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No. 30

## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 14, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVAN PEARCE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) for 5 minutes.

### PLANT CLOSURE IN WIXOM, MICHIGAN

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, these are difficult times in southeastern Michigan, where the heirs to the arsenal of democracy still manufacture the best products in the world. In fact, this weekend the Ford Motor Company announced its Wixom assembly plant will incur an employee reduction of 11 percent when its Thunderbird line ends.

While we in my district are encouraged, the affected workers will be offered other positions at other Ford fa-

cilities. We nevertheless urge Ford to provide this assembly plant a new product line and, in so doing, keep the best workers in the world working in Wixom, Michigan.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m. today.

□ 1400

### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 2 p.m.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

God, always just and source of goodness and life, when life and problems are overwhelming, we turn to You. Help this Nation to see clearly its next step in history. Deepen the faith of the men and women who serve in Congress that they make their moves boldly and decisively because You are with them.

In a world of heightened violence and floating anger, people conflicted and helpless need Your guidance and the witness of faithful people steeped in virtue and committed to justice. May the ultimate effect of the actions of this House secure the freedom of Your people and bring order to households and communities everywhere. We ask Your blessing 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 Tennessee (Mr. COOPER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COOPER 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

The message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 250. An act to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to improve the Act.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-286, the Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, and after consultation with the Majority Leader, appoints the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China:

The Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), Chairman.

The Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK).

The Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH).

The Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), and

The Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ).

The message also announced that pursuant to section 1928a-1928d of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Member as Vice

□ 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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Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly during the One Hundred Ninth Congress:

The Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN).

The message also announced that pursuant to section 276h-276k of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Member as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group conference during the One Hundred Ninth Congress:

The Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD).

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-567, as amended by section 1102, Public Law 108-458, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Interest Declassification Board: Joan Vail Grimson of Virginia.

#### IN MEMORY OF BETTY EASLER

(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 afternoon the people of South Carolina honor the late Betty Easler with a memorial service at Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church in Columbia.

Betty was a graduate of Dreher High School, and she received undergraduate and masters degrees at the University of South Carolina.

Betty selflessly and tirelessly advocated for persons with disabilities and special needs and their families. She served as a counselor at the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. She was executive director of the office of the Governor's Development Disabilities Council for Governor Carroll A. Campbell.

Betty was executive director of Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities and was employed as case manager for Intracorp, a division of Cigna Insurance Company.

All of this was achieved although she was born with spina bifida and was for a lifetime in a wheelchair.

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

#### RESTRAINING SPENDING

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

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, President Bush says he wants to restrain spending. But regardless of the budget that the House passes this week, President Bush has never used his two constitutional powers to restrain spending. Number one, the big veto: he has never used it. He is the first President since James Garfield in 1881 never to use the veto. And poor President Garfield was

only in office for 6 months. President Bush is now in his fifth year of his Presidency.

Secondly, the little veto: I wrote an article on this in the New York Times last Friday. The rescission power. All President Bush needs is a majority of House and Senate Republicans to support his spending cuts, and he can cut anything in the Federal Government that he wants to. The rescission power is filibuster-proof. He does not need 60 votes in the Senate. He has Fast Track pressure on Congress to respond, but he has never used that little veto power either.

President Clinton used it 163 times. When has President Bush ever used either the big veto power or the little veto power? The American public needs to know.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Social Security was an innovative program back in 1940 when the first Social Security recipient, Ida May Fuller, opened her mailbox to find a check from Uncle Sam. To Americans back then, the Social Security program was a dream come true and real security.

For every Ida May Fuller, there were 42 younger workers contributing to their retirement; 42 workers for every retiree.

Now let us fast forward to today. Under the current system, your payroll taxes are immediately used to pay the benefits for today's retirees. This pay-as-you-go system works when many people are paying in and fewer are collecting benefits.

But today seniors are living longer and collecting more benefits. As a result, there are fewer workers paying into the system per retiree; 3.3 to be exact. And in the near future, there will be fewer than two workers per retiree.

Mr. Speaker, if we do not fix the system now, the only thing our children and grandchildren will receive in their mailbox is a giant IOU. Let us work together to provide real security for all Americans. The time to act is now.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable BILL THOMAS, Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means:

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING,  
Washington, DC, February 7, 2005.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am forwarding to you the Committee's recommendations for certain positions for the 109th Congress.

First, pursuant to Section 8002 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Committee designated the following Members to serve on the Joint Committee on Taxation: Mr. Thomas, Mr. Shaw, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Rangel, and Mr. Stark.

Second, pursuant to Section 161 of the Trade Act of 1974, the Committee recommended the following Members to serve as official advisors for international conference meetings and negotiating sessions on trade agreements: Mr. Thomas, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Herger, Mr. Rangel, and Mr. Cardin.

Third, pursuant to House Rule X, Clause 5(a)(2)(A)(i), the Committee designated the following Members to serve on the Committee on the Budget: Mr. Portman, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Hulshof, Mr. Neal, and Mr. Jefferson.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,  
Chairman.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 161(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2211), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House as congressional advisers on trade policy and negotiations:

Mr. THOMAS, California,  
Mr. SHAW, Florida,  
Mr. HERGER, California,  
Mr. RANGEL, New York and  
Mr. CARDIN, Maryland.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF CHARLES R. BAXTER

(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, it is my sad duty to report to the House that we lost a pioneer in medicine this weekend down in Dallas: Dr. Charles Baxter, a surgeon whose research in clinical skills saved thousands of lives over the years.

Dr. Baxter will be remembered for a lot of things back home, not the least of which was his treatment of a severely burned patient and his introduction of very aggressive fluid management in the initial hours after the burn had occurred, saving countless patients from going into acute renal failure, dealing with what was then one of the principal causes of death in the severely burned patient.

It was reported in the newspaper this weekend that Dr. Baxter, in an effort one time to bring the spirits up of a young 8-year-old girl who had been burned over 92 percent of her body, brought an Airedale puppy into the burn unit at Parkland. He scrubbed it down with antibacterial cleanser and brought the girl a new reason to continue on in her struggle to recover from her burn.

I remember Dr. Baxter when I was a resident down in the operating room. He had a heart attack a few days before, but was down there in the wheelchair in the surgery office barking out