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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 23, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON-LEE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALLEGHANY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 105th anniversary of Alleghany County, North Carolina. Alleghany County was created by an act of the North Carolina legislature in 1859. The county sits astride the Appalachian Mountains and the North Carolina High Country and boasts some of the most beautiful mountain scenery in North Carolina.

Since its creation in 1859, Alleghany County has been called home by countless hard-working North Carolinians, from farmers to small business owners who know the value of a hard day's work.

One of Alleghany's most notable native sons, Robert Doughton, served here in the House of Representatives for 42 years, from 1911 to 1953. Congressman Doughton was chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee for 18 of his 42 years in Congress. He also played a decisive role in creating the Blue Ridge Parkway, which we all know as one of the most beautiful scenic roads in America.

Today, Alleghany hosts the 6,000 acre Doughton Park named in his honor and known for its excellent wildlife viewing. The Blue Ridge Parkway itself also cuts a scenic path through Alleghany County, just a stone's throw from the county seat, the town of Sparta.

Alleghany County is a place of unique beauty and character, right off the beaten path. From the pristine waters of the New River to the distinct sounds of its local Blue Grass musical heritage, it is a one-of-a-kind place found only in the great State of North Carolina. The people here are friendly and welcoming, good-natured and full of common sense. I am proud to represent them in Congress and proud to join them in celebrating the 105th anniversary of this fine county.

CONTROLLING RUNAWAY FEDERAL SPENDING

Madam Speaker, I would also like to speak briefly this morning about the runaway Federal spending that we are seeing occurring in this Congress.

Here are the facts on spending from this year:

A \$2 trillion deficit for FY 2009;

The second tranche of the TARP allowed to be spent, \$350 billion;

The stimulus package, H.R. 1, \$787 billion, but over \$1 trillion with debt costs;

The omnibus appropriations bill, \$409 billion.

President Obama's budget increased total spending to \$4 trillion in 2009, or 28 percent of GDP, the highest Federal spending as a percentage of GDP since World War II. Federal spending is out of control.

Republicans in the last week or so have offered many, many amendments, most of which were designed to cut Federal spending. However, the Democrats don't want to hear those amendments. They say they would take too much time. Apparently, the Democrats can't spend the people's money fast enough.

Republicans believe Congress has the time to practice fiscal discipline. Republicans are going to stand up for the American people and fight runaway Federal spending.

TRUE FACTS ON THE STATE OF HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

Madam Speaker, the other issue that needs to be addressed is the misleading comments made almost every day on this floor about the uninsured in this country. We hear over and over and over again a figure that 47 million Americans don't have health care. That is not true.

First of all, the number of people who are uninsured in this country is only 45.7 million: 9½ million of them are illegal aliens; 12 million of them are eligible for public programs, but they choose not to participate; 7.3 million have incomes of \$84,000 a year and choose not to purchase insurance; and those only temporarily uninsured, 9.1 million. That brings us to 7.8 million who are American citizens, lower income and long-term uninsured.

We have to continue to correct the misleading numbers given on this floor every day by our colleagues across the aisle, and we are going to continue to do that.

□ 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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