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No. 132

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Washington, DC, September 24, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. David Shibley, President, Global Advance, Dallas, Texas, offered the following prayer:

"Our fathers' God, to Thee, author of liberty, to Thee we sing. Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light. Protect us by Thy might, great God our King."

Eternal Father, we acknowledge, as President Lincoln said, "the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord." We humbly affirm that "unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord keeps the city, the watchman stands guard in vain."

May You be our defense, and may You grant to this Congress Your wisdom and compassion. May the Members of this great House, their families and staffs experience the joy of knowing You and walking in Your ways.

Forgive us when we have tried to govern independent of Your will. Grant us the moral clarity and moral courage that will make us a lighthouse to the nations. May we as a Nation and may these public servants be guided by Your Word and Your Holy Spirit.

I ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CROWLEY 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 a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1404. An act to amend the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act.

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. DAVID SHIBLEY, PRESIDENT, GLOBAL ADVANCE, DALLAS, TEXAS

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

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the world's minister here. He is my neighbor in Rockwall, Texas. Rockwall is the smallest county of 254 counties in Texas, and he is my neighbor, he is my friend, and, as I say, he is the world's pastor.

Dr. Shibley has spent his life dedicated to the spreading of the Gospel throughout the world. Through his work and through private donations, he has afforded on-site training for over 193,000 pastors and church leaders in 53 nations and has equipped them with books and ministry resources in 13 languages.

Today, as we worry about the Nation and worry about the men and women overseas and we pray for our President, we may have the strongest intercontinental ballistic missile system and the best military hardware of anyone in the world, but we know today the greatest power we have and the power we need is the power of prayer.

Thank you, Dr. Shibley, for your prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will hear up to 10 one-minute messages from each side.

REIN IN THE FEDERAL COURTS

(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, the first amendment does not guarantee us freedom from religion in government or anywhere else, but freedom of religion. That is an important difference. It offers the people the ability to determine the role of religion that takes place in society.

But as the issue stands now, the courts, elected by no one, can determine the time, place and content of all religious displays at every level of government. They have even prevented a 4-year-old in New Jersey from giving his classmates pencils that happen to say "Jesus loves the little children" on them. The courts have embarked on a crusade to save us all from religion.

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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The sad thing is that this debate is over religion in public life and has moved away from what the Founders intended. The Founders understood that religion, like all other ideas, should be thoroughly debated and considered as part of representative government. It should not be used to impose a lifestyle on anyone, but should play a role in our discussion. That is democracy.

Congress can and should take action, before this country is ruled by judicial fiat instead of the consent of the people.

NATIONAL DEBT CONTINUES TO INCREASE

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

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, it has been 867 days since the administration began implementation of their economic plan for our country. During that time our national debt has increased by \$1,159,358,743,968, according to the Bureau of the Public Debt at the Treasury Department. Yesterday at 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, the Nation's outstanding debt, the total debt, was \$6,799,684,130,327. Further, in fiscal year 2003, the interest on our national debt, what I call the debt tax, D-E-B-T tax, is \$304,978,878,641 through August 31.

Mr. Speaker, our country, the administration and Congress needs to return to fiscal responsibility.

CONDEMNING OUTRAGEOUS STATEMENTS REGARDING U.S. POLICY IN IRAQ

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as I am sure you know by now, last week the war in Iraq was called "a fraud made up in Texas to give Republicans a political boost."

I am sure that our military, who are putting their lives on the line for this war, do not appreciate this characterization of their mission.

Yesterday I visited Walter Reed Hospital. I spoke with our military who were wounded and with their family members. To a person, they support what we are doing in Iraq. They firmly believe that it is in the benefit of not only this country, but certainly the Iraqi people.

However, we should be outraged at what was said. We should be outraged that the statements were based not on facts, but on disinformation.

Mr. Speaker, misinformation is mistaken information. However, disinformation is just plain lying, and that is a shame.

It is for this reason that I stand before this body to condemn these outrageous statements. They remind us all

of the value that some people in this country place on political gain and the lengths that they are willing to go to to achieve it.

SUPPORTING ISRAEL IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about my commitment to an Israel that can live in a safe and secure environment.

Over August I had the opportunity to travel to Israel with 28 of my colleagues. This trip was the largest congressional delegation ever to travel to the state of Israel. We had the opportunity to see the strength and resilience of the Israeli people as they face the threat of terrorism on a daily basis.

The United States must not stand in the way of Israel protecting its citizens from terrorists who threaten them. Israel did not ask us to restrain ourselves when we acted against the terrorists responsible for the 9/11 attacks, and we should not ask that from them.

For a true and lasting peace to come about, the Palestinian Authority must act against the terrorist groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad. But before the Palestinian Authority can act against these terrorists, they must clean up their own acts. The first step is to remove Yasser Arafat from any position of power. Arafat has done enough to destroy the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

Recently we all read in the paper how the IMF discovered that Arafat diverted \$900 million of public funds to a special bank account under his control. Arafat is not a partner for peace. We know that. We need to convince our allies of that as well. The Palestinian Authority must rid itself of Yasser Arafat if it truly wants to bring about a peaceful coexistence with the state of Israel.

EXPRESSING HEARTFELT SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I returned from Israel this summer inspired by its ability to resist terror. On September 11, Americans learned what it was like to lose friends and neighbors to fanatics on a suicide mission. Israel has been living with terror, and during this trip we got a glimpse of their daily reality.

A day after our visit to the border between Israel and Lebanon, a missile killed a 16-year-old boy near where we had been. When we toured Hadassah Hospital, we met with a doctor who had stayed up all night saving a woman's life. She had been struck by a

sniper's bullet. Both attacks came during the so-called cease-fire, a time no one was supposed to die.

We have a lot to learn from Israel about improving communication, coordination and intelligence. After 9/11 we were supposed to have a governmentwide database on terrorism. Two years later, there are nine Federal agencies maintaining 12 different lists of terrorist organizations.

Israel is our greatest ally in the Middle East. It deserves our heartfelt support.

STANDING SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH ISRAEL

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to travel to Israel with the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and over 20 of my Democratic colleagues.

As timing would have it, our visit preceded the departure of Palestinian Prime Minister Abu Mazen by 1 week. We met with the Prime Minister, who told us that he was trying to implement important reforms within the Palestinian Authority. But during the Prime Minister's 4-month tenure, Mr. Arafat consistently opposed his reform efforts and took steps to maintain his hold on power and erode support for Mr. Abbas among the Palestinian people.

As these events have demonstrated, measurable progress will not be realized as long as Mr. Arafat remains in power.

If the Palestinian Authority will not or cannot destroy Palestinian terrorist groups, the Israeli Government has every right to defend its citizens against further violence. The Israeli Government has started building a security fence for exactly that purpose. I believe the United States should support Israel's efforts, which is a reasonable measure of self-defense against suicide bombers.

Further, I believe it would be a terrible mistake for the U.S. to reduce its loan guarantees to the State of Israel. At this time of great peril, we must stand side by side with Israel and its citizens in the fight against terrorism.

EXPRESSING STRONG SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for Israel, as well as my frustration and anger over the continued Palestinian terrorist attacks on innocent men, women and children.

I am especially angered over the action, or rather inaction, of the so-