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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. LATOURETTE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 7, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVEN C. LATOURETTE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Robert Gannon, Our Lady Queen of Peace Roman Catholic Church, Staten Island, New York, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, we ask Your blessing on all here present, the Members of our House of Representatives. Bless those we have elected to Congress to lead our Nation wisely. Help them to realize their great importance in our lives:

If each note of music were to say: One note does not make a symphony; there would be no symphony.

If a word were to say: One word does not make a book; there would not be a book.

If each seed were to say: One grain does not make a field of corn; there would be no harvest.

If each of us were to say: One life of service cannot save mankind; there would never be peace on earth.

Lord, help these Members of Congress to grasp their importance to America; guide them with Your closeness and inspiration. May they leave today more bonded to each other, more conscious of their power to do good for America. 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 Speaker'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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Virginia (Mr. MORAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia 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. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H. Con. Res. 80. Concurrent resolution congratulating the city of Detroit and its resi-

dents on the occasion of the tricentennial of the city's founding.

H. Con. Res. 149. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to present posthumously a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Charles M. Schulz.

The message also announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 101

Resolved, That the House of Representatives be notified of the election of Robert C. Byrd, a Senator from the State of West Virginia, as President pro tempore.

REVEREND ROBERT GANNON

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

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to acknowledge the presence of Father Robert Gannon who offered the morning prayer this morning. Father Gannon, to those who know him, love him. Those who know him, honor and respect him.

He was born in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, and spent much of his life on Staten Island. He is a positive role model and influence to thousands. He attended and graduated Fordham University as well as the St. Joseph Seminary in Dunwoody. For many years he has been a pastor of Lady Queen of Peace of Staten Island. He has been a guidance counselor to many high school students. It is estimated more than 15,000 students went through his doors on their way to college.

In addition for the last 20 years or so, Father Gannon has headed a committee in the 13th Congressional District that screens and recommends nominations to our military academies: Annapolis, West Point, Air

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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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Force Academy, Merchant Marines. In that period of time, perhaps more than 150 students have gone on to those military academies and then gone on to serve our country. Many of those probably would not have gone on to those academies but for the help, guidance, and assistance of Father Gannon.

Mr. Speaker, he has been a priest, a teacher, a friend, and really loved by thousands. I am very, very fortunate to have him as my friend, and I hope today that those Members of the House here understand why I found it an honor to ask him to be with us today.

VIOLENCE IN MIDDLE EAST HAS GOT TO COME TO AN END

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to make note of a headline in the Washington Post today: "Bomb's Fallout Sets Back Goals of Palestinians." It goes on to say that Chairman Arafat's call for a cease-fire was seen as the result of shifting opinion. It refers to the suicide bombing last Friday night when 20 innocent teenagers in Tel Aviv lost their lives. It was the single largest act of terrorism since violence began last September.

This cycle of violence in the Middle East has got to come to an end. In the aftermath of the tragedy, Chairman Arafat swiftly denounced the attack and called for a cease-fire. I have to commend the Israeli Government for exercising restraint and not engaging in the retaliation that was anticipated following this terrible incident.

Mr. Speaker, Prime Minister Sharon under immense pressure showed restraint. The international community stands behind that restraint; but clearly these volatile events require this administration to get involved in the Middle East. Sending CIA Director George Tenet is the right thing to do. We need him in the Middle East. We need United States involvement in the Middle East, and we need to use the Mitchell Commission as the pathway to peace. This violence has to stop.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2001 GRADUATING CLASS OF CITY COLLEGE

(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 would like to congratulate the year 2001 graduating class of City College. This four-year private, nonprofit institution has its roots back in Kentucky more than 70 years ago. Today it is located in Fort Lauderdale with three campuses in Florida, including one in Miami.

This year City College is sending 140 new graduates into the working world who will bring with them skills and

training in a variety of disciplines. The program of this small but ambitious college includes majors in business, hospitality management, broadcasting, legal assistance, private investigation and allied health, which covers an excellent EMT paramedic program along with medical office administration and medical assisting.

The City College graduating class is small but diverse and includes international students. I wish them all the best of luck and extend my most sincere congratulations on their individual accomplishments.

BUSH ENERGY PLAN AND EMINENT DOMAIN

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, we have had a couple of weeks now to digest the Bush administration energy plan. My stomach is as uneasy today as it was when it was released. For starters, the administration seeks to reduce regulations to encourage more oil, gas and nuclear production, along with tax incentives to boost coal output.

Mr. Speaker, the President says the Nation needs 1,300 to 1,900 new power plants over the next 20 years. That is one a week. The administration calls for 38,000 additional miles of natural gas pipelines, and 263,000 miles of distribution lines.

Well, that certainly does not sound good to me. I would like to know where they plan on putting these thousands of facilities and all these miles of infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, imagine living in one's home for many years, only to find out one day that distant bureaucrats have decided to take that land in order to build pipelines; and they have the power, the power of eminent domain, and now they want the same thing. FERC wants to do the same thing with electrical lines as they have done with pipelines.

Mr. Speaker, the Bush proposal would expand that authority to include land for electricity power lines. If this plan goes into effect, we will have to keep our eyes open for 100-foot towers, high-voltage electrical that may be going through backyards and parks and communities near you.

THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN FARMERS EACH YEAR ARE LOSING THEIR FARMS

(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, thousands of American farmers each year are losing their farms. Bankruptcy, unfair imports, estate taxes, government regulations, IRS, EPA, you name it. American farmers are literally biting the dust. Yet Uncle Sam is allowing

imported ground beef to cross our borders without even being inspected. It is unbelievable. If that is not enough to milk your holstein, the American people know more about the origin of their BVDs than their food supply. With mad-cow disease and foot-and-mouth disease rampant over in Europe, there is not even a country-of-origin label on American food. Beam me up.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the fact that mad-cow disease is not a name for a rock group.

AMERICA NEEDS TO MOVE FORWARD ON AN ENERGY PLAN THAT IS CONCISE AND RESPONSIVE TO ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the President has released his long-awaited energy plan. The President has proposed nothing that deals with the immediate energy crisis in California and the Pacific Northwest, or the crisis that may be looming in the New England area or the rising gasoline prices.

Instead, he said that the tax cut proposal will help consumers with the increased energy situation. However, these tax cut reductions will not take place until the year 2006. In addition, the tax cuts when you look at the 45 percent of the \$1.6 trillion tax cut, will benefit 1 percent of the richest in the country. Middle America that makes \$44,000 a year, 60 percent of Americans that make \$44,000, are going to receive less than 13 percent of this tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, so when we look at the President's proposal in energy, it does not take into consideration conservation activities that need to take place by all Americans, including the Federal Government; not to mention the fact that we need to make sure that as we look in terms of our energy situation, we plan for the future by investing in America. We believe that the balanced energy policy is ill advised, and we need to move forward on an energy plan that is concise and make sure that it is responsive to all Americans.

PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day President Bush established a task force he says that will improve health care delivery for our Nation's veterans. This task force will take 2 years to study veterans and military retiree health care. With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, the last thing veterans and military retirees need is another study. They need health care now.

President Bush told veterans and military retirees that "promises made