



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JULY 18, 2011

No. 107

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 18, 2011.

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

JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair would now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day. Please help us to use it well.

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all to whom the authority of government is given. Help them to meet their responsibilities during these days, to attend to the immediate needs and concerns of the moment, all the while enlightened by the majesty of Your creation and Your eternal Spirit.

We give You thanks that we all can know and share the fruits of Your Spirit, especially in this time the virtues of tolerance and reconciliation, of justice and righteousness, of goodwill and understanding, of patience and loving care for others.

Watch over this House, and cause Your blessing to be upon each Member, that they might serve all the people with sincerity and truth.

May all that is done within the people's House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

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.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. 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.

DELAYING ON THE DEBT SOLUTION

(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, over the weekend, concerned constituents advised me they are tired of hearing politicians grandstand about fixing the Nation's debt ceiling. The current administration has proven it would rather threaten our senior citizens than propose reasonable solutions that would benefit families.

Liberals refuse to listen to the American people. Americans voted for Washington to cut spending. Liberals want to impose "more revenues," which is Washingtonspeak for more job-killing taxes.

In August of 2009, then-Senator Barack Obama stated "raising taxes in a recession would be the last thing you want to do." That is particularly true today, as over 14 million Americans are without jobs. The President's policies of borrow and spend have failed and we must change course.

This debt crisis is a result of Washington spending money it does not have. That is why House Republicans have proposed the Cut, Cap, and Balance plan. Tomorrow, I hope Democrats will join us to vote for this positive proposal to promote more jobs created by small businesses.

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H5129

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

IT IS NOT ABOUT PROTECTING BILLIONAIRES

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, in all the debate about the debt ceiling, the biggest falsehood is that Republicans want to protect the multimillionaires and billionaires. The millionaires and billionaires can take care of themselves; and, in fact, they come out ahead especially when government gets too big. And Republicans lose the superwealthy areas usually by two-to-one margins or more.

The reason we don't want tax increases is because the Federal Government is so wasteful. The least economical, least efficient way to spend money is to turn it over to the Federal Government. Look at how little good the \$862 billion stimulus did. Unemployment went up.

Every dollar that can be kept in the private sector will do much more to create jobs and keep prices down. The ones who will benefit the most from more money in the private sector will be the middle- and lower-income working people. If this wasn't true, the Soviet Union and Cuba would have been heaven on Earth.

It is not about protecting billionaires—not in the least.

STOP THE OUT-OF-CONTROL SPENDING

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

Ms. FOXX. I would like to associate myself with the comments of my colleague from Tennessee. I agree with every word he said.

And I would like to ask a question, Mr. Speaker: Why is our national debt so high? It's because spending is too high.

It's pretty simple. Our debt crisis is the result of Washington spending money it doesn't have and leaving the tab for taxpayers and future generations to pick up. That's irresponsible.

The only way out is reducing spending, since at least 40 cents of every dollar we're spending is added directly to the national debt.

And, no, despite what our friends on the other side of the aisle would say, raising tax rates and confiscating more money isn't the solution. That ignores the reality that Washington has a chronic overspending problem, not an undertaxing problem.

If we're going to restore economic certainty, bolster job growth, and keep America competitive, we need to stop spending money we don't have. Mr. Speaker, we've got to start cutting spending, and we've got to start it now.

IT'S TIME FOR THE PRESIDENT TO ACT

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, right now this United States Congress is writing post-dated checks on an overdrawn account. We're on a path to fiscal destruction, one that may threaten the very fabric of our Republic.

In many ways, Mr. Speaker, we may be lucky that we have a statutory debt limit because it forces both branches of the legislative branch of government and the executive branch to sit down and have the hard discussions that are necessary at this point in our Nation's history. Does anyone really believe we would be here having these discussions if we didn't have to?

There is going to be a bill on the floor this week called Cut, Cap, and Balance; and it allows the President his wish for expanding the debt limit at the same time it caps spending, cuts current spending, and allows for a vote on a balanced budget amendment.

The President issued a veto threat today, and I think that is unfortunate. The President has refused to offer any meaningful plan of his own, anything that is scorable. Anything that even has the barest of details the President has failed to provide. And, of course, we all wonder what's happening over in the other body.

This country doesn't need more debt; it needs more jobs. But we need to quit spending money we don't have and put people back to work. Dealing with these important issues is what we need to do, and then let Americans do what they do best: create, innovate, and lead.

CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE OUR BUDGET

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. A short time ago, the President issued an administration policy statement saying that he would veto Cut, Cap, and Balance.

I appreciate the President's offering a moment of clarity. He said: "Instead of pursuing an empty political statement and unrealistic policy goals, it is necessary to move beyond politics as usual and find bipartisan common ground."

All we ask is that we balance our budget. For the President to suggest that balancing our budget is not common ground does provide clarity.

This President has no plan to balance our budget. The budget that he submitted never balances. In fact, it doubles and triples the debt.

We're asking that if the President wants to raise the debt ceiling, we must solve the underlying problem; and the underlying problem is we're

borrowing, taxing, and spending too much money in this country.

The President says, "passing a balanced budget amendment that, in the years ahead, will likely leave the Nation unable to meet its core commitment of ensuring dignity in retirement."

Mr. President, if we don't balance this budget, if we don't take care of our debt, if we don't pay off our debts, this country will be bankrupt.

We're spending and borrowing too much money. We can no longer borrow 40 cents out of every dollar in this country. That's why we must pass Cut, Cap, and Balance.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

□ 1410

CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE

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

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, we're here today because this country has a spending addiction. My 36-plus years in law enforcement told me that when someone has an addiction, you have to first address and admit that you have a problem.

Mr. Speaker, there is a bill that is coming up this week called Cut, Cap, and Balance. The important part of that bill is the balance part. This Nation needs a balanced budget amendment, just like 49 States that make up this great Union have a balanced budget amendment.

Mr. Speaker, there's been a threat laid upon us that there will be a veto if we pass this. Mr. Speaker, unless we address our addiction to spending, we will never ever get to a point where the children that we have sitting in the audience, those that are sitting here that have children are never going to be able to pass on a greater opportunity to them, just like was passed on to me by my parents.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 5 p.m.

CHURCH PLAN INVESTMENT CLARIFICATION ACT

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill