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No. 2

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2011, at 10 a.m.

House of Representatives

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2011

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 6, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

You, O God, are our refuge and our strength. History has taught us You are a helper close at hand in times of distress. We shall not fear, even when the whole Earth is unstable and seems to rock. Our human frailty has revealed that we can easily be shaken. Nations are in tumult, mountains of power fall, and economic waves rage and foam.

You alone, Lord God, cannot be shaken. Each dawning day finds You as our stronghold. Your voice works wonders over all the Earth. Wars are pushed to an ending, but You alone break the bows and snap the spears that pierce the soul. You burn off our shields with Your fire, and we hear once again Your voice: "Be still and know that I am God; supreme over all the nations, supreme over all the Earth."

O God, be our stronghold, 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. The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. GOWDY).

Mr. GOWDY 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minute speeches from each side.

THE HISTORIC SOUTH CAROLINA DELEGATION

(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, I am grateful to welcome the

four new members of the South Carolina delegation to the 112th Congress.

This past election, the voters of South Carolina let their voices be heard. The message was loud and clear: limit spending, with the largest Republican South Carolina delegation in over 130 years. The voters can rest assured the message was heard in Washington.

These four conservative, successful small business leaders were elected based on their principles. Promises to reduce spending, limit government, and attain fiscal responsibility will now be real priorities.

The people of South Carolina will benefit the most from this dynamic young team. The enthusiasm they bring is energizing. Congressmen TIM SCOTT, JEFF DUNCAN, TREY GOWDY and MICK MULVANEY are welcome to Federal public service. We will work together in making this the most accessible and accountable delegation for the people of South Carolina.

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

PROMOTING THE GENERAL WELFARE

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, the new Republican majority has decided that today we will read the United States Constitution, which I guess is a good thing. But like every other American, I can and do read it for myself. In fact, I did it this morning and came across

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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the phrase “promote the general welfare.”

Next week, the new Republican majority will put forward a bill to repeal health care reform; to tell seniors, go back to a world where you can choose between your prescriptions and your food; to tell our children, go back to a world where an insurance company can deny you coverage because you had the misfortune to be born with a disease. That is what they are doing next week.

Listen hard, listen hard today to those words, “promote the general welfare.”

THIS ILLEGAL ACT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this new Congress must be committed to listening to the will of the people and following the Constitution. Immediately we must right a wrong that has been forcibly placed like chains on the American people.

The unhealthy national health care bill bruises the doctrine of the Constitution. The people don't want the government stealing their individual liberty to make health decisions. Congress must repeal this totalitarian act.

In a few moments, Congress this day, on this new day, will read the Constitution on the House floor, the sacred rule of law for this Nation. Nowhere in this document of wisdom does the Federal Government have the omnipotent authority to force any American to buy any product or face criminal penalties, whether it is a car, health insurance, or a box of donuts.

The nationalized health care bill is an unconstitutional oppression of the American citizen. We will repeal this injustice. On this new day, we stewards of the Constitution must right this wrong, this illegal law that has been coerced upon the people without their consent.

And that's just the way it is.

CONDEMNING THE NEW YEAR'S DAY ATTACK ON A COPTIC CHURCH IN EGYPT

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the senseless and heinous attack that took place on New Year's Day in Alexandria, Egypt, during a Coptic Christian mass ushering in the new year.

The suicide bombing that took place 20 minutes into 2011 took the lives of 23 Christians and wounded more than 90 others. Although no one has claimed responsibility for the attack, the Egyptian Government has linked the al-Qaeda terrorist organization to this brutal attack. Whoever the perpetrators may be, their actions epitomize the definition of evil and remind us of the constant struggle around the world

against terrorism. Security must remain a priority in Egypt and all freedom-fighting nations.

This event illuminates the unprecedented prejudice facing this minority population and the evident inter-religious struggle and violence that is plaguing Egypt. This deplorable act of violence is yet another example of the escalation of violence against Egypt's Coptic Christians, who make up about 10 percent of the population.

I offer my condolences to the families of victims who perished in the bombing, and I hope the Egyptian Government honors their promise with a swift and thorough investigation of this vicious crime.

AMERICAN ENERGY, AMERICAN JOBS

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, well, here we go again. Gasoline: \$3, \$4, and soon \$5 a gallon. Oil at \$100 a barrel. Yet America's offshore resources total more than 86 billion barrels of oil and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, enough oil to replace imports from Saudi Arabia and Venezuela for the next 80 years. But the administration's moratorium says “no” to American oil and “yes” to OPEC.

We don't have to buy hundreds of billions of dollars worth of oil from OPEC, borrow \$900 billion from China, run a massive trade deficit or raise taxes. The revenues and leases from offshore exploration can bring up to \$3.7 trillion in Federal revenue to slash our deficit, build clean power plants, clean up our air and water, increase renewables, and rebuild our crumbling highways and bridges—all while creating millions of jobs and trillions in economic output.

I hope my colleagues will join me as I reintroduce the bipartisan American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act so we can work on securing America's prosperity and American jobs using American resources.

Stop talking; start building.

VOTE “NO” ON REPEALING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak against the reckless attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

The new law has already put in place critical protections to help our families across this country. I want to tell the story of one family in my district whose life has been dramatically helped by this law, the Strong family of Santa Barbara.

Bill and Victoria Strong's daughter, Gwendolyn, was diagnosed at age 6

months with a rare disease, muscular spinal atrophy. Her care is extremely expensive; and before the new law, the Strong's lived in constant fear that Gwendolyn would reach her policy's lifetime limit, no longer be covered for treatments and be uninsurable because of her pre-existing condition.

The elimination of lifetime caps has given the Strong's peace of mind. They are guaranteed Gwendolyn will receive the care she needs and their family is protected from bankruptcy.

Repealing these safeguards will take that security away. It would put this courageous little girl at risk of having her health care cut off when she needs it most and it would put this inspiring family at risk of bankruptcy.

I urge my colleagues to stand for all those who are benefiting from the law, as the Strong family is. Vote “no” on repealing the Affordable Care Act.

□ 1010

ROADMAP TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, while this is my first opportunity to address the House, it won't be my last. The people of eastern and southeastern Ohio sent me here to be their voice, and I intend to be that voice. On their behalf, I will speak out—loud and clear—on the issues that matter to the working people of my district.

People sent me here for one primary reason: They think Congress has lost its way. And my constituents gave me a map they want us to use to get back on the right path. It's a simple map, drawn in bold, unmistakable strokes. Americans want us to be true to our founding principles, and the roads are open for all. But there are no shortcuts for special interests.

But, most of all, this roadmap was made in America and paid for upfront. That's how our spending must be. We owe it to taxpayers to disclose what our votes will cost and be clear about how they're paid for.

And, finally, Mr. Speaker, the map my citizens gave me leads in one very clear direction—toward economic recovery for every American. That's the way I'm headed. And I will cast my votes here with that in mind.

HEALTH CARE REPEAL AND IMPACT ON JOBS

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

Mr. BACA. All throughout Congress, the Republicans consistently asked, “Where are the jobs?” They asked this last year. Yet in their first major action, the House Republicans are showing their true colors: playing politics at the expense of hardworking Americans.