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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. QUINN].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 1, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable JACK QUINN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

For all Your favor to us, O God, and for the grace that You give to us in our lives, we offer this prayer of thanksgiving and praise.

While problems exist in our land and in the world and tensions can overwhelm even the strongest among us, yet we know that Your good spirit can lead and guide us when we need direction, give us comfort and assurance when we hurt, and forgive us when we miss the mark.

For all these blessings, O God, that are new every morning and with us all the day long, we offer these words of thanksgiving and praise.

This is our earnest prayer. 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.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote

on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. McNULTY. 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 pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. SHIMKUS] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SHIMKUS 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. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 394. An act to provide for the release of the reversionary interest held by the United States in certain property located in the County of Iosco, Michigan; and

H.R. 1948. An act to provide for the exchange of lands within Admiralty Island National Monument, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2472. An act to extend certain programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces he will entertain five 1-minute speeches from each side.

SUPPORT THE ENERGY POLICY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1997

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask support from my colleagues for legislation I introduced with the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MCCARTHY] to classify biodiesel and its blended versions as an alternative fuel under the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

Biodiesel is a renewable alternative fuel for diesel engines derived from soybeans. The production, sale, and use of biodiesel is good for the environment, good for family farmers, and good for the economy. Biodiesel runs cleaner than regular diesel fuel, which means that fewer emissions, such as particulate matter, hydrocarbons, and carbon monoxide, are released into the environment. Meanwhile, soybean farmers are given a new market in which to sell their product, which helps them and the economy.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation does not create a tax credit, a tax incentive, or a Federal mandate. In fact, it costs the taxpayers nothing. This bill gives fleet managers the option to use biodiesel in heavy-duty fleet vehicles, such as city buses, boats, and trucks, in order to comply with the Federal mandates of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Energy Policy Act amendments of 1997.

□ 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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