

and hope to see elimination of the proposed caps on mortgage interest and charitable deductions.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to supporting the President's budget.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 9 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Let all the Nations be judged before You. Lord, You alone can touch all the world with a holy fear. Before You every nation is revealed. Each is only a collection of people.

Let humanity reign! Let all the nations see their souls in the eyes of each other. Speak to minds and hearts, O Lord. Lift the lines of demarcation just enough for them to witness their common concerns, their ground for hope, and a united course of action.

Before You alone they stand humbled, yet together You can strengthen them in their resolve to free the future for all Your people. Let all the nations be judged before you, O Lord.
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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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 a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 681. An act to provide for special rules relating to assistance concerning the Greensburg, Kansas tornado.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LUCILLE DOTSON FRANCOIS

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

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Lucille Dotson Francois. I rise in honor of this incredible lady because, although I had not met her in person, but because of the lives that she has left behind, particularly in her daughter, Yvonne Wheeler.

Ms. Francois recently passed after living 85 fulfilling years. She was a devoted public servant. She grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the same area where my own grandmother grew up.

She served in the East Baton Rouge School System until she retired, raising our young people and creating a new generation—one that I think all of us would agree is something we should not take lightly. After that, she extended her services working in the community, enjoying coordinating various events. But most of all what she loved was building young people and building family.

She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. I'd like to personally acknowledge the incredible work that all of her family has done, and particularly that of her daughter, who has led an incredible life and assisted us in California.

May her family be blessed. Please join me, Mr. Speaker, as we acknowledge the life of Lucille Dotson Francois.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET PROMOTES AMERICAN FAMILIES AND SMALL BUSINESSES

(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 offering a budget that will move our country in a new direction of fiscal responsibility. It provides commonsense support for small businesses, which create the majority of jobs in America. It provides relief for American families. It keeps our promise to future generations by addressing entitlement spending so we do not go bankrupt in the future.

The Democrat budget, on the other hand, is a Washington-as-usual borrow and spending spree. It is no change. It raises taxes on American families and small businesses \$1.4 trillion. It produces record spending levels and, not surprising, record borrowing.

Republicans are offering a smarter way forward, one where we limit spending, help small businesses create jobs, and control the debt that threatens the solvency of the dollar and Social Security.

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

INTERNET FREEDOM

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Today, I, along with several of my colleagues, will be sending a letter to major Internet service providers, including Google, Microsoft, and Yahoo, expressing our concern regarding the worsening Internet restrictions in Vietnam.

It has come to our attention that the Vietnamese Government intends to further restrict Internet access by asking major Internet service providers to assist them in policing the Internet.

The letter strongly urges the Internet service providers to protect the Vietnamese people's freedom of speech and expression by providing technologies in a manner that respects individuals' rights and their privacy.

The Internet has become a major source of communication and information for the Vietnamese citizens. As Members of Congress, we must continue to advocate for Vietnamese citizens' freedom of speech and their freedom of expression. Upholding these freedoms is a corporate social responsibility, and Internet service providers must do everything they can to provide Internet freedom for the people of Vietnam, despite the pressure that is coming from the Vietnamese Government.

GM: GOVERNMENT MOTORS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has gotten into the business of picking winners and losers in the automobile industry. The government has decided that GM is a winner and Chrysler is a loser unless—Chrysler obeys the Federal Government and partners with Italian carmaker Fiat to begin producing Chrysler Fiat as automobiles. No telling what those cars will look like.

Since when, Mr. Speaker, did the Federal Government get the authority to fire CEOs of private companies and take over their businesses?

Well, the Feds did just that by taking control of GM and Chrysler. Now we should change the name of both companies to "Government Motors."

If you like the way Uncle Sam runs government businesses like Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the Post Office, FEMA, and the IRS, you will love the new Government Motors automobiles.

The Federal Government is picking winners in the auto industry with taxpayer bailout money. We don't need any more bailouts. The government spends too much, borrows too much, taxes too much. The government needs to stop cutting deals with special interest groups and start cutting taxes for Americans.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the boy's basketball team from Eisenhower High School—in my hometown of Rialto, California—for winning the CIF State title this past Friday.

With their 73-61 victory over the Rocklin Thunder—from Sacramento, California—the Eagles captured the first ever State title for a school from San Bernardino County.

The win was the 23rd consecutive victory to end the season for the Eagles, and came after tough playoff wins over State powerhouses Loyola and Leuzinger from Lawndale, California.

Everyone said they were too small, but led by head coach Steve Johnson, the undersized Eagles used speed and a tenacious defense to beat Rocklin.

On behalf of my family—Barbara, Joe Baca, Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer Baca—I want to thank the players, coaches, parents, and school administrators, who all contributed so much to Eisenhower's historic run.

On Saturday, April 11th, their courage and relentless efforts will be recognized with a ticker-tape parade in Rialto. I thank Eisenhower for the hope this achievement has brought to our inland communities during this time of economic difficulty.

TAKE A SERIOUS LOOK

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

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, we've all heard about the out-of-control spending, the borrowing, the increase in taxes, the bailouts, the AIG bonuses, the stock market drop, the job losses, more foreclosures, government-run health care, increased gas prices, the credit crisis, more jobs lost, the President firing the CEO of General Motors, and more jobs lost—and this only in the first 2 months of this Congress.

Now we face a budget this week that will increase taxes, increase spending, increase borrowing more than ever before in the history of this country. We are also poised to make serious cuts in military spending in uncertain times.

We need to take a serious look in the eyes of our children and ask ourselves if they deserve the future we are giving them.

FINANCIAL-AUTO INDUSTRY DOUBLE STANDARD

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment in President Obama's decision regarding General Motors and Chrysler. Personally, I feel that Rick Wagoner was treated shabbily.

Financial institutions were provided with hundreds of billions of dollars—significantly more than the recent GM and Chrysler requests for new loans totaling \$21.6 billion, at most.

The people primarily affected by yesterday's decision in the auto industry are those whose greatest daily concerns are their mortgage payments, their children's college tuition, and medical bills. Financial executives are concerned primarily with their own bonuses, awarded for what can only be described as massive failure.

The President has joined the chorus of caustic critics of the automobile industry while only giving faint praise to the high-quality vehicles produced by the American manufacturers like the Buick LaCrosse, which this year matched the Jaguar in J.D. Powers and Associates' rating for the world's most reliable car.

This double standard is offensive, Mr. Speaker.

PROTECT AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to the Employee Free Choice Act, the title of which betrays the true nature of this bill. It represents nothing resembling "free choice."

This "card check" legislation is un-American and would strip workers of their fundamental democratic right to a secret ballot. Without the protection of the secret ballot, workers are likely to be exposed to pressure and coercion from union bosses and organizers.

My question to those who support this bill is: Why are you afraid of a secret ballot? Can't we give workers credit for making the right decision for themselves?

In addition, a recent study has shown that increases in union workers under card check rules will likely lead to an increase in unemployment due to making their businesses less competitive.

At a time when we should be focusing on job creation, the majority is pushing through legislation that will put millions of American jobs at risk while simultaneously eliminating a cornerstone of American democracy—the secret ballot.

As a small business owner myself, I can tell you that this legislation is a poison pill for the economy. I urge my colleagues to vote against this leftist, socialist legislation.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COALITION

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

Mrs. HALVORSON. Mr. Speaker, the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition is committed to the adoption of policies that will put our Nation on a path towards energy independence

and a prosperous clean energy economy. With legislation to encourage environmentally friendly energy production, we can finally achieve this goal. We can turn our American ingenuity towards a new and vibrant clean industry that will create millions of new jobs.

We cannot ignore the facts of climate change. We have to act now to ensure that our children and their children will enjoy the same Earth on which we live today.

Solar, wind, biofuels, natural gas, advanced coal technology, and others are not just the fuels of the future. They are the fuels of today. They are ready for large-scale use in the global economy.

American companies are ready to lead the way, but Congress must first take action. As a member of SEEC and as cochair of the New Dem Energy Task Force, I encourage my colleagues to participate in the debate for a stronger energy-efficient America.

□ 1215

THE VOTE ON THE BUDGET

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, we will vote on a budget this week, we will discuss spending and taxing, but we will not discuss how our kids will eventually pay these debts.

The Bureau of the Public Debt will now undertake a massive borrowing campaign. We used to borrow from about 45 major lenders, but that has now dropped to 16. Our biggest lender used to be China, but they are now reducing.

To fund the stimulus, the Bureau tells the Congress that we have to borrow at a rate of \$160 billion a week. And, last month Germany and the United Kingdom both failed to auction their debt because no one wanted to lend these governments more money. Each week, at four auctions a week, the United States will now risk the same fate.

What happens when this Congress runs out of other people's money?

LONG-TERM ECONOMIC PLAN BEGINS GROWING JOBS

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, the fallout from the failed policies of the last 8 years will take time to turn around.

The Bush administration inherited a record surplus of \$5.6 trillion, and turned it into a record deficit of \$5.8 trillion. President Obama's budget is a long-term plan to turn the economy around and transform it for future prosperity, with targeted investments in health care, energy, and education.