President to know that American entrepreneurs and job creators are not looking to the past. Entrepreneurs and job creators by their very nature are looking to the future, and all they see, Mr. Speaker, is the perfect storm of uncertainty based on the President's fiscal policies: They see an EPA that is a hindrance—not a partner—in job creation; they see a nationalized health care that's creating uncertainty about health care costs and where that's going; they see a mountain of debt that continues to

grow each and every day; and they see local bankers who aren't hiring local account executives to reach out to small business owners, but they're hiring those account executives to go out and look at regulations that are just continuing to pour down on our small banks.

Thomas Friedman wrote this in the New York Times this weekend; he said: The epidemic of uncertainty is one of the principal problems undermining U.S. job growth today.

We can do better, Mr. Speaker. Let's support and unlock the greatest job-producing engine the world has ever known: the American small business owner.

HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY PROMOTES JOBS

(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, Friday marks the 1-year anniversary of the current administration's "Recovery Summer." The 3-month "victory lap" was designed to celebrate the fabricated success of the so-called "stimulus" plan. The reality of this victory lap is failure. Since passage of the stimulus, America has lost 1.6 million jobs.

Sadly, earlier this month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced more families are without jobs. The failed economic policies of this administration, with skyrocketing gas prices promised by the President, have slowed the growth of small businesses. These are America's primary job creators, especially the hospitality industry of hotels and motels which have promoted job opportunities for millions of persons across the country.

Tragically, over 14 million Americans are now without jobs. House Republicans presented the "Cut and

□ 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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Grow" congressional plan. It's common sense. First cut spending, then the economy will grow. That is the best way to produce jobs by small businesses.

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

CONGRESSIONAL PAY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask whether Congress can raise itself to the standard of accountability of your home State, the State of California, that was set there recently.

On April 15 of this year, I introduced the Congressional Pay Accountability Act of 2011, a bill that requires Congress to pass a budget and appropriations bills before the beginning of the fiscal year. If we don't, we don't get paid.

I introduced this bill because if Congress is unable to perform its basic fundamental duties—to pass the budget and appropriations bills—we aren't doing our job and should be held accountable and should not get paid.

Recently, I read that California voters approved a ballot measure that requires the same thing of their State legislators—pass a budget or don't get paid. California voters, facing one of the worst budget crises in U.S. history, spoke up and said that they wanted to hold their elected officials accountable.

As America faces the worst debt crisis in its history, I hope Congress can stand up and declare that we, too, want to be held accountable.

Ask yourselves: If California can do it, why can't Congress do it?

□ 1410

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2055, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE- LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA- TIONS ACT, 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 288 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2055.

□ 1412

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, with Mr. MCCLINTOCK (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, June 2, 2011, the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) had been disposed of and the bill was open for amendment from page 2, line 8, through page 60, line 9.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MICA

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 6, line 18, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(increased by \$25,000,000)".

Page 9, line 21, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(decreased by \$25,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I come to the floor this afternoon to present an amendment that would transfer \$25 million from one of the accounts, that is the NATO Security Investment Program, to the Military Construction Army National Guard Account. I take this action for several reasons.

First, in our State of Florida, we have at least two projects that are very important to the operation of the National Guard. Our men and women who belong to the National Guard, not only in Florida but across the Nation, deserve an upgrade in their facilities. We have several projects that have gone on for years and years. One of the projects I understand has had difficulty in the contract falling apart. Nonetheless, whether it is in Florida, again, in south Florida, central Florida, or in any State, we should adequately fund the account that protects and provides the accommodations necessary for the facilities for our National Guard. So here we want to plus-up by \$25 million from the NATO Security Investment Program to our National Guard facilities. Across the country I hear the same thing—that National Guard facilities, many of which are two or three times older than those who are serving there, need replacement.

So this is a general amount, \$25 million, but I believe that it can help boost up the facilities account that is so important for Florida and for the Nation. I am willing to work with the committee in any fashion to plus-up this account. I am not trying to pick on NATO, although I believe that there is room in their budget to transfer

these funds without doing any damage. I would ask my colleagues to consider this amendment.

I thank the committee. I usually don't get into other folks' turf, particularly military construction. I deal mostly with transportation in the House, and I understand the difficulty sometimes when other Members come in and try to manage some of the important dollars that are made available. I know the difficult choices that the committee has in trying to assign appropriate dollars, particularly for defense facilities construction.

Again, I won't just take up the House's time in unnecessary conversation, but it is a simple matter. We transfer \$25 million from the NATO security investment account to fund military construction for our National Guard. We have the need across the Nation. It is evident in every State where we have National Guard activities. This isn't a great amount, but I think it can make a significant difference on a number of projects throughout the United States.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would decrease the NATO Security Investment Program by \$25 million and increase the Army National Guard account by \$25 million. We support the Guard and our Reserves wholeheartedly, but I want to join Chairman CULBERSON in some concerns that I have about the amendment.

The MilCon portion of this bill for the most part is flat-funded, and the resources provided in this title were distributed, we believe, in a very judicious manner. The bill funds the Guard account at the budget request level, which makes the needed investments in Guard facilities.

In addition, I am concerned that the offset that the gentleman has chosen could cause shortfalls in the NATO Security Investment Program, which in turn could cause further delays in the NATO Security Construction Program. The Security Investment Program provides support for many of the important operations that we are involved in, including our current operations in Afghanistan. I believe that we have to get the NATO program back on track because it will ultimately save us money in the long run.

□ 1420

While I agree with the spirit of the amendment, I do have some concerns about the gentleman's amendment. I won't oppose it at this time, but I hope that we will be able to work through those concerns as we work through this process and as the bill goes to the Senate and it comes back and we can deal with these concerns in conference.