



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 148

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2002

No. 103

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

All powerful Lord, for all of us some days are better than others, some tasks You ask of Your servants are more difficult than others. But You are always faithful and abide with us.

Strengthen the constitutional commitments of the Members of the House of Representatives in their work today. We seize this moment to pray also for all those who are in a time of transition. Change is sometimes sought for various reasons, but in the end change is never easy for any of us.

Guide and sustain, in Your wisdom, all those leading in this Chamber to pursue other goals. In those moments when vulnerability is most evident, uphold Your servants in perseverance and peace.

Lord, we pray also for all former Members of Congress. Continue to guide them along the way, reveal to them the truth, and bring them to the fullness of life. We humbly ask this of You who live and reign now and 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. 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. 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. 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. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMPSON 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will receive ten 1-minute speeches on each side.

CROOKED EXECUTIVES

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we watched on television as several crooked corporate executives were arrested and carted off to jail by Bush administration officials. I have no doubt that there will be more arrests before long.

These are the very worst kind of crooks. They tricked investors, stole from employees, and robbed from retirees. They should go to jail and stay there for a very long time and their ill-gotten gains should be taken back from them. I mean their mansions, their yachts, and their private airplanes, all of which were bought with money that they got through fraud. And I think we all need to take a look at what led to the scandals in the first place. The excesses of the decade of the '90s clearly

got out of hand; so much so, in fact, that decade is well known as the decade of irresponsibility. And national leaders like the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, who made \$18 million from a \$100,000 investment in Global Crossing and then knew to get out just in exactly the same time all the crooked executives got out, should think about the example they set.

But at the end of the day, President Bush and the law enforcement bodies under his command will come down hard on these corporate crooks. And that will be a powerful deterrent.

HARVEY PITT

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, that was an extraordinary twist on what is happening. This is a rare loss for the corporate lobbyist, the White House, the Republican House leadership, all of whom stonewalled meaningful reform until the public outrage had grown to the point where they feared the public more than they feared their corporate contributors and patrons.

This is a good start, this bill. It is not enough. But there are two words, two words, that will block any effective prosecution and enforcement even under this new legislation. What are those two words? Harvey Pitt. The morally, ethically compromised head of the Securities and Exchange Commission, their former lobbyist of the same accounting firms and security firms that have been defrauding the American people, the same lobbyists who fought all these reforms, he is the person chosen by President Bush as the best person to head up this new effort to get tough on corporate crime. Out of 270 million people in the United States of America, there is not one person

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H5459

who is knowledgeable who is not totally compromised like Mr. Pitt? The President must replace Mr. Pitt if we are going to really get tough about corporate scandals and get a real reform.

ENCOURAGE CLEAN, RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVE ENERGIES

(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, our Nation needs a comprehensive energy policy, and this Chamber passed H.R. 4, Securing America's Future Energy Act, nearly one year ago. Among its many sensible and necessary energy policy provisions, this bill included incentives for the production of geothermal energy.

Nevada is literally the heart, the center, of the geothermal energy in the western part of our Nation. Unfortunately most of these valuable resources are located far underneath public land, and with over 87 percent of Nevada's land managed by the Federal Government, Nevada's potential to provide clean energy to the West is severely inhibited.

It is time that we unlock these resources and encourage the production of clean and renewable alternative energies. I urge the Conference Committee to report a comprehensive energy bill that meets our Nation's 21st century needs by actively encouraging the production of geothermal and other alternative energies.

PREVENTING CHILD ABDUCTIONS

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, we continue to see a great deal about child abductions in the news. That is good. Not all children have to be abducted, and all of the abductions do not have to end in the difficulties that we have seen in our news recently. So I rise today to urge parents to make sure that they know how to prevent child abductions and what to do when they occur. On May 23, the National Missing Children's Day, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and its partner, ADVO, released a survey that showed some parents lack information critical to recovering children who have been abducted. The survey showed results that many parents are missing opportunities to help prevent those abductions.

According to law enforcement officials, information such as height, weight, eye color and a recent photograph are critically important when searching for a missing child.

However, the survey shows that 22 percent of parents do not know the height, weight and eye color for their children. In the event of an emergency, it is critical for parents to have readily available their child's accurate phys-

ical description and a recent photograph so law enforcement can act immediately and effectively.

I would like to emphasize that parents should make sure that they have a portrait ID-like photo, and I encourage parents throughout the Nation to take a moment and make sure that they have this vital information readily available, in the unlikely event their child should go missing.

BLOOD DRIVE HONORING THE HON. FLOYD SPENCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week the American Red Cross will host a blood drive in memory of my friend, mentor, and predecessor, the late Representative Floyd Spence. His historic double lung transplant in 1988 by Dr. Shehadri Raju of Jackson, Mississippi, as well as his kidney transplant he received from his son, David, enabled him to provide consummate leadership to South Carolina and the Nation. His surgeries would not have been possible without volunteer blood donations.

Every second, someone in America depends upon a life-saving volunteer blood donation. In addition to organ transplant recipients, blood is used every day for children with sickle cell anemia, cancer patients, and trauma victims.

I would like to thank the Congressman's beloved widow, Mrs. Debbie Spence, for her generous involvement with this blood drive, and I would also like to recognize Ms. Laura Haas and Mr. Noah Simon for organizing this crucial event.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues and staff to visit the Rayburn foyer today and tomorrow between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to give the gift of life.

CALIFORNIA SETS THE STANDARD FOR AUTO EMISSIONS

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

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, California set a revolutionary precedent in the effort to curb carbon pollution and greenhouse gases. Governor Gray Davis signed into law legislation that will for the first time reduce the amount of emissions coming from the tailpipes of all passenger vehicles sold in the State of California.

Carbon dioxide is one of the main contributors to global warming, and 59 percent of California's carbon dioxide comes from vehicle pollution. With this law, California joins a long-standing and successful effort by nations throughout the world to combat the gradual and the devastating warming of the earth's atmosphere.

I want to commend the California State legislators, agencies, environ-

mentalists, and organizations from all over the country for coming together in the tireless effort to see that this initiative becomes law in California.

Once again, California is at the forefront of environmental protection, and I hope that the rest of the Nation will look to this new law as the standard when adopting their own air quality priorities.

PASS CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

(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, as the markets struggle under the weight of billowing examples of corporate greed and fraud over the past several months, yesterday there were finally signs of hope.

President Bush and law enforcement officials have acted decisively against corporate crooks. It seems as though the markets are responding. A single day rally almost set an all-time record in the Dow Jones industrial average yesterday. Investors are coming back, confidence is rising.

Mr. Speaker, now it is our turn to in this body set aside partisan politics and bickering and pass the bipartisan corporate accountability legislation that will bring to this floor tough new standards, tough new criminal measures against corporate crooks. Righteousness exalts a Nation. Let us bring new standards with old values in this new corporate accountability act, and further strengthen the confidence of the American people in the American economy and in the American dream.

CONGRESS MUST CHECK RAW POWER OF EXECUTIVE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, when Members of Congress take an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States, that includes defending article I, section 8 which says that only Congress shall have the power to declare war.

The administration is proceeding with plans to invade Iraq, first with an air attack and then with an invasion of 250,000 ground troops. Yet there has been no consultation with this Congress, there has been no debate in this Congress, and there has been no vote in this Congress.

The American constitutional experience relies on a separation of power. It depends upon Congress being willing to check the raw exercise of power by the executive. Wake up, Congress. We are on the verge of a major war in Iraq and the administration is ignoring our Constitution. Wake up, America. Our sons and daughters are about to be called to fight a war in Iraq, without any debate,