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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, You glory in Your people even more than the artisan or craftsman delights in the work of their hands. More than a parent takes joy in the graduation of a son or daughter, do You glory in us as Your children.

May we in turn prove worthy of Your love and attention by listening and caring for one another and the generation to come. May this House and this Nation prove truly responsive to present needs and responsible for future results. Guide us by the spirit of freedom so that we may prove to be Your model for other nations.

We call out to the world to rejoice with us and to learn from us.

O praise the Lord, all you nations; acclaim Him, all you peoples. Strong is His love for us; He is faithful forever. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POMEROY 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELLEN KEMPLER ON HER SELECTION FOR INDUCTION INTO NATIONAL TEACHERS HALL OF FAME

(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, I am proud to congratulate Ms. Ellen Kempler, a teacher at MAST Academy in my congressional district, who was one of five exceptional educators recently inducted into the 2001 National Teachers Hall of Fame.

As a former teacher, I know that no reward is greater than impacting the lives of students.

It is evident that Ms. Kempler has been an inspiration to her students. As one student stated, she has the gift of finding talent and academic strength in every student and inspires them to express it in a positive way.

Ms. Kempler, presently a 9th grade English and a 12th grade ethics and leadership teacher, is committed to excellence in education. She states, "Life is a huge relay race. I am alive and carrying the baton now. The future depends on me as surely as my generation depended on our teachers and their teachers."

Ms. Kempler is an exemplary educator and a role model whom her students should hope to emulate. I ask that my congressional colleagues join me in commending Ms. Ellen Kempler

for her success and for having been selected for induction into the National Teachers Hall of Fame.

A COMMITMENT TO ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, some people believe election reform is a dead issue, but I stand here today to state that it is alive and I have taken the first step. I have taken the first step in recognizing that during the 2000 presidential election, the principle of one person, one vote was abandoned, resulting in the disenfranchisement of thousands of citizens. I have taken a first step in recognizing that our current doctrines and laws, namely our Constitution and the Voting Rights Act, provide guarantees against many of the discriminatory violations that occurred during the election. I have taken the first step, Mr. Speaker, by introducing a resolution, H. Res. 139, which confirms this body's commitment to these doctrines and calls for their vigorous enforcement.

What better way to restore the American people's faith in government and the principle of one person, one vote than to confirm our commitment to our current laws as a foundation to election reform. This is the first step.

I urge my colleagues to take the first step with me. Cosponsor H. Res. 139 and confirm their commitment to the principle of one person, one vote.

MEMORIAL DAY MEMORIAL

(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, this week we will be returning back to our

□ 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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home districts for the Memorial Day District Work Period. Today I wanted to take this opportunity to thank those men and women for whom we celebrate Memorial Day every year. Most other national holidays would have no meaning if it were not for the sacrifices we honor on Memorial Day. This day of recognition represents why so many sons and daughters of our land and other lands have dreamed of being Americans. No other nation has sacrificed so much to secure not only its freedom but that of other nations.

We honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, not only out of respect and gratitude but because heroes will always be needed and treasured. Younger generations need to know the price our heroes have paid, and the souls of those who have paid that price need to know it was not made in vain.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly salute our heroes.

OUR TRADE PROGRAM BEARS THE LABEL, MADE IN CHINA

(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, China is now taking \$100 billion in trade surplus from America. Even our trade program bears the label, made in China. What is even worse, China considers America the enemy and China actually held Americans hostage. Now if that is not enough to scare Freddy Krueger, recent reports say China illegally bought U.S. microchips to build new missiles and to aim them at the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, beam me up. The American taxpayers are funding World War III, so help me God.

I yield back the fact that the nature of a dragon is not to negotiate with its prey. The nature of a dragon is to kill its prey.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WHO USE WORK COMPUTERS TO VISIT SEX SITES, GAMBLE, TRADE STOCKS AND VISIT CHAT ROOMS ARE UNDERWORKED, OVERPAID AND SHOULD BE FIRED

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago a front page story in the Washington Times reported that IRS employees used about half their on-line time at work to visit sex sites, gamble, trade stocks and visit chat rooms. I know that people say it is dangerous to criticize the IRS, but this is ridiculous.

This article by the Scripps Howard News Service did not come from some enemy of the IRS. This report came from the office of the IRS's own inspector general. No wonder we read that almost half the advice the IRS itself gives out is wrong.

There is no good reason why our Federal Tax Code should be nearly as complicated, convoluted and confusing as it is. For years, liberal elitists have cried, take the politics out of everything, and the people have lost control over their own government.

Federal bureaucrats know they can get away with almost anything, but Federal employees who use work computers to visit sex sites, gamble, trade stocks and visit chat rooms are underworked, overpaid and should be fired.

CALIFORNIA ENERGY CRISIS

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in outrage, outrage that the White House is working on a tax cut for the wealthiest people in this Nation, while my constituents in Marin and Sonoma Counties in California are still dealing with rolling blackouts and skyrocketing energy bills; while the greedy power companies are raking in record profits.

The White House can and must take action and they must protect California consumers from runaway prices, but despite repeated and urgent requests from the Democratic California delegation, President Bush refuses to order FERC to impose wholesale cost-based rates in California and the western region.

With two oilmen in the White House, it is no surprise that this administration has not turned their back in the direction of the consumer, has instead turned their back on the consumer by siding with the oil special interests.

This is not acceptable. It sets a precedent nationwide and not only threatens California's economy but also threatens our Nation's economy.

MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE TO MEN AND WOMEN IN U.S. ARMED FORCES

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of the upcoming Memorial Day holiday to pay tribute to the men and women of the U.S. armed services. For the past 226 years, our military forces have repeatedly answered the Nation's call to protect the freedom we all cherish today.

During our Nation's formative years, brave Americans fought to win freedom for all. World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf saw new generations of dedicated men and women fight to preserve the hard-earned freedom for our Nation and our allies abroad. Today Americans around the world enjoy the security that comes from knowing their freedom is protected by those currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand and recognize the honor, courage and commitment that has defined the men and women of our Nation's Armed Forces and to thank those who sacrificed their lives to ensure that future generations may enjoy the blessings of freedom.

WE NOW KNOW WHO IS IN CONTROL HERE IN WASHINGTON

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, we now know who is in control here in Washington, D.C. In the House, the Republicans are in control. In the Senate, the Democrats are in control. In the White House, the oil and gas industry is in control.

The fact that this line came from a famous talk show host does not mean it is any less true because while wholesale electrical rates from the energy industry have gone up 500 to 1,000 percent on the west coast, while my constituents' energy costs have doubled, this White House has done nothing, absolutely nothing, to help the energy crisis in the short-term in the Western United States.

This White House should listen to the people they ought to be working for, the people whose hard-earned money is going to these energy costs. I will say, every single dollar any American may get from this tax cut in the next 2 years, I will say exactly where it is going, it is going to the energy costs and enormous spikes in these costs that this White House is doing nothing about.

We call on this President to adopt a cost-based system. We call on this President to not sit on his hands. We call on him to do something with FERC.

H.R. 1954, THE ILSA EXTENSION ACT OF 2001

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday along with 200 of my congressional colleagues, I introduced H.R. 1954, the ILSA Extension Act of 2001, which extends the provisions of the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act for an additional 5 years.

This measure is aimed at dissuading foreign companies from investing in Iran and Libya and does not affect any of our American companies. In Iran, we are confronted with a regime which continues to threaten the national security of the United States and the destruction of Israel. The Libyan government has failed to take responsibility for its actions in a terrorist attack in bringing down Pan Am Flight 103, killing Americans, British and others. ILSA has been effective in slowing