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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Calvin V. French, Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Eternal Father, who neither slumbers nor sleeps, we look to Thee at the beginning of the new day for a blessing of enlightenment and wisdom upon this body as they do their work today.

We thank You that You have chosen men and women from the common walks of life, and with Your empowerment, made them leaders of uncommon strength. You have called them to serve with a sense of commitment as truly as if before the altars of Thy sanctuary.

Endow each Member of this body with a sense of divine vocation. May their diversity of thought and vision become the manifestation of strength that comes when diversity is crowned with Thy grace. We stand on common ground when we seek the common good. It is for this purpose we have assembled to ask Thy help.

Finally, we invoke the counsel of Thy servant, David, who said: "Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord." Our Forefathers understood that simple truth and so structured our Republic in the security of Thy word.

May the inspiration of the old Gospel hymn prevail today and in the days to come: "Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way." 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) come for-

ward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GILMAN 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 Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed bills and a resolution of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 880. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to remove flammable fuels from the list of substances with respect to which reporting and other activities are required under the risk management plan program.

S. 886. An act to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2000 and 2001; to provide for enhanced security at United States diplomatic facilities; to provide for certain arms control, non-proliferation, and other national security measures; to provide for reform of the United Nations; and for other purposes.

S. Res. 127. That the Secretary of the Senate is directed to request the House to return the official papers on S. 331.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 276h-276k of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) as a member of the Senate Delegation to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group Meeting during the First Session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress, to be held in Savannah, Georgia, June 25-27, 1999.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BOSWELL) and then 15 one-minutes on each side.

WELCOME TO THE REVEREND DR. CALVIN V. FRENCH

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

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking our distinguished guest Chaplain Dr. Calvin French.

Calvin French is a graduate of Graceland College, Lamoni, Iowa, where he presently serves on the board of trustees. He received a B.S. degree in education from the University of Iowa, a master's degree from Temple University, with doctoral studies at Harvard University, and received his doctorate in educational administration from Drake University in Des Moines.

He has given a lifetime of ministry with principal appointments to Philadelphia, Boston and Des Moines. For the past 20 years he has been the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Pastor of the Washington, D.C., congregation where he continues to serve on Massachusetts Avenue.

Dr. French is a clinical member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. For 10 years he served on the board of Park College in Kansas City. He was appointed to the National Institutes of Health Advisory Board for Minorities Health and Education, Bethesda, Maryland, and for many years was a member of the executive board of the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces.

Dr. French was a delegate to the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography. He is currently a member of the Secretary of Education's Advisory Council on Partnership for Family Involvement in Education and has provided liaison services to U.S. Government units for the RLDS Church. On several occasions he has presented opening prayers in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives.

□ 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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He is an active member of Rotary International and served as president of the Washington, D.C., Rotary Club. He is presently president of the Rotary Foundation Board that provides financial support for 48 charitable organizations in Washington, D.C.

His wife LaVon and their two children, Colin French, an attorney in Dallas, Texas, and Dr. Kelsey French, a clinical psychologist, Washington, D.C., are all graduates of Graceland College.

PASS THE PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important things that this Congress can do is to pass an effective health plan for American citizens. That is why I am happy that 168 Democrats signed a discharge petition yesterday to bring our Patients' Bill of Rights to the House floor. Let us debate it, debate it now.

Yesterday, the Nation's doctors passed a resolution to unionize. They want to be able to practice medicine, to decide which care their patients should have, to decide what medicines, the length of stay their patients need.

Let us have meaningful debate on the Patients' Bill of Rights today. It is important, Americans want it, and Democrats want to get the job done.

SUPPORT H.R. 2280, VETERANS BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Committee on Veterans' Affairs marked up H.R. 2280, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 1999. I would like to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues of a very important provision of this much-needed bipartisan legislation for our Nation's veterans. That provision is the expansion of the fund-raising authority of the American Battle Monuments Commission to expedite the establishment of the World War II memorial in our Nation's Capital. This memorial, to one of this Nation's greatest generations, is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, of the 16 million Americans that answered their Nation's call to duty and sacrificed to protect humanity against tyranny and aggression, fewer than 7 million are alive today. We are losing them at the rate of 1,000 of these courageous veterans each and every day. We cannot wait if we are to honor these great men and women while they are still with us.

I encourage all Americans to donate what they can to the World War II memorial and my colleagues to support

this important legislation. It is truly time to say thank you and to provide a permanent tribute and inspiration so future generations of Americans will be reminded of the sacrifices that were necessary to preserve the freedoms and opportunities that we enjoy today.

SUPREME COURT IS OUT OF TOUCH

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the first amendment says there is freedom of speech, and that freedom of peaceable assembly shall not be abridged. The Supreme Court ruled that this language permits dissidents to burn our flag. Beam me up. I believe the Founding Fathers are rolling over in their graves. From school prayer to flag burning, the Supreme Court is out of touch. They are wrong, and Congress must reverse that wrong. In America, the people govern, not the Supreme Court, and Congress should pass a law to protect our flag. A Nation that does not protect and honor their flag is a Nation that will not survive.

I yield back any common sense left in this Congress.

SUPPORT H.R. 1218, CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION ACT

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, at my alma mater, Southwest High School in Miami, a student with a headache did not receive an over-the-counter aspirin to relieve her pain because the school nurse did not have a signed parental medical waiver; a teenager who wanted to pierce her ears was not able to because she did not have a parental consent form; and a school field trip accompanied by teachers and chaperones left behind a student because he failed to get a parent's signature. How ironic is it that friends and peers of these same teenagers are undergoing dangerous life-altering and potentially fatal medical procedures without parental consent or even notification.

Yesterday, the Committee on the Judiciary approved my bill, H.R. 1218, the Child Custody Protection Act, which will prevent nonparental adults who deliberately circumvent State parental consent or notification laws so that someone else's daughter or perhaps the teenager whom they have raped could obtain an abortion.

Young girls face complications and perhaps even death from botched abortions that their parents may never know about. This bill will put an end to the exploitation of young, immature, vulnerable girls. I hope the House will soon favorably vote on the Child Custody Protection Act.

ON GUN SAFETY AND MANGED CARE REFORM LEGISLATION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think the question this morning is what is our legislative agenda? Last week this House missed an enormous opportunity to pass real gun safety legislation. The only thing we did was prolong the time that criminals can get guns in their hands, and 13 of our children die every day by gun violence. As a mother, I will never give up on passing real gun safety legislation in this House, and we are going to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I will also not stop the fight for a Patients' Bill of Rights that responds to the needs of seniors and families and children that need real health care in America.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is what is our legislative agenda? Are we here for the American people? Or are we just here for special interests?

RECOGNIZING HASKELL SLOUGH SALMON HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, recently I attended a demonstration of the Haskell Slough Salmon Rehabilitation Project in my district. Private landowners working cooperatively with government agencies and volunteer groups have been able to restore approximately 3½ miles of old riverbed into prime salmon habitat by excavating 6,000 feet of stream channel, thus connecting 11 existing ponds.

The efforts of private citizens donating their time to projects like this one are absolutely vital as we work to rehabilitate salmon runs. Everyone involved with the undertaking should be proud of what they are doing and what they have already accomplished. All around the State, we are mustering community support for projects like the one at Haskell Slough. These voluntary community efforts are paying big dividends in the salmon rehabilitation effort.

MANAGED CARE REFORM DISCHARGE PETITION

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we began signing a discharge petition to bring the HMO reform bill to the floor of the House, simply because of the refusal to bring up the Patients' Bill of Rights for debate on this floor. The American people have been very clear about their desire for meaningful HMO reform. It is estimated