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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Jean Burch, Senior Pastor, Community Baptist Church, Pasadena, California, offered the following prayer:

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice in it. Dear Lord, as we begin this day, we can rejoice because You are our hope. And as we pray, may we be reminded that our hope is not based on optimism but a blessed assurance that this Nation under God will find her destiny in God's love.

I pray that the trust we have placed in the men and women of this House will prevail in the decisions that they make for this Nation. Speak to their hearts, Lord, through Your spirit that they may know Your will for Your people and our land. I pray that each man and woman in this room will not only know Your will, but that they may know You and the power of Your might.

For Lord, it is You who is the God of our hope, the rope we take hold of in times of turmoil, the anchor that holds us steady in the time of storm; and You are our refuge when all else has failed. Now, today, and in the days to come, may the God of hope fill each of you with all joy and peace as you put your trust in Him. In the name of our Lord, 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 North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCINTYRE 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 bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4363. An Act to facilitate self-help housing homeownership opportunities.

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. 2589. An act to clarify the status of certain retirement plans and the organizations which maintain the plans.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 99-498, the chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore appoints the following individual, to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance.

Clara M. Cotton of Massachusetts.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain five 1-minutes on each side.

AMBASSADOR JOE WILSON

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

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Joe Wilson's cover has been blown. He has proclaimed to be a truth-teller, but he has been thoroughly discredited. You may recall, Mr. Speaker, that Ambassador Wilson said President Bush was lying when in the State of the

Union address he said the British Government learned that Saddam Hussein sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa. Last week's bipartisan Senate Select Intelligence Committee report concluded that it actually is Wilson who has been telling us lies.

We now know for certain that Wilson was wrong and that Bush's statement was entirely accurate. In September 2003, an independent British parliamentary committee looked into the matter and determined that the claim made by the British intelligence was in fact reasonable.

In recent days, the Financial Times has reported that illicit sales of uranium from Niger were indeed being negotiated with Iraq as well as four other states. According to the Financial Times, human and electronic intelligence sources from a number of countries picked up repeated discussions of an illicit trade in uranium from Niger. One of the customers discussed by the traders was Iraq.

There is more. The Senate report says fairly bluntly that Wilson lied to the media. The panel found that Wilson provided misleading information to The Washington Post last June, which has created more suspicion around him.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring these developments to my colleagues in the House because they will not read this in the New York Times.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOHN EDWARDS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. Speaker, Vice Presidential candidate JOHN EDWARDS of North Carolina is a man who cares for people, who has a passion for a brighter America,

□ 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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and who will work in partnership with the U.S. Congress to improve our communities and to help lift all of our citizens up. Senator EDWARDS has always put people first. He understands the challenges that face our Nation in rural areas, suburban and urban America.

Second, he has a passion to make life better for all Americans. From education to energy, from factories to the farms, from health care to housing, Senator EDWARDS has a real desire to make improvements in these and so many other areas.

Third, JOHN has seen firsthand the challenges that citizens from all walks of life face, and he knows that we must work together in a bipartisan manner to move forward and to help our Nation. Senator EDWARDS has a vision for a better, stronger, and brighter America. With his focus on people, his passion for moving forward, and his commitment to partnership, he, indeed, will make an exceptional Vice President.

A STORY WE WILL NOT READ IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

(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, the gentleman from Florida talked about stories we will not read in the New York Times. Let me talk about another one.

Today, Mr. Speaker, 20, 25 women from the country of Iraq are here on the Hill talking with various Members of the House of Representatives, and their stories are so very poignant.

I just left a meeting with them, and I needed to share some of their words with my colleagues. To the question: What about the fact that America might have gone to war with Iraq under false pretenses? The first woman who raised her hand said, "What took you so long?" A woman who is a city leader in Karbala said 48 people in her family have been executed, and to this day they do not know where most of those family members are buried. She said to us, "Why would you even ask this question?" Another woman said, "Chemical warfare has been used on my family. So many have been lost. We don't know where they have gone. You should have been here in 1991. Liberation was late. We were left to be tortured."

On the subject of Fallujah, one woman stood up and very powerfully said, "Please finish the job." I could not agree more.

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR UNFPA

(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, today we consider appropriating \$25 million that would reassure the world about

the U.S. commitment to saving women's lives.

The Bush administration has systematically undermined that commitment in its continued assault on UNFPA, the U.N. Population Fund. Our allies watch in horror as the world's enormous need for family planning goes unmet; and meanwhile our government allies itself with Iran, Syria, and Afghanistan in opposing voluntary international family planning programs.

Today, we can help to right that wrong by approving a measure that would direct \$25 million to UNFPA programs to prevent and treat obstetric fistula, a devastating condition that afflicts 2 million women worldwide. No other agency works in this vital area.

Let us send a message to the Bush administration that this Congress listens to the American people even if it does not. The world is waiting for us to act. UNFPA saves women's and children's lives.

WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN THE WAR ON TERROR

(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, we have made great progress in the war on terror. Three years ago, in Afghanistan, al Qaeda was training and sending out thousands of terrorists. Pakistan had a significant al Qaeda presence. Saudi Arabia was a major area of support for al Qaeda. In Iraq, a sworn enemy of America was in power. Nuclear weapons technology was being sold to countries like Iran, North Korea, and Libya. For years, terrorists attacked the U.S. with relative impunity.

Three years later, because of the leadership of George Bush, in Afghanistan the terror camps are closed, Osama bin Laden is hiding in caves. Pakistani forces are rounding up terrorists on their border. Saudi Arabia is working closely with the U.S. to root out al Qaeda. In Iraq, our coalition removed a declared enemy of the United States. And we have ended one of the most dangerous sources of nuclear proliferation.

Today, because America has acted and we have led, the forces of terror and tyranny have suffered defeat after defeat, and America and the world are safer.

PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MICHIGAN NOTHING MORE THAN A PEP RALLY

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, this week the President visited Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Too bad his visit was a pep rally. Instead, he owed the people of Northern Michigan some answers about his failed policies that have taken this Nation backwards in so many ways.

This is what the President should have talked about: how we would address the infinite list of problems and confusion with the sham Medicare prescription drug law; why we created new mandates for Northern Michigan schoolteachers and students through No Child Left Behind, but then failed to provide the needed financial resources to meet them; how he will restore the 397,000 jobs in Michigan we have lost, and more than 2 million nationwide. Many of these jobs have been shipped overseas.

The deficit: why the country has gone from record surpluses to a record \$521 billion deficit. Why did the President choose tax cuts for the wealthy at the expense of putting the Nation's checkbook deep in the red?

Homeland security: Why has the President repeatedly cut needed funding for homeland security grants to local and State agencies. The Great Lakes: How will he restore the Great Lakes? His current proposal is a study of studies that will only keep us treading water.

Instead of real answers, all this President can give the American people is a pep rally. The American people deserve better.

PRAISING THE INDIAN AMERICAN REPUBLICAN COUNCIL

(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 want to commend the impressive gains made by the Indian American Republican Council since its founding 2 years ago. Under the outstanding leadership of Chairman Dr. Raghavendra Vijayanagar, there are 11 independent IARC state affiliates, eight Indian Americans are delegates at the Republican National Convention, and President George W. Bush has appointed 14 Indian Americans to his administration, more than any other President.

In particular, I commend the delegates attending the Republican National Convention: from Florida, Dr. Vijay, Dr. Zach Zachariah, Dr. George Thomas, and Dr. Akshay Desai; from Georgia, Mr. Narender Reddy; from Mississippi, Dr. Sampat Shivangi; from Maryland, Dr. Shambu Banik; and from Virginia, Shayam Menon, a prominent graduate of Washington and Lee University.

The IARC has become a nationally respected organization due to the energy, commitment, and dedication shown by its board of directors led by Dr. Vijay. I look forward to working with the IARC to further the growing ties between Indian Americans and the Republican Party based on the shared values of promoting families and limited government.

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