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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Steven M. Torrence, Chaplain, Key West Police Department, Key West, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, I thank You for the privilege and the honor to be here this morning in these hallowed halls on this, our Nation's National Day of Prayer. We as a people of many faiths and religions and backgrounds come together in a sign of unity to ask for Your guidance and blessings on this very important day.

We not only remember those who have given their lives to protect our great country in military service, but we also remember the men and women in law enforcement who risk daily and give their lives to protect each and every one of us.

As a Nation, let us remember that all people have one common origin. Fill our hearts with compassion for our neighbors and the desire to ensure justice for all. Help us share all the blessings You give us, and help us to secure justice and equality for every human being.

O God, help us bring an end to division and to continue to build our country on peace and love. Let us always remember that despite our differences, we are one human family.

Almighty God, bless our leaders with vision and foresight and with a clarity of purpose as they lead our country. Bless our country on this very special day of prayer. In Your name we pray. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 156. Concurrent resolution extending congratulations to the United States Capitol Police on the occasion of its 175th anniversary and expressing gratitude to the men and women of the United States Capitol Police and their families for their devotion to duty and service in safeguarding the freedoms of the American people.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 196. An act to establish a digital and wireless network technology program, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. There will be 10 1-minutes on each side after that of the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

WELCOMING THE REVEREND STEVEN M. TORRENCE OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA

(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, today we welcome a distinguished

member of the clergy, Reverend Stephen M. Torrence, from my district of Key West, Florida.

Reverend Torrence was ordained in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and in 1985 was called to pastor the Metropolitan Community Church in Key West. Among his many community accomplishments, he was instrumental in organizing a nonprofit community-based AIDS organization, AIDS HELP, that serves Monroe County.

For over 12 years, Reverend Torrence has also served as a fully sworn officer, and is the Department Chaplain in the Key West Police Force.

Reverend Torrence has witnessed many tragedies as well as victories and always offered comforting spiritual guidance and gladsome praise. Monroe County, and especially Key West citizens, are grateful and blessed to have him help us through difficult times and join us in joyful celebrations.

We welcome Reverend Torrence to the people's House.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO HELP HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS COLLECT ON INSURANCE POLICIES

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today at 12:30 I, along with my Democratic cosponsor, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL), and Minnesota Senator NORM COLEMAN will introduce our legislation to help Holocaust survivors and their families collect on Holocaust-era insurance policies.

Mr. Speaker, I am fed up watching insurance companies thumb their noses at Holocaust survivors. I urge the Supreme Court to rule in favor of the survivors and their heirs in a case pending before the Supreme Court.

□ 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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Holocaust survivors and their heirs are being denied what is rightfully theirs. This is nothing more than white collar theft, and it is morally reprehensible. These heirs and survivors deserve what is rightfully theirs, and we will not give up until they are fully compensated.

AMERICA MUST REMAIN ENGAGED
FOR PEACE TO TAKE HOLD IN
THE MIDDLE EAST

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on this day of focusing on national prayer for those who wish to express their faith in their different ways, I think it is an appropriate time to reinforce the importance of peace throughout this world. Particularly as the road map for Mideast peace has been unveiled, it is important to reinforce the key element of that process.

Two years ago, approximately, in February of 2001, I rose to the floor of the House to indicate that the only way that we would have peace in the Middle East is if the United States remained engaged. Unfortunately, that did not occur for a number of months, but I do believe that we are now on the road to peace.

The key element again will be, even if there are difficulties, we must remain engaged. Even as we work with the Palestinians to cease immediately the violence, to break up the terrorist groups, to remove the illegal weapons, we must work with the Israelis as it relates to the road map in stopping the expanding of the settlements, and, as well, the attacks on Palestinians.

These are not easy challenges, and we cannot be daunted by failure. We must continue to work for peace, because it is worth it for all of the people of that region.

THE JUDICIAL NOMINATION OF
PRISCILLA OWENS

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my outrage with the treatment of Justice Priscilla Owen, a fellow Texan and a highly qualified nominee for the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Mr. Speaker, despite unanimously receiving the highest possible rating from the American Bar Association, despite appearing before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary twice to answer every single question posed to her, despite the fact that the bench to which she has been nominated has been designated a judicial emergency, despite the strong bipartisan support of former Texas supreme court judges and 15 past presidents of the state bar of Texas, Justice Priscilla Owen has still

not received an up-or-down vote in the Senate for almost 2 years.

When Republicans held the majority during President Clinton's term, no judicial nominee was ever deprived of a vote due to a filibuster. Now Democrats want to undermine our Constitution and change the rules.

Mr. Speaker, the President has a right to get a vote on his nominee.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The Chair would remind all Members that it is not appropriate to characterize the action or inaction of the other body.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE
ECONOMY

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on telecommunications and the economy. The telecommunications industry, Mr. Speaker, is in a state of crisis. Telecom jobs continue to shrink and capital continues to flow away from the industry.

When given the opportunity to help lead the telecommunications industry back on the road to health and fitness, the Federal Communications Commission failed miserably. I completely agree with the Communication Workers of America that the FCC "missed an opportunity to set out an effective national policy that would promote facilities-based competition in telecommunications."

Instead, the FCC left in place rules that require carriers to lease their network, or pieces of it, to competitors for below-cost rates. This policy has had a disastrous effect on the industry. Over half a million telecom jobs have been lost and investors have lost billions of dollars. The industry is in crisis, and some of that crisis can be traced directly to bad policy at the FCC. It is clear to me that the FCC did not adopt the right rules to promote telecommunications investment.

I sincerely hope that the FCC fixes this mess, or Congress will have to fix it.

FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS
AND THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

(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, there is an epidemic of AIDS and HIV in Africa. It is heartbreaking to report this pandemic affecting 42 million souls, 8,500 deaths every day, and entire villages without a single adult.

Earlier this week we heard the President describe a compassionate vision of

moral obligation for the American people addressing this crisis that would bring not only \$15 billion, but would put a priority on the values of the American people, namely, abstinence and faithfulness to marriage, over condom distribution.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, unless the House amends the bill today and adopts the Hyde-Pitts amendment that specifies that 33 percent of the prevention money will be spent on abstinence and monogamy programs first over and above condom distribution, the global AIDS bill will not reflect the values of the American people or the vision of the President of the United States of America.

The timeless values of abstinence and marital faithfulness before condom distribution are the cure for what ails the families of Africa. It is important that we not just send them money, but we must send them values that work.

□ 1015

AMERICAN PRIORITIES

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, perhaps some of us on our side of the aisle have been a little bit too critical of President Bush. After all he has in his budget a universal health care plan for 23 million people. He has in his budget money for school construction, 25,000 new schools, renovated schools, repaired schools.

The problem, Mr. Speaker, that is the President's budget for Iraq. Universal health coverage for 23 million Iraqis, school construction of 25,000 and renovation of 25,000 schools, but not a penny in the President's budget for school construction in this country, in spite of the fact that our school buildings, many of them are in awful shape, and not a penny for universal coverage of 40 million Americans without health insurance.

The reason? The tax cuts the President has asked for of \$500 billion in tax cuts. Half of those tax cuts go to the richest one percent of the people in the country. The people whose incomes average \$968,000. Money for school construction and health care in Iraq. No money for school construction and health care in the United States and tax cuts for the most privileged. It is the wrong priorities.

ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN PEACE

(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, I rise to note an encouraging sign that yesterday, the President of the United States evinced a willingness to become an active player in seeking a peaceful resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. And I do so because it is clear