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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

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

We come to the end of a week where we have given thanks for the heroism of our astronauts. They answered the call to service of their Nation, and of their race, to leave the comfort of home to expand the horizons of us all.

We have honored as well the elders of both the Senate and this people's House, two men who have served together over a century in this most noble work of representing the people of the United States.

Now we approach a week during which all Americans will gather to remember who we are: a Nation generously blessed not only by You, our God, but by courageous ancestors, faithful allies, and the best good wishes of people everywhere who long for freedom, who would glory in the difficult work of participative government and who do not enjoy the bounty we are privileged to possess.

Bless the Members of this assembly and us all, that we would be worthy of the call we have been given as Americans. Help us all to be truly thankful and appreciative and appropriately generous in our response.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

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 gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas 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 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NOT SO FAST WITH THE CONFETTI

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week marked the passage of an important milestone in American history. But don't just break out the confetti and the fireworks so quickly.

According to the Treasury Department, our national debt just passed \$15 trillion for the first time in history. Mr. Speaker, here is what \$15 trillion looks like. That seems like a lot of money to me. That totals over \$48,000 for every man, woman, and child across the fruited plain.

Now, how did we get here? Through unchecked, excessive spending by the Federal Government.

This addiction to spending somebody else's money has got to stop. We must be bold and cut unnecessary spending. Tough times call for tough actions, and we must even do more.

Congress must pass the balanced budget amendment. Force the government to balance its books just like Americans are supposed to do. We keep digging ourselves into the dark abyss of debt. Maybe we should quit digging before we reach Greece or the bottomless pit of bankruptcy.

And that's just the way it is.

FOREIGN AID

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, of all the extreme statements we've heard coming out of the Republican Presidential debates in recent weeks, perhaps none is more alarming than the idea that we should "cut foreign aid to zero"—even for steadfast U.S. allies, even for critical global health and antiterrorism efforts.

We might dismiss this ridiculous assertion as a "hail Mary" from a candidate desperate to revive his flagging chances, were it not for the fact that it drew heavy applause from the Republican voters in the audience and eager agreement from the rest of the Republican field, including the presumptive frontrunner.

Is this the state of today's Republican Party, the party of internationalists such as Teddy Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, and Ronald Reagan? "Cut foreign aid to zero?"

Foreign aid has always been an easy target for demagogues, especially during difficult economic times, but the reality is that it is one of the most cost-effective investments our Nation makes. For about 1 percent of our annual budget, it strengthens key allies such as Israel, the Palestine Authority, Afghanistan, and Egypt; it promotes economic development that benefits American companies and creates jobs back home; it helps us respond to humanitarian disasters and supports democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Suggestions that we should "start at zero" and ask our allies to come to us hat in hand are simply preposterous.

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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