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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. LAHOOD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 16, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RAY LAHOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Whit W. Grace, First United Methodist Church, Long Beach, Mississippi offered the following prayer:

Mr. Speaker, Members of the House of Representatives, and honored guests, let us take this moment to bow for a moment of prayer.

Almighty Father, Wonderful Counselor, we come to You this morning as mere people whom You have chosen to be Your vessel in this place of power. We come from different backgrounds and different places, yet we are joined together for a united goal. This goal will allow You to lead our Nation in a way which will bring a sense of opportunity to each one of our citizens.

The work which we do in this Chamber will affect the lives of people we may never see. O God, would that You bless us and enlarge our horizons, that Your hand might be with us, and that You may keep us from hurt and harm. And at the end of this day, allow all thoughts and all work not to be pleasing to parties or certain groups, but pleasing to You, Almighty Father. 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 8, rule XX, 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALLENGER 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 announces there will be five 1 minutes on each side after the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized for 1 minute.

THE REVEREND WHIT W. GRACE

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

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today we are privileged to have been joined by Reverend Whit Grace, who is the pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Long Beach, Mississippi.

I have to confess it was not until I was elected to Congress that I fully appreciated just how tough a job our priests and preachers and rabbis and ministers have.

See, Mr. Speaker, I have discovered that when something goes wrong, the local Congressmen usually are the second or the third call. The first call is to the local priest or the preacher and minister. It has to be an incredibly tough job when all you do is hear someone has gotten in trouble with the law or someone is ill or someone has just died or someone is near death.

So, Reverend, for what you do and for what all of our priests and preachers do on a daily basis, to listen to our problems and to help as best as you can, to ask for divine intervention, I want to thank you, and I want to thank everyone who chose to serve our Nation in the ministry.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN DOES NOT SOLVE THE ENERGY CRISIS

(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, we need to address the energy crisis in our Nation; however, before this country can embrace increases in nuclear energy production, we need to solve the problem of what to do with the high level nuclear waste.

Because burying it in Yucca Mountain, an area already rocked by earthquakes on a regular basis, is not the answer.

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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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Studies have shown that a repository site at Yucca Mountain is at least 10 times more prone to earthquakes and lava flows than government scientists previously estimated. Nevada ranks third in the Nation for earthquake activity, experiencing over 650 earthquakes in the last 20 years; that means with over 30 earthquakes a year alone in this area.

Clearly, Yucca Mountain is one of the worst places to store the deadliest material ever created by man.

Mr. Speaker, we need to find a solution to the energy crisis, but we need to base it on true science and not misinformation and conjecture.

The DOE plans to buy nuclear waste in Yucca Mountain is not only misguided but immeasurably dangerous for all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR JO ANN LONG

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Pastor Jo Ann Long as she celebrates her ministerial anniversary of 30-plus years. She is the founder and pastor of the New Covenant Life Church located in the heart of my district.

As a young woman, Pastor Jo Ann was called to the gospel ministry. Since 1962, she has remained a dedicated and dynamic leader.

Over the years, her ministry has taken her all over the world as she served in almost every position within the Church of God and Christ.

Drawing on both professional and personal experiences, Pastor Jo Ann identifies with the issues and needs of women, children and youth. Most of her work has been ministering to these same people.

In addition to serving as pastor, teacher, and mentor, Pastor Jo Ann is a respected and renowned voice on the radio and television. Seizing on every God-given opportunity to positively impact a life, she began her radio ministry some 20 years ago. Tirelessly, she has hosted a number of pastoral counseling programs and has undoubtedly brought spiritual, mental, and emotional healing to thousands of listeners and viewers in the Midwest.

Today, together with the assistance of the flock at the New Covenant Life Church, Pastor Jo Ann holds various uplifting forums, sponsors informative workshops, and runs several community-based organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to join me in saluting a woman of vision with a mission and holistic gospel ministry, Pastor Jo Ann Long.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT REWARDS PROGRESS, CORRECTS FAILURE

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, the overarching goal of H.R. 1, the No Child Left Behind Act, is to narrow the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers. The bill takes a two-track approach, expanding flexibility for States and local school districts while holding them strictly accountable for increasing student achievement.

The No Child Left Behind plan will tie Federal funding to results for the first time in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that was enacted in 1965. Since then, the Federal Government has spent more than \$130 billion, including more than \$80 billion in the last 10 years, and created more than 50 programs on the landmark Title I program to close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers.

Today the gap remains wide, and in some cases it is getting wider. We cannot keep perpetuating a system that accepts such mediocrity, not at the expense of our least fortunate children.

One feature of accountability in H.R. 1 is a plan to help low performing schools, a designation that will be made by the States, to improve their performance. The bill increases the set-asides for States' school improvement funding to 5 percent.

Let us please support the No Child Left Behind bill.

ANOTHER ATTACK ON SCHOOL PRAYER

(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, another attack on school prayer, this time at the Virginia Military Institute. For 157 years, VMA students said a prayer before dinner; not anymore.

Attorneys representing two, mind you two, students said it is unconstitutional. Unbelievable. Schools without prayer, schools without God. And what really frosts my pumpkin, experts around the country say it has solved the problem.

Congress, should give them more money. Beam me up. Schools do not need more money; schools can use God. I yield back all the guns, drugs, murder and rape in our schools. And I ask what is next, church without prayer?

VOTE YES ON H.R. 1, NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an original cosponsor and strong supporter of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my colleagues, let me be crystal clear, this act does three things. First, we invest \$5 billion in reading for children in grades K through 2. The reason is, 70 percent of

the fourth graders in our inner city schools cannot read. We must address this issue head on.

Second, we measure the performance of each child in grades 3 through 8. Why? We do not want to have a situation where a child falls through the cracks and goes to college where he cannot read. We want to measure that performance and fix it. Again, we are addressing that issue head on.

Third, and for those children trapped in a failing school or unsafe schools, they will have a safety valve in the form of immediate public school choice.

This is a good bill that will make a meaningful difference in the lives of young children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 1 this week.

CLEANING UP AFTER THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration has been in office less than 100 days, and they are unveiling a comprehensive energy policy. The Clinton-Gore administration was in office 8 years and provided this country with a comprehensive energy crisis.

The energy issue is not about a clean environment, it is about developing a policy. The administration had 8 long years to provide this country with a coherent energy policy and they did not.

Clinton-Gore Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said it best when he admitted that the Clinton-Gore administration had been caught napping on energy policy. Mr. Speaker, now this country is waking up to the nightmare of a full-blown energy crisis, complete with blackouts and high gas prices as a result.

The Clinton-Gore administration had no policy for 8 years. The Bush-Cheney administration now has one within 100 days.

LOOKING AT ISSUES REGARDING ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the President is going to announce this administration's energy policy. I say bravo. For the last 8 years, like the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) mentioned, we have not had an energy policy except close to the election, former President Clinton released some of the strategic oil reserves. Of course, that only made a short-term difference. Petroleum imports over the last 8 years have risen from 50 percent of our need to 58 percent.

We are now faced with a dramatic and challenging future as we try to reduce our dependence on imported oil,