

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, May 26, 2010

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 26, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JESSE L. JACKSON, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice."

Here is another day of creation; another opportunity to serve God's people in this land of freedom.

By the Spirit, may the Lord lift us in prayer renewing our faith. Knowing that lasting goodness is discovered in the Lord alone; and human freedom is a gift given to all the children of God; may Congress give the Lord glory by accomplishing great deeds in His Holy Name.

In the process, may we encourage one another and live in harmony and peace both now and forever. 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 gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without

amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5128. An act to designate the United States Department of the Interior Building in Washington, District of Columbia, as the "Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building".

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 211. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the East Bay Regional Park District in California, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

F-35 JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER

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

Mr. ARCURI. Congress has supported a competitive acquisition for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter engine for the last 14 years for good reason. The total program is expected to cost more than \$100 billion over the next 30 to 40 years. The Government Accounting Office has concluded that competition between engine suppliers could provide a life-cycle cost savings of over 20 percent.

A competitive F-35 engine program would also reap other benefits such as increased reliability, improved contractor responsiveness, a more robust industrial base, and less chance to ground the entire fleet to fix a problem.

Chairman ANDREWS and Ranking Member CONAWAY of the bipartisan House Defense Acquisition Reform Panel have stated that annual engine competition will make both engines better and save taxpayers money—up to \$21 billion based on the F-16 experience.

The development of the alternative engine is now nearly 75 percent complete. To pull the plug on this program would forfeit \$3 billion in taxpayer funds that have already been spent.

Competition saves taxpayers money. It's been proven to on the other fighter engine program. Why would we write a blank check to a single supplier for 40 years?

REPUBLICAN INTERACTIVE INITIATIVES

(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, Republicans are leading the charge on creative interactive initiatives that give the American people a seat in Congress. Hardworking taxpayers are rightfully frustrated by business as usual in Washington, particularly when it comes to liberals dragging their feet on job creation bills while continuing to rack up government spending.

AmericaSpeakingOut.com, launched yesterday by Chief Deputy Whip KEVIN MCCARTHY, will provide a forum for concerned Americans to make their voices heard and share policy concepts. I believe that this online forum will have more job creation proposals and more concepts on how to cut spending in just 1 day than the Washington liberals have presented all year.

I encourage South Carolina residents and Americans across the country to go to AmericaSpeakingOut.com to amplify your proposals on fiscal accountability, national security, American jobs, and values. It is time for you to speak out and speak up.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

NATURE'S GOD IS IN ALL OF US

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

Mr. KUCINICH. The theologian Thomas Barry wrote that the great work of our lives is to reconcile with nature, to come to establish a communion with every living species on the planet—with all humans, all animals and plants, with the land, the air, and the water. As children of a common Creator, we are part of every living thing. This requires reverence for the natural world.

When we look at the oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, we learn how far we must journey to reconcile with nature. The false doctrine of subduing the natural world puts us in danger of extinction because it ultimately attacks the precondition of human existence and because it separates us from an understanding of the essential interconnectedness of all life.

☐ 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.

So we're lulled into distancing ourselves from the oil disaster, from its effects on the natural world, from its effects on future generations. Nature's God is not just up there, but it's in all of us. And only when we truly understand the deep significance of the Deepwater Horizon disaster will we be prepared to take a new direction not only with our energy policies but with our way of life.

GOVERNMENT MAKING IT HARDER

(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, this week the House is going to consider another so-called jobs bill, but what is really in this bill? Certainly not many private sector jobs or real help to America's small businesses.

Extending unemployment compensation is necessary, but it's not creating jobs. A delayed fix to the Medicare reimbursement rate isn't creating new jobs. Billions of dollars to bail out State Medicaid programs isn't jobs. Welfare payments aren't jobs. We're about to spend \$200 billion on a so-called jobs bill without creating any private sector jobs.

Just a few months ago, I polled 16,000 of my constituents. Only 12 percent of them believe that government policies are making it easier to create jobs. Is it any wonder that Americans have this opinion?

The so-called jobs bill this week permanently raises taxes in order to pay for 1-year tax extensions. Unemployment is near 10 percent. Millions more Americans have just given up looking for a job. It's far past time that we stopped making it harder for businesses to hire and started providing real help through regulatory relief and targeted tax breaks. That would be a real jobs bill.

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, Memorial Day, folks across America will come together to pay tribute to our greatest heroes—those who fought and died to keep this Nation safe and free. We owe them and all of our men and women in uniform an eternal debt of gratitude.

Sadly, Washington has not always done enough to pay their debt. Even now, many Native American veterans are struggling to keep a roof over their heads because of their service. They are being denied housing assistance because they are receiving benefits that they have earned with their sacrifices.

I introduced the Indian Veterans Housing Opportunity Act to right this

wrong. This commonsense bill makes sure that veterans disability and survivor benefits are not counted as income under a critical Native American Housing Act. This program will bring housing to our veterans who have already paid the price.

This House approved the bill unanimously last month, and Native veterans should not have to wait any longer for justice. I call on the Senate to observe this Memorial Day by passing this important measure.

REPEAL AND REPLACE GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a new poll shows that 63 percent of the American public wants to repeal the expensive government-run health spending law. Sixty-three percent represents the largest opposition to the law since its enactment. It's no surprise, as the law forces people to hand over their hard-earned tax dollars to a private company to buy health insurance or else.

As a constitutional conservative, I have to agree with the 63 percent of American voters who want this expensive, irresponsible, overreaching law repealed and replaced.

Democrats were wrong on the bill's cost, wrong on the effect on jobs, and wrong on the issue of taxpayer funding of abortions. We must stand in favor of repealing and replacing the government health spending bill with real reforms that lower health care costs without subjecting us to any nationalized health plan. America does not want, need, or deserve government-controlled health care.

IRAN'S CONCESSIONS UPDATE

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the U.N. Security Council to reject Iran's attempt to continue down the path of nuclear proliferation.

Iran would have us believe that the nuclear deal it reached with Brazil and Turkey was of the same caliber as the offer Tehran rejected in October. The truth is, it's not even close. This agreement would allow Iran to pursue richer-grade uranium, keep more of its nuclear materials, and maintain access to the dangerous supplies it would send to Turkey.

The Security Council must recognize the severity of this threat posed by a nuclear Iran. It must choose a deal based on substance over convenience. But most of all, it must remember the safety and security of the State of Israel and the Israeli people.

In the face of Iran's latest diplomatic diversion, it is more important than ever that we levy real sanctions against a nation bent on destroying a friend. The future of Israel—our most important ally—depends on it.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS LAUNCH NEW WEB SITE

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

Mr. PENCE. After years of being shut out of the debates here on Capitol Hill, seeing runaway Federal spending, bailouts, and takeovers built behind closed doors, the American people finally have a way in—an unambiguous seat at the table. It's called AmericaSpeakingOut.com.

Since the outset of this Congress, Republicans have been offering positive solutions to the challenges facing this country. In building a governing agenda for this Congress, Republicans have been listening to the American people, and AmericaSpeakingOut.com is a continuation of that process.

Now let me say, this is not a listening tour. House Republicans are not a party in search of our principles. We know what we believe. We're committed to the principles of economic growth, fiscal discipline, a strong defense, and traditional American values. But we simply believe that the best ideas in America come from the American people. That's why we launched AmericaSpeakingOut.com.

So I urge all Hoosiers and, frankly, all my countrymen, whatever your politics, whatever your philosophy, join us for the conversation at AmericaSpeakingOut.com. House Republicans are listening.

□ 1015

WHAT PEOPLE GAVE FOR THEIR COUNTRY

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday it was my birthday, and it didn't quite go as planned. One of the things I did is I went to Arlington Cemetery and spent 4 hours looking at the graves and thinking about American history and the people who wished they had a birthday, and what they gave for their country. Some gave their lives, some gave part of their lives.

I visited the Kennedy graves and let the word go forth. I visited Robert Kennedy's grave and the tiny ripples of hope that can wipe down the mightiest walls of oppression. But I found Earl Warren's grave, along with John Foster Dulles and Arthur Goldberg together.

I would like to read from Earl Warren's tombstone. I think it is something we should reflect on.