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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Keith Boone, Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Rockwall, Texas, offered the following prayer:

O Lord God, You call us to do the right thing for the right reasons, that from sea to shining sea we may experience the joy of freedom, and the benefits of our labor.

We are a Nation under You, O God, under Your grace and under Your judgment.

We are a blessed Nation, but confess we squander many of the resources You so freely give us.

May we live in such a way that our behaviors match our beliefs.

Grant us courage to speak for those who are voiceless, to seek justice for the powerless, and to stand as a beacon of compassion before a dark and desperate world.

May we be mindful and thankful for those whose sacrifice allows us an abundance of blessings.

Above all, may we honor our heritage, embrace the present, and discern the future You would will for our Nation.

In Your Holy 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 Alabama (Mr. BONNER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BONNER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic 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 bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4635. An act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

WELCOMING DR. KEITH BOONE, PASTOR, FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker for having my pastor here to pray over this Congress and to pray over the Nation. Keith Payne Boone is a native of Dallas, Texas, a graduate of my alma mater Southern Methodist University. He has Methodist in his veins from head to toe. His grandfather was the legendary Bolton Boone who headed up the Golden Cross. It was the first ecumenical charity. I was a member of that board some 50 years in Dallas. Keith was not around at that time, but he is a leader in the Methodist Church of Rockwall, Texas. The Dallas News carried, I think 3 months ago, that Rockwall County was the fastest-growing county in the United States. That is how fast our church is growing with the great pastor.

I thank Pastor Keith Boone, my friend, friend of my family, Mary Ellen and my entire family, friend of Methodists, Baptists, and all denominations alike in Rockwall. Thank him for the prayer. Thank him for what he has done, what he is doing, and what he will do for this Nation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize 10 one-minutes on each side.

DRILLING IN ANWR

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this week is the first week in summer. Gasoline prices are high as we enter into the summer driving season. So energy independence should be a goal of this Congress. Worldwide demand for petroleum has increased in the last decade, but the growth in production has been relatively flat.

The inevitable result is higher prices at the gasoline pump. The reality is it takes a long time to go from an oil field to a gas station. We have lost considerable time in that regard.

In 1995 in the 104th Congress, H.R. 2491 would have allowed oil exploration and drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. The Department of Energy has estimated that between 1 and 1.3 million barrels of oil a day could be derived from this source. Unfortunately, this legislation was vetoed by the previous administration. And that was nearly 10 years ago. Given a timeline of 7 to 14 years for building a pipeline, it is time that we could scarcely afford.

Mr. Speaker, I have been to ANWR. The vast coastal plain is unsuitable for habitation during the summer months because of its marshy consistency. The people who live in ANWR are counting on this Congress to do the right thing and allow them, the rightful owners of these mineral rights, to begin developing the resources that were granted to them upon statehood in 1959.

As we say in Texas, "Time's a wastin'."

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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INCREASING DEBT AND OVERPROMISING

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I wore my Adam Smith tie this morning because today we are going to talk about some ways that might help us give discipline to ourselves on how much money we spend and how much overpromising we do.

Two areas. One, I am from a farm in Michigan. That is where we usually try to reduce the mortgage so our kids have a little better chance. In this Chamber and in the Senate and the White House, what we have been doing for the last 20 years is increasing the debt. Every year for the last 20 years the debt subject to the debt limit has been going up. Plus, we have been overpromising in Medicare, Social Security. The unfunded liability is a huge burden on our children.

So, hopefully, today we can join together to help give ourselves discipline on overspending by changing the law.

ECONOMY

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, just 3 short years ago when this administration took over, there was \$236 billion surplus, 22 million jobs had been created, and the country was experiencing its lowest drop in poverty in a decade. Now, all those trends have reversed themselves.

Today the unemployment rate is 30 percent higher. 8.2 million people are looking for work, and more jobs are disappearing in our country every day. Outsourcing, sending good manufacturing jobs out of our country.

I am from the State of Michigan. We have lost over 200,000 jobs and 136,000 of those in the manufacturing sector. Something must be done. We must take care of American citizens first. People are paying more for their food, for their clothing, for their gasoline. We have got to do something about this.

Let us invest in America and American families. Health care is a debacle. We can fix that. America needs new leadership. Make sure you get out and extend your right.

BEAUFORT FAMILY TREE FARM SERVES AS A NATIONAL MODEL

(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, I rise today to commend the Burris family of Beaufort, South Carolina, upon receiving the 2003 South Carolina Environmental Awareness

Award for their Cypress Bay Plantation, one of the best tree farms in America.

The entire family, which includes Dr. "Skeet" Burris, his wife Gail, and their sons Hank, Andy, Ben, Tony and Charlie, have themselves worked the 1,600-acre tree farm in Hampton County since 1986.

They have won many awards including the South Carolina Tree Farm of the Year in 1995, National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year award in 2000, and Private Conservationist of the Year in 2001.

Today, the beautiful lands of Cypress Bay Plantation contain well over 200,000 trees teeming with wildlife, and are used to educate local children on the environment.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in commending the Burris family for their commitment to environmental excellence.

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

VETERANS PROGRAMS ARE BEING UNDERFUNDED

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, over 200 years ago, our Founding Fathers pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the untested ideas of liberty, equality, and democracy. But today as a new generation of veterans is being created in Iraq and Afghanistan, Republicans are underfunding the programs that are vitally important to our veterans by passing a budget that underfunds veterans health care by \$1 billion and rejecting Democratic efforts to fully fund VA health care.

What is even worse is that this will not stop this year because the Bush administration's plan for the 2006 budget includes a \$900 million cut in funding for veterans health care. And this will conveniently not come into effect until after the election.

No Republican has come forward and rejected the Bush administration's latest proposals to cut veterans programs. Not one. This is outrageous.

Democrats are fighting to honor veterans by honoring their sacrifices. Why are the Republicans making our sons and daughters fight bravely on the battlefield and come home and fight the government for their benefits?

THE LIBERAL MEDIA BIAS OF CBS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month we learned of more good economic news about the expanding economy. 947,000 new jobs created in March, April, and May alone. One

might think that almost a million new jobs in 3 months constitutes big news, but it was not big news on "CBS Evening News."

"The CBS Evening News" spent 20 seconds glossing over the creation of nearly a million new jobs. CBS then aired a 2-minute report about 1,300 people being laid off in Ohio. The laying off of 1,300 workers and their families at any time is sad. I have hope and faith that those families will soon be back on their feet. But for CBS to bury the good news about a million new jobs and magnify the bad news of 1,300 layoffs smacks of partisan media bias. Twenty seconds for good economic news, 2 minutes for bad economic news. If it is not liberal media bias, I do not know what is.

ARE WE BETTER OFF?

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration has demonstrated a complete failure to plan for our operations in Iraq and a complete failure to plan here at home. One has to ask, Are we better off than we were 4 years ago?

When President Bush took office, we had a \$236 billion budget surplus and the Nation had created 22 million jobs over the previous 8 years.

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The number of uninsured had decreased for the first time in 12 years, and the country had the lowest poverty rate in 20 years.

Today, 8.2 million are Americans looking for work; 1.8 million private sector jobs have been lost. The number of uninsured has increased by 3.8 million, and gas prices are at a 23-year high. Household income has decreased by almost \$1,500, and college tuition is up by 28 percent. This is absolutely not acceptable, and it is not something that just happened.

President Bush had only one economic policy when he took office and he had only one today, tax cuts for those who need them least.

FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS

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

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, if the American people have somehow stumbled on to C-SPAN this morning, trying to find either Oprah or Regis, let me urge you to set your VCRs because later today you are going to get a chance to see the fundamental difference between our side of the aisle and the other side of the aisle.

You see, our friends on the other side have suppressed their appetite to raise your taxes long enough, and just like