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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2005

No. 155

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, December 12, 2005, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2005

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 6, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN 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:
Lord our God, as the 109th Congress meets during these December days, be present to each of the Members of the House of Representatives.

Move within them and among them to grant great resolve, powerful direction, and a deep sense of accomplishment.

May their communal decisions and the laws enacted assure justice for Your people and lead this Nation with the whole world in the ways of peace.

For You, O Lord, will in the end be the ultimate judge of motivations and know the total effect of all our actions both 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 Colorado (Mr. UDALL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 22, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 22, 2005, at 1:47 pm:

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 308.

That the Senate agreed to Conference Report H.R. 3058.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 1815.

That the Senate passed S. 1042.

That the Senate passed S. 1043.

That the Senate passed S. 1044.
That the Senate passed S. 1045.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill on Friday, November 18, 2005:

H.R. 4133, to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the national flood insurance program;

And Speaker pro tempore WOLF signed the following enrolled bills on Monday, November 28, 2005:

H.R. 680, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land held in trust for the Paiute Indian tribe of Utah to the City of Richfield, Utah, and for other purposes;

H.R. 2062, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 West Street in Newville, Pennsylvania, as the "Randall D. Shughart Post Office Building";

H.R. 2183, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 567 Tompkins Avenue in Staten Island, New York, as the "Vincent Palladino Post Office";

H.R. 2528, making appropriations for military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, Military Construction, the Department of Veterans

□ 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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Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3058, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3853, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 208 South Main Street in Parkdale, Arkansas, as the Willie Vaughn Post Office;

H.R. 4145, to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks and to place the statue in the United States Capitol in National Statuary Hall, and for other purposes.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 1, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: It is with a heavy heart that I submit to you my resignation as a Member of the United States House of Representatives, effective close of business on Thursday, December 1, 2005. I am forwarding to you a copy of my letter of resignation to Governor Schwarzenegger.

I am resigning from the House of Representatives because I have discredited my high office and the party that I love. Not only have I compromised the trust of my constituents, I have misled my family, friends, and colleagues, staff and even myself. Mr. Speaker, I have the utmost respect for you and our colleagues and I am deeply sorry that I have shamed our great institution in this way.

Please accept my resignation as one of the many steps I now take to atone for my crimes.

Sincerely,
RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM,
U.S. Representative.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from California, the whole number of the House is 433.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF OF STAFF OF HON. TOM DAVIS OF VIRGINIA, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from David Thomas, Chief of Staff of the Honorable TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Member of Congress:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 28, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena for documents, issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

DAVID THOMAS,
Chief of Staff.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the honor and privilege to host President George W. Bush in North Carolina's Fifth Congressional District. The President spoke about our country's impressive economic growth at the John Deere-Hitachi manufacturing plant in Kenersville.

We all have a lot to be grateful to our President for. Under his leadership, our economy is flourishing and getting stronger. In a report issued last week by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, our economy created 250,000 new jobs during the month of November. Over 4.4 million jobs have been created since May 2003.

Unemployment is down to 5 percent, which is lower than the average of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. This is due to the hard work of the American people, lower taxes, legal reform, and less government interference into the lives of entrepreneurs and small business owners.

I am proud of President Bush's leadership and agenda for a strong economy. I will continue to work with him and the rest of my colleagues in the Congress to make tax relief permanent and exercise spending restraint.

UNWAVERING RESOLVE FOR FREEDOM

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, when the American Revolution arrived, Thomas Paine published these words in "The Crisis." In 1776 he talked about the Americans who go to war, the causes for which they fight, the conditions under which they wage war. He exhorted the soldiers and all Americans with these words: "These are the times that try men's souls: the summer soldier, the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of this country. But he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict the more glorious the triumph.

What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly. Heaven knows how to set a proper price on its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated."

So to America, we must have this unwavering resolve to finish the task before us. And to our troops, stand firm. Stand tall. Stand for freedom. Because we over here support you over there. And come home victorious for freedom when it's over over there. That's just the way it is.

ECONOMIC NUMBERS

(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 third-quarter economic numbers released last week are worth noting. When you consider the total devastation inflicted on our gulf coast region, combined with the temporary spike in petroleum prices, the fact that our economy remains robust is a strong testament to our free-market policies and commitment to reducing the tax burden on all Americans.

The overall growth of the economy, measured in total gross domestic product, was even better than expected, growing at a rate of 4.3 percent, the 10th consecutive quarter of GDP growth above 3 percent. Heading into the Christmas shopping season, the consumer confidence index rose to 98.9 in November, up 14 points from the previous month.

In November alone, we added 215,000 jobs to our Nation's payrolls, a total of more than 4.4 million new jobs added since May. These numbers, along with the other positive indicators, should provide strong incentive to us this week as we take up legislation to extend expiring tax cuts.

PROGRESS IN IRAQ

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since the defeat of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, we have seen political, security, and economic progress in a country that has suffered under tyranny for decades. In January, 8.5 million Iraqis voted in Iraq's first democratically elected government.

In October, the constitutional referendum, the turnout neared nearly 10 million; and since April 2003, Iraq has registered more than 30,000 new businesses.

Mr. Speaker, no war is without challenges, and the war on terror is no different. But to cut and run, as many of our colleagues are suggesting, would not only encourage our enemies; it will disillusion the Iraqi people, our allies, and the brave men and women in uniform risking their lives for this country every day.