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No. 9

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 7, 2002.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: This is the day, Lord, You have made. We are glad and rejoice in it.

This morning, Lord, at the National Prayer Breakfast, President George W. Bush and many Members of Congress, with over 3,800 individuals from all walks of life, representing over 170 nations, joined in prayer and fellowship to Your honor and glory.

How inspiring it is, Lord, for people of faith to gather and manifest again the rich heritage of America's commitment to religious freedom.

We praise You, Lord God, and we thank You, for You continue to inspire people to build a truly better world, a world in which freedom is ordered to truth and goodness, while religion is celebrated openly with a wide expression of faith perspective. Rooted in various religious traditions, Your people give You glory because moral norms give them life, direction and great fruitfulness in works of justice and service.

This prayer breakfast was a vision of the globalized world come together for prayer. Government leaders confessing their human limitations, looking to

You, Almighty God, for strength and guidance to bring peace to the world.

Continue to bless the work begun by the National Prayer Breakfast, because it brings to life the prayer and vision of Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve, now and forever. 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. GIBBONS. 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. GIBBONS. 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 New York (Mr. McNULTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNULTY 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.

CONGRATULATING DR. MICHAEL ALESSANDRI FOR HIS WORK WITH AUTISTIC INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES

(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 have often spoken about the importance of funding research for autism and its related spectrum disorders. Today I congratulate a scholar who for over 20 years has been dedicated to working with individuals who have autism and their families, Dr. Michael Alessandri. Michael has consulted nationally and abroad on developing educational programs on autism spectrum disorder. But perhaps it is Dr. Alessandri's inherent commitment to educating individuals with autism that has enabled him to touch the lives of so many, especially in my congressional district. South Florida families living with autism are fortunate to have Michael leading the battle at the University of Miami Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, which under his direction was named the National Autism Program of the Year in 1999 by the Autism Society of America.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Michael Alessandri and the University of Miami's CARD for their contributions to the field of autism research.

BRING OUR CHILDREN HOME

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, as of today, Jeff Koons, a custodial parent in New York, has not spoken with his son Ludwig for 2 months. Jeff and Ludwig were supposed to spend the holidays together in Rome. Jeff went to Rome, but was denied access to his son by the noncustodial mother, Ilona Staller. He

□ 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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was not even allowed to talk with him on the phone.

Nothing is being done. Ms. Staller is clearly in violation of all agreements and court orders. Ludwig is in great danger, as he is being raised in a pornographic compound in Rome, Italy. Yet there is no authority enforcing Mr. Koons' and Ludwig's rights. It is absolutely critical that Jeff, at the very least, be allowed contact with his son. It is critical to Ludwig's welfare.

Mr. Speaker, this body, the administration, the State Department, and the Justice Department must do something now. These children must be returned to our home, the United States of America. Ludwig Koons can wait no longer. Bring our children home.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

(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 in the Washington Post John W. Bartlett, an engineer who headed the Yucca Mountain project for the DOE from 1990 to 1993 stated:

"The rock formations were found to be far inferior to that originally expected in terms of preventing contamination."

Mr. Bartlett is not the only former DOE official opposed to Yucca Mountain. Kenneth Davis, Energy Under Secretary from 1981 to 1983, has also said that Yucca Mountain as a waste repository is not reasonable in his view and should be put in mothballs. Former senior DOE geologist Jerry Szymanski has found that an earthquake could dramatically elevate the water table, potentially flooding the repository. The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board and the GAO have also said that the DOE's science is weak to moderate and that recommendation is not prudent or practical.

Mr. Speaker, it disturbs me to think that the Energy Secretary is willfully ignoring the concerns of his own experts. Unless the DOE stops the Yucca Mountain project when it comes time, and Mr. Abraham is quoted saying that Yucca Mountain was a mistake, it will be too late for the American people.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX (AMT) REPEAL

(Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I have here the National Taxpayer Advocate's Annual Report to Congress.

As my colleagues well know, the National Taxpayer Advocate is an independent agent within the IRS that helps our constituents resolve their tax problems. It should interest Members of this body that the very agent within the IRS tasked with helping our con-

stituents has suggested that we abolish the alternative minimum tax.

As my colleagues well know, the AMT was the subject of considerable debate when this body voted to pass not one but two stimulus bills. As I recall, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle complained that eliminating the AMT would only help the wealthy.

I ask my colleagues to consider that a mother of five who earned \$45,000 in 2000 had to pay \$1,850 in AMT alone. That is a lot of money. I find it disconcerting that Members of this body would oppose commonsense tax reform that would help the economy and really help their constituency.

I do not take any word from anybody, and I do not expect Members to accept my words, Mr. Speaker, but read this report for yourself. Unless the opponents of the AMT are prepared to call the National Taxpayer Advocate the handmaiden of the wealthy, then I think it is time that we heed the Tax Advocate's recommendations and eliminate the AMT.

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, my wife, Karen, and I just returned from celebrating, along with 3,800 other citizens of both political parties, the 50th National Prayer Breakfast here in Washington, D.C. It was truly an inspiring morning. I offer congratulations to the organizers, in both political parties, with the National Prayer Breakfast for this inspiring event.

We gathered, Mr. Speaker, because it is a chance to honor heroes, like Lisa Beamer and the New York firefighters whom we heard from today. We gather because it is obviously a tradition begun with President Dwight David Eisenhower. But as we were reminded so poignantly today by leaders of both parties and eloquently by our President and the Chief of Naval Operations, we gather as Americans because we believe that if His people who are called by His name will humble themselves and pray and seek His face, He will today, as He always has, hear from heaven, forgive our sins and heal our land.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3394, CYBER SECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 343 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 343

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the

Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3394) to authorize funding for computer and network security research and development and research fellowship programs, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Each section of the bill shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 343 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 3394, the Cyber Security Research and Development Act. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate evenly divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science. This is a fair and open rule that will provide every Member with the opportunity to offer amendments, allowing Members ample time to debate the important issues related to this legislation.

□ 1015

Mr. Speaker, the attacks of September 11 have forced the American people and this Congress to recognize that the threat of terror is present on many fronts. To adequately protect the United States, we must address all of our security vulnerabilities. This enormous task includes securing our Nation's computer and communications infrastructure.

The urgency with which we must proceed with regard to this infrastructure has already been demonstrated. In 1997, the Pentagon conducted an information warfare exercise to test the vulnerability of the U.S. information infrastructure. The exercise consisted of 35 National Security Agency computer