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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 2, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable E. CLAY SHAW, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend David Lauer, Campus Minister, Lakeland College, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, offered the following prayer:

O Lord and Maker of us all, whose light shines upon us all and whose guidance is for all, we humbly ask that Your grace rest upon this House today and that Your will be done here today.

For we acknowledge and thank You for all the blessings we share, especially the freedom we enjoy as Your children day by day, and the joy of living together as one family, and for Your care and keeping in all times and in all seasons.

Bless now Your servants in this place. Bless and lead them as they care for one another, for this land and for Your world. With Your mercy and Your love, bless and guide each Member, that in all things today, they might add to the beauty and peace of Your world and thus add honor and glory unto Your holy name.

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 Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BERRY 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.

RECOGNIZING THE REVEREND DAVID LAUER

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

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize one of my constituents who is serving as our guest chaplain today, the Reverend David Lauer. Reverend Lauer is the campus minister and Marjorie and Richard D. Leach Professor of Theological Studies of Lakeland College in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. At Lakeland, he teaches in the areas of Old and New Testament, liturgy, contemporary ethics and contemporary theology. Reverend Lauer just completed his 36th year as coach of the men's varsity tennis team and has been inducted into Lakeland's Athletic Hall of Fame.

David received his bachelor of arts degree from Heidelberg College and his master of divinity degree from Eden Theological Seminary. He will celebrate 40 years of marriage to Lynne Jenkins next year.

I know my colleagues join me in welcoming Reverend Lauer to the House today.

LIFETIME LEARNING

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, strong economic news can be found wherever we

look these days: 337,000 new jobs created in March; another 288,000 in April. May numbers due out at the end of this week are expected to be good, but numbers alone do not paint the picture of the economy that we are trying to build. That is why the summer economic agenda in the House, the Careers Initiative, is about much more than numbers.

This week, we will take on the third component of the Careers Initiative: lifelong learning. When people have access to training and higher education, they can acquire skills and expertise in new and more valuable technologies and improve both their stability and mobility.

They cannot only provide for themselves and their families in the short term but can find the kinds of jobs that will give them and their families security for the future. In other words, Mr. Speaker, lifelong learning can be the difference between having a job and having a career.

The difference may seem small, but it could not be more important. A job is for survival in the here and now. It is something you do for a paycheck to make ends meet. A career, on the other hand, is for the future. It is long-term security for you and your family. It pushes you to get out of bed in the morning and inspires you with a sense of purpose and the feeling that you are making a contribution, and it is something that stays with you your entire life, not just until you punch out at the end of the day.

Through reforms in the Higher Education Act and the new, innovative Worker Reemployment Accounts we will take up this week, the House will help Americans not only make the transition from welfare to work but from jobs to careers.

Lifelong learning is a noble undertaking, Mr. Speaker, and it is more

□ 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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valuable than any numbers could ever show. The men and women who work to get it are heroes and deserve our help to help themselves.

DRUG COMPANIES STEAL AND ROB FROM OUR SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, in the 1st Congressional District of Arkansas, the greatest health care problem we have is the fact that this government, this Congress, this majority, this President has made it possible and even more able for the drug companies to steal and rob from our senior citizens. It is an incredible act, the Medicare reform that was passed. That is the only thing it accomplished, was make it possible so that the drug companies could continue to rob and steal from the American people.

In Arkansas, we usually think of thieves as coming in the dark of night or committing a violent act to steal your property, but now, because of the Medicare Reform Act and these Medicare cards, we have made it possible for the drug companies to steal, cheat and rob our senior citizens without hardly putting out any effort, and we have created so much confusion that it is an easily accomplished act. It is time to put an end to this.

ENERGY REFORM LEGISLATION

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, last week, an article in Biofuels Journal stated that, according to a new report by economist John Urbanchuk, motorists would be facing much higher gasoline prices, an additional 30 cents per gallon, were it not for the growing ethanol industry adding billions of gallons to U.S. fuel supplies.

Without ethanol, our country would be even more reliant on foreign imports of gasoline, and the pain at the pump would be much more severe. More than 30 percent of all U.S. gasoline is blended with ethanol. Without ethanol, refiners would be forced to import about 217,000 barrels per day of high-octane, clean-burning gasoline blending components.

Over the last 25 years, while no new U.S. refineries have been built and scores have been closed, 78 new ethanol plants have been built and 10 more are under construction today.

Ethanol use will bolster U.S. gasoline supplies by more than 3.3 billion gallons in 2004 alone.

We need the Senate to pass H.R. 6, the first comprehensive energy legislation Congress has put forth in years. It will increase our use of renewable fuels like ethanol and biodiesel and reduce our continued overdependence on foreign oil.

VETERANS 2006 CUTS

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

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend our Nation came together and honored the thousands of veterans who have dedicated and sacrificed so much to protect our national security. I had the privilege and honor to join World War II veterans here on our Nation's Mall in Washington, D.C., for the dedication of the World War II Memorial, to honor them and their many contributions to our great democracy and, yes, to remember the 400,000 who died during World War II.

At a time when a new generation of veterans is being created in Iraq and Afghanistan, there are some in Congress who want to cut funding for veterans. The administration's proposed budget for 2006 would cut \$900 million from the Veterans' Administration. A loss of \$900 million would force the VA to disenroll 140,000 veterans and lay off about 10,750 full-time employees, among many other things.

It is all about priorities. We must keep our promises to our veterans.

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BAN

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday a Clinton-appointed Federal judge in California granted a permanent extension or injunction against the partial birth abortion ban that was passed by the Congress and signed by President Bush. This is not surprising, since Judge Phyllis Hamilton made it crystal clear that she was ideologically opposed to the ban on partial birth abortion. What is outrageous and defies sound reason is that she found the ban unconstitutional.

In acting to prevent this hideous practice, the elected branches of our government affirmed a basic standard of humanity, the duty of the strong to protect the weak. Partial birth abortion is cruel and inhumane. This is the widespread agreement amongst men and women on this issue, regardless of their political affiliations.

Life cannot be granted or denied by government, elected officials or judges abusive of their interpretive function. Judge Hamilton's ruling is yet another example of activist courts gone wild and is the next decision in the domino effect of legislating from the Federal bench.

I join with our President and will vigorously defend this law against judges who would construe it in contravention to our Constitution and the American public.

AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Health and Human Services rolled out a new Medicare drug card. Yet, today, seniors across America are still wondering when we in Congress will take real steps to help them afford the drugs they need and are prescribed.

The manufactured chaos, confusion and consternation all could have been avoided. This mess was created by their government and by the special interests, but we have an opportunity to open markets and allow for importation of safe, affordable drugs from Canada and Europe, where prices are 50 percent cheaper than they are here in the United States; real competition to bring prices down, not competition by the special interests between themselves, but competition that allows seniors the choice to pick on affordable prices that are 50 percent cheaper than what they are in Canada and Europe. We need that competition here at home.

A Families USA study showed that seniors in America pay four times the rate of inflation for prescription drugs. Prices have gone up 22 percent in the last 3 years alone.

This discount card is just like a sale at Neiman Marcus. Prices get jacked up 30 percent right before they offer you a 10 percent discount. We need to allow seniors access to affordable drugs their doctors prescribe.

WE HAVE PROGRESS IN IRAQ

(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, amidst the violence and struggle that always attends the transition between tyranny and liberty, we have progress in Iraq.

Yesterday, a Shiite Muslim, part of a population that suffered for 30 years under the iron fist of Saddam Hussein, a Shiite Muslim, Iyad Allawi, was named prime minister along with Ghazi al Yawar, a Sunni Muslim, and those two men will lead a free and democratic Iraq.

Mr. Allawi said memorably, in this country that was torn by tyranny for three decades, that he was pledged to establishing a democratic and federal system under which people enjoy free citizenship in a state of laws and freedom. A quagmire, hardly. Difficult, yes. But an ethnically diverse country coming together under the rule of law and democracy is genuine progress in Iraq and worthy of celebrating in this Congress.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1