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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 20, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON 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: Under Your Divine Providence, this Nation was established and has been guided through the years. Through turmoil, strife, disasters, and even wars, You have brought Your people to renewed faith, greater strength, and a deeper longing for peace.

Be with us now. Protect our Armed Forces wherever they may be. Confirm their families in Your love. Guide and enable the Members of Congress today as they take up the Nation's business and seek to protect and defend its people.

Through suffering and death, bring forth new life and true freedom by Your almighty power, Lord God, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BEREUTER 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 bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 129. An act to provide for reform relating to Federal employment, and for other purposes.

S. 1108. An act to establish within the National Park Service the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution Commemorative Program, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 108-173, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Commission on Systemic Interoperability:

Frederick W. Slunecka, of South Dakota.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 94-201, as amended by Public Law 105-275, the Chair, on behalf of President pro tempore, appoints the following individuals as members of the Board of Trustees of American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress:

Mickey Hart of California, and
Dennis Holub of South Dakota.

The message also announced that pursuant title VI, section 637 of Public Law 108-199, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Helping to Enhance the Liveli-

hood of People (HELP) Around the Globe Commission:

Steven K. Berry of Washington, DC.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 108-199, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment made during the adjournment of Douglas G. Ohmer of South Dakota to serve as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program on April 14, 2004.

CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, before I start my remarks, I was just moved by the prayer by the chaplain, and I hope everyone hearing our voice and through the miracle of television can pick that up on the Web site and read it once again because it is a prayer that the American people need to focus on and take to heart.

Mr. Speaker, by taking up the Continuity in Representation Act this week, the House will not only address a glaring deficiency in Federal law, it will also make an unequivocal statement about America's national resolve on the war on terror.

None of us in this Chamber or in this Nation wants to think of a scenario that would compel the Speaker to invoke this legislation, but such are the responsibilities of leadership in the post-9/11 world.

The bill will therefore put in place a process by which Congress can quickly reconstitute itself after a catastrophic event. If such an event occurs and an extreme number of resulting vacancies threaten the continuity of congressional activity, the Speaker may, under this legislation, order States to call special elections to fill those vacancies within 45 days.

By passing this legislation, we will guarantee the failure of any terrorist

□ 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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attempt to decapitate the legislative branch of the United States Government. But just as importantly, the vote this week will show our Nation and our enemies two things: our unity and our resolve. The Continuity in Representation Act has bipartisan support thanks to the long and tireless work of the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary. And despite our policy differences, everyone on both sides of the aisle can plainly see the need that this bill meets; and everyone has come to this issue, even in an election year, with sincerity and patriotism.

Many believe that bipartisanship disappears whenever the calendar year ends with an even number, but this issue and this bill disprove that cynical assumption.

The vote this week will also affirm once again our national commitment to victory in the war on terror. Our prosecution of this war must be relentless and comprehensive. On the battlefield we have to continue to take the war to the terrorists. And here at home we have to maintain a united front and advance every policy we can to support our troops and discourage our enemies.

So with this legislation that we pass this week, the House will send a very clear message to those enemies that no amount of violence that they hope to visit upon us will interrupt the continuity of our national service.

CYPRUS

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, last summer this House overwhelmingly adopted a resolution calling on the citizens of Cyprus to accept a U.N.-sponsored plan designed to end 29 years of separation and to unite the island. During the floor debate, this Member expressed the sincere hope that in 2004 we would be celebrating the first anniversary of a united Cyprus, not the 30th anniversary of a divided one.

Regrettably, this hope may not be realized. Although the U.N. plan is scheduled to be voted on in a referendum on April 24, the recent very disappointing decision by the president of Cyprus to recommend a "no" vote to Cypriots may have doomed the best chance to reunify that country in a very long time.

Turkish Cypriots today appear to be strongly in favor of the referendum, and Ankara has played a most positive role in moving the process forward. Both should be commended for their actions and resolve.

It is unfortunate that, in a reversal of positions, it may now be the Greek Cypriots who will block unification.

In Athens it is believed that both the current government and the opposition remain supportive of the U.N. plan. A strong public statement of support

from Athens would be very helpful in this critical time.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe, this Member believes there is still a chance that Cyprus may enter the EU on May 1 as a united country. The U.S. has pledged \$400 million to help implement the U.N. plan. To the Cypriots, I say do the right thing for their own sake.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO WILLIE VAUGHN

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 100th birthday of my uncle who lives in St. Louis, Missouri; and I guess on May 1 hundreds of my relatives are going to converge on that city to pay tribute to him. So I simply rise to wish a happy birthday to "Uncle Dude," as we finally called him. His name is Willie Vaughn. But he has lived a long and productive life. His mind is great. He is still active. Happy birthday to Uncle Dude.

FIGHTING THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

(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 month I served on a bipartisan delegation led by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) to visit Iraq. But I found every stop in Qatar, Iraq, Jordan, and Hungary to be a crucial part of the global war on terror. I saw firsthand courageous coalition forces of dozens of nations working with determination to stop terrorism from destroying modern civilization.

As evidenced by another bombing in Madrid, while terrorist cells with truckloads of explosives were arrested in England and Jordan, this is truly a worldwide conflict, not solely in Iraq.

Despite the renewed violence, we found troop morale high. Incredibly, the South Carolina troops who walk the streets said 90 percent of the Iraqis were grateful for liberation.

September 11 confirmed we are in a global war we did not seek. We must confront the terrorists overseas where they train, or we will fight them in America at our homes. From Qatar to Iraq to Jordan to Hungary, competent and dedicated patriots are making a difference.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE FROM IRAQIS

(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, it is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. And yesterday this photograph was taken by a UPI photographer, remarkably, on the streets of Fallujah in Iraq. It depicts the gratitude of an ordinary Iraqi to a United States Marine who, along with many Marines and constituents of mine from Indiana, are patrolling the streets of that war-torn city at this very hour.

I bring this photograph because in the midst of the heartbreak of the loss of American soldiers over the past several weeks, some say this means that the Iraqi people do not want us there, that they fail to appreciate the sacrifices that we have made in the blood of our countrymen.

But, Mr. Speaker, that is not what I saw when I was in Iraq a month ago, in Basra and in Baghdad. The Iraqis with whom I met spoke with passion and emotion the same message depicted in this picture: a message of gratitude to the American soldier, gratitude to the American people, not only for ending the reign of Saddam Hussein but for staying the course and seeing them through to freedom. And as the President said, in the interest of these good people, these soldiers and this country will not waver.

A CALL FOR HEARINGS ON THE WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we now know the truth was the first casualty of the President's war in Iraq. Ironically, the truth was not shot down by a cruise missile but by the Commander in Chief.

Instead of openly telling Congress and the American people that he wanted to take out Saddam, the President secretly diverted \$700 million from the war in Afghanistan to prepare for the invasion in Iraq without telling the Congress, \$700 million meant to help find and deal with Osama bin Laden on behalf of the 9/11 victims, on behalf of America.

Another Republican in the White House the last time America faced this secrecy was Richard Nixon, whose legacy is a profound mistrust in government that lingers to this day.

Just as America did 3 decades ago, it is time to shine the bright light of an open and democratic society on what the administration did. I call on the Speaker and the Congress to hold hearings, just as America did during Watergate, to get to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about the President's war in Iraq.