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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. BRADLEY of New Hampshire).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 16, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEB BRADLEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend James P. Campbell, Pastor, Christ Life Church, Woodstock, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Almighty God, once more this esteemed body gathers to legislate for the people of this Nation.

The scripture states "that government is God's servant for good." Remind hearts of this in all actions today. Help these great women and men to remember those who are less fortunate in all their decisions that they make.

We lift our Nation up to You for protection against terrorism and to protect our troops everywhere. Bring peace to our Nation, Father, and peace to all the troubled areas of the world.

Help those in this Chamber that struggle with illness, bring healing and health. Help those who wrestle with personal or family problems, bring solutions and peaceful resolve. Aid each Member of this House who is in the valley of indecision concerning matters of this Nation to make the right decision and action. Most of all, Father, let us feel Your love and care for all of us. In Jesus' name we pray. 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.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SOLIS 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. 1160. An act to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through June 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 114(b)(2)(c) of Public Law 100-458, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the fol-

lowing individual to the Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development, for a six-year term:

MARSHA BLACKBURN of Tennessee.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-83, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the National Council on the Arts:

The Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), vice the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID).

The message also announced that pursuant to Executive Order No. 12131, as amended, the Chair, appoints the following Members to the President's Export Council:

The Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS).

The Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 one-minute speeches per side.

HONORING RHEA TAYLOR, MAYOR OF FAYETTE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Fayette County, Tennessee, Mayor Rhea Taylor.

As the Fayette County Mayor since 2002 and a public servant for years, Rhea Taylor has been actively involved in planning for the rapid growth of Fayette County. And during their annual awards banquet, the Fayette

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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County Chamber of Commerce named Mayor Taylor the 2004 Citizen of the Year.

During Mayor Taylor's tenure, Fayette County has been designated as a Three-Star Pilot Program county by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. In addition to facilitating growth planning and recruiting industries to the county, Mayor Taylor is working to create a county-wide fire system and a justice complex.

The list of achievements goes on and on, but it is clear that Mayor Taylor has worked tirelessly on behalf of the County's residents.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mayor Taylor on his record of achievement and thank him for his continued good service to the people of Fayette County, Tennessee.

NOT ONE MORE DIME

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today the House is going to be asked to approve a supplemental appropriation of \$82 billion, most of which will go to continue the war in Iraq.

We now know more than 2 years later that Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction which was the immediate occasion of America's intervention. We know that Iraq had neither the intention nor the capability of attacking the United States. Yet this country has spent over \$200 billion and today is determined to spend another \$82 billion in furtherance of a war we did not have to fight at great cost of human life, the lives of our troops and the lives of innocent Iraqi civilians.

Yet while we are contemplating going ahead and spending \$82 billion, we should be thinking about the fact that on January 30 the Special Inspector General for the Iraq reconstruction issued a report that the administration's Coalition Provisional Authority mismanaged \$9 billion in a development fund for Iraq funds. Not a single penny of the \$9 billion could be accounted for by the Inspector General.

The development fund for Iraq consisted of Iraqi oil revenues intended for reconstruction and humanitarian efforts in the war-torn country, but they cannot account for a single penny of it. Now this government is asking for \$82 billion, most of it for Iraq. They could not account for a single penny of the money that the Coalition Provisional Authority, their authority, was responsible for. How can we give them another dime when they cannot account for \$9 billion?

We have people who do not have decent education in this country, decent housing, our highways are falling apart except for our transportation bill. We need to focus on why they do not and have not produced a single shred of evidence of what happened to that \$9 billion. The American people have a right to know.

SOCIAL SECURITY HAS TO BE FIXED

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

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, Social Security needs to be fixed. It is a system that is currently broken, and it must be fixed. It will go bankrupt by the time the eldest baby boomers retire. We need to act sooner rather than later to fix this program. Every day we wait it costs us more and more.

When Social Security began there were roughly 40 workers working for one retiree. During the 1950s it was 16 workers per one retiree. Soon it will only be two workers per one retiree. Without reform it will go bankrupt, and soon. So it is not a matter of I want to fix Social Security or I think it should be fixed. Social Security must be fixed. And the best way to do that is to transform the system into one where workers can put a portion of their Social Security savings into personal accounts.

Investing in government bonds and stocks will give them a better return on their investment than the current system gives.

We must fix Social Security. We must fix Social Security now.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to oppose cuts to the Community Development Block Grant program in the Republican budget.

The Community Development Block Grant program provides critical funding for public safety, affordable housing, economic growth initiatives for cities, counties and Native American communities.

The district I represent strongly opposes these cuts. And I have heard from a lot of people, the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission, the League of California Cities, the Southern California Association of Nonprofit Housing, and mayors from various cities in California, in addition to the County Native American Indian Commission. All of them strongly oppose the proposed Republican budget which seeks to cut back important funding for cities like mine, particularly one that I represent.

The city of Rosemead has used this vital money to help provide residential rehabilitation assistance to over 100 elderly and disabled households. In addition, they have done testing for lead poisoning in low-income homes.

So I urge my colleagues to enact a budget package that contains sufficient funding for community development that helps the underserved neighborhoods, like mine in the 32nd district, throughout the country. I urge my colleagues to support the Spratt alternative.

GO GATORS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate one of the Nation's top public universities, the University of Florida, and their men's basketball team on their first-ever SEC title.

This was a Gators 40th try for the SEC title against a team that has defined success in this event, the Kentucky Wildcats.

The Gators beat the No. 4 Wildcats 70 to 53 on Sunday, March 13 in Atlanta, Georgia's Georgia Dome in front of 25,000 fans.

This win marked the second time in 8 days that Florida had beaten Kentucky, which increased their winning streak to seven in a row. This winning streak comes at a very hot time, as the Florida Gators are heading into this year's NCAA tournament. The Gators are playing their first tourney game this Friday in Nashville, Tennessee, against Ohio. I wish them the best of luck in the NCAA tournament and congratulate them for their first-ever SEC title. Go Gators.

NOT AN INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday while testifying before a Senate committee, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said on the tax cuts, "It turns out we were all wrong" about President Bush's tax cuts.

In his book, Ron Suskind quotes the Fed Chairman as telling Secretary O'Neill, "Without the triggers, that tax cut is irresponsible fiscal policy."

Despite his private views, Chairman Greenspan publicly supported the tax cuts without reservation. I only wish he had expressed publicly what he knew privately.

Mr. Greenspan went on to say that he wanted to use the tax cuts to eliminate the budget surplus. Well, he succeeded beyond his wildest imagination. We now have \$2 trillion in additional debt because of those tax cuts. Now where do we send that bill, Mr. Greenspan?

The Fed Chairman would have us believe that no one could have seen this coming, that it was an honest mistake. I know something about spin. Mr. Greenspan, that is spin. Now, Mr. Greenspan advocates making tax cuts for millionaires permanent while advocating a cut in Social Security benefits for the middle class, all the while bemoaning the rising deficits this country has seen and \$2 trillion of additional debt.

Thank you very much for that independent analysis, Mr. Greenspan. Mr. Greenspan, you know better.