

Teach us this day not to fear the darkness but to put our hand in Yours and resolutely seek the light.

You reveal Yourself as the Father of us all. We ask You to bring us together in civic harmony and in the common task of making real in our time the ideals and the dreams that make us America.

As we turn now to the work of this day, we ask for more than human wisdom, and pray that Your blessing, moving across our continent, will keep us one nation under God with liberty and justice for all.

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. GENE GREEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GENE GREEN 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.

WELCOMING ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS JOHN QUINN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to welcome Archbishop John Quinn to the House of Representatives and to thank him for offering the opening prayer today.

Archbishop Quinn is one of the preeminent spiritual leaders and theologians of our Nation. His church service spans over four decades, beginning with his ordination in Rome in 1953. He has served as a pastor, as an educator, as Provost of the University of San Diego College for Men, as Auxiliary Bishop of San Diego, as Bishop of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, as the first Archbishop of Oklahoma City; and in 1977, he was named the sixth Archbishop of San Francisco.

His fellow bishops elected him President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1977, where he led with great distinction for a 3-year term. In December 1995, after 18 years of "tending his flock" of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, he resigned and was given a visiting fellowship at Campion Hall, Oxford.

My colleagues, our country has been blessed by the great patriotism, wisdom, scholarship, deep spirituality, and inspirational leadership of this humble and holy man.

Thank you, Archbishop Quinn, for gracing the House of Representatives with your prayer and your presence and for strengthening our country with a faith that calls each of us to be instruments of peace and justice.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

AMERICA'S FIRST PRIORITY—A BUDGET

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

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, last night, I had hoped to hear from the President that he would challenge both Houses to pass the first priority—a budget. The House has done it. The Senate has not for the last 3 years.

In this House, we talk a lot about the sluggish economy and our continual debt. We talk in trillions, so let's take the zeros away and talk in household income. If we were a household, we would, roughly, bring in \$24,500 a year, but we would spend \$35,500. That means we'd have to add \$11,000 to the credit card each year, but when we'd look to the credit card, it would already have \$160,000 on it.

We have to get the House in order. The Senate has refused to pass a budget in 3 years. The time is now to move America forward.

REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Last night, President Obama argued that rebuilding American infrastructure is crucial to job creation, and with 70,000 structurally deficient bridges, it is long overdue.

Today, the United States Chamber of Commerce is holding a summit on infrastructure investment. According to the U.S. Chamber, our broken infrastructure costs \$78 billion annually in lost time and fuel, and we will experience \$336 billion in lost growth over the next 5 years. Our decaying infrastructure is a significant drag on the economy. Freight rail bottlenecks cost us \$200 billion a year—air traffic delays \$33 billion a year. Our inadequate ports will lose up to \$270 billion in exports by 2020, costing 738,000 jobs.

Lots of people around here spend a lot of time whining about China. China invests 9 percent of its economy in infrastructure. We invest less than 3 percent. Stop whining about China and do something about it. President Obama and the U.S. Chamber agree that it's time to nation-build right here at

home, right here in America, and Congress should listen.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate my hometown—the city of Gainesville, Georgia—for its leadership in creating and sustaining jobs despite the economic challenges facing our Nation. A new Milken Institute study ranked Gainesville as the best-performing small city in Georgia last year.

The study found that 24 new and expanded industries created 1,200 jobs, retained 742 existing jobs, and generated \$164 million in capital investment for Gainesville and Hall County in 2012. This performance puts Gainesville in the top 10 small cities for job growth in the U.S.

I am proud that Gainesville continues to be a leader in economic development. Gainesville was ranked sixth in job growth nationwide from 2010 to 2011 and was ranked second in job growth from 2011 to 2012. From food and auto services to manufacturing and retail, more businesses are calling Gainesville home, which means more job opportunities for Georgians. I commend the leadership of Gainesville and Hall County for creating an environment where businesses can thrive, and I look forward to their continued success.

I hope that other cities across the Nation, as well as Congress, will look to Gainesville as an example of how job creation can be achieved even in a difficult economic climate.

SEQUESTRATION

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Last night, President Obama challenged all of us to come together to improve our country's fiscal health today and for generations to come.

Automatic budget cuts, or sequestration, was never intended to be good fiscal policy. It was never intended to be policy—period. If these cuts take place, the American people will actually be harmed by the Representatives who were sent here to serve them. This is unacceptable. In just 2 weeks, if we don't act, across-the-board cuts will deeply hurt every aspect of our lives—schools, health programs, law enforcement, research and development. Under sequestration, all of these will be decimated.

In our fragile economy, our Nation cannot afford to wait, so I call on our colleagues from the other side of the aisle to rise to the challenge. We cannot keep on going from one manufactured crisis to the next. Work with us to stop sequestration before it's too late.