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No. 13

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 9, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JO ANN EMERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend David F. Allen, Pastor, Welcome Baptist Church, Beckley, West Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, creator of the universe and maker of this free and great Nation in which we live, it is once again that a few of Your humble servants have come before Your throne in prayer. We come first of all to ask Your divine forgiveness for all of our transgressions, and to thank You for how You have blessed and showed favor to the United States of America.

Heavenly Father, we pray that You would forever keep us mindful of what the scripture says, "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

Great Jehovah, we ask You to bless all of our leaders, and we ask special blessings upon this 109th Congress. Lord, give them great wisdom to deal with hindsight as well as a supernatural ability to deal with foresight.

God, lead us in the paths that You would have us to go and direct Congress in every decision that they must make.

Father, we will gladly give Your name the praise for being so good to us,

hearing us, and granting our many petitions. 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 her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PENCE 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.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND DAVID F. ALLEN

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

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, it is indeed a high honor for me to rise today to introduce our guest chaplain, the Reverend David F. Allen, Pastor of the Welcome Baptist Church, located in my Third Congressional District in my hometown of Beckley, West Virginia.

Pastor Allen was born and raised in Greentown, West Virginia, and is one of eight children raised by his mother, a single parent. He was educated in the Fayette County public school system and holds several teaching certificates and certifications through the National Baptist Convention.

Pastor Allen received his call to the preaching ministry at the age of 14, and since that time he has actively

pursued his calling. He has been the Pastor of Welcome Baptist Church for the past 12 years.

Pastor Allen is the Vice Moderator and District Missionary of the Winding Gulf District Association. He has served as Supply Minister to many area churches and does extensive work in the evangelistic field.

Pastor Allen is also the founding Bishop of Tsidkenu Ministries, a State-chartered outreach ministry. In addition, Pastor Allen is the President of the Christian Ministers Alliance of Beckley, West Virginia, and vicinity.

He is married to Gloria J. Allen, who is with us today, and they are the proud parents of five children and grandparents to five grandchildren. Pastor Allen states that he is a God-called, spirit-filled preacher of God's Word.

Madam Speaker, again it is an honor for me to introduce and welcome to the U.S. House of Representatives the Reverend David F. Allen, Pastor of the Welcome Baptist Church in Beckley, West Virginia, to deliver our opening prayer. Thank you.

MTV'S PROGRAMMING HURTS KIDS

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, it seems that Music Television plays a lot more than music these days. From reality TV to tasteless dramas, MTV has become one of cable's largest purveyors of smut.

A report released by the Parents Television Council found that the level of sex and foul language on MTV is far higher than anything found on adult-targeted television. The report says that children watching MTV view an average of nine sexual scenes, 18 sexual depictions and 17 instances of sexual dialogue and innuendo per hour.

□ 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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A study done by RAND last year shows that kids this age often adopt the sexual behaviors and attitudes of their favorite TV characters. By glamorizing drug and alcohol abuse, sexual promiscuity and violent behavior, MTV lies to our kids. Instead of making them cool, MTV is often harming our kids.

Many say this is no big deal, but they are wrong. MTV reaches 73 percent of boys, 78 percent of girls ages 12 to 19. That is why this study and this report are so disturbing and so important.

IRAQ OIL PROCEEDS

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, prior to invading Iraq, looking for weapons of mass destruction, this administration looked the other way at illegal shipments of Iraqi oil to Jordan, Syria and Turkey, which earned at least \$8.5 billion for Saddam Hussein's regime. Now the administration cannot account for an additional \$9 billion from Iraqi oil proceeds which was supposed to go to help the Iraqi people.

While Congress busies itself about how \$2 billion was illegally diverted to Saddam from the U.N.'s Oil-For-Food Program, it would also be instructive to find out why it was apparently administration policy to let Saddam Hussein earn four times that amount through illegal oil shipments.

Before Congress gives another \$80 billion for the war in Iraq, the American people would find it instructive for Congress to ask what happened with the unaccounted-for \$9 billion which also came from Iraq oil proceeds.

Madam Speaker, before the war, Iraq was about oil. As the war continues, it is about billions in unaccounted-for oil revenues which the U.S. had custody of, responsibility for; and now nobody knows nothing.

MODERNIZING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, 1 week ago in this Chamber the President of the United States began a national conversation about modernizing Social Security. I think there are a few things every American needs to know about Social Security reform.

First and foremost, if you are over the age of 55, Social Security reform will not affect you.

Secondly, to every working family, small business and family farm, we will bring about this reform without raising payroll taxes on working Americans.

The third thing we need to know is, the current system cannot afford to pay promised benefits to younger workers, so we have to bring the new and powerful idea of personal retire-

ment accounts to give Americans the opportunity to make the same amount of dollars work harder for them in the future.

President Franklin Roosevelt, on January 17, 1935, said in a speech to Congress about Social Security that its second wave would be "compulsory, contributory annuities which in time will establish a self-supporting system for those now young and for future generations." President Roosevelt's vision for Social Security was right for the 20th century, and his second vision is right for the 21st.

\$750 BILLION "ROUNDING ERROR"

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, we have all done it. We all make mistakes. They are unavoidable. Yesterday we learned that the White House budget made a tiny little mistake, a \$750 billion "rounding error."

According to the President's budget, the new Medicare prescription drug benefit is now going to cost the taxpayers \$1.2 trillion, not the \$400 billion they told us just last year. That is quite a difference from last year when the White House budget director, the man responsible for the money, assured everybody, "The Congressional Budget Office estimate for the prescription drug bill was and remains \$395 billion."

And lest we forget, last year during debate on the Medicare benefit, our distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON), chairman of a House subcommittee on Ways and Means, "I am pleased that the President has proposed to strengthen Medicare with a \$400 billion plan which adds prescription drug coverage."

Well, the joke is on the taxpayers and the senior citizens of America. Rather than funding \$400 billion, it is a \$1.2 trillion "rounding error." What is worse, this mammoth new program does nothing to reduce the cost of prescription drugs. We need reimportation legislation to deal with the affordability and cost of prescription drugs.

These are the same individuals who are now trying to sell Americans on their fix for Social Security.

SOCIAL SECURITY NEEDS BIPARTISAN REFORM

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, last week the Democrats booed when the President laid out his plan for Social Security. I promise one thing: I will not boo when and if they lay out their plan.

I welcome the Democrats' ideas on Social Security. I think it is very important to make a bipartisan reform.

We need to protect and preserve Social Security not just for the next election, but for the next generation. I beg my Democrat colleagues to put a plan on the table. We will not boo. We will look at it and take the best of your ideas and combine them with the best ideas of the Senate, the House and the White House.

We all seem to agree, in the year 2018, more money will be going out of the trust fund than is going in. We all agree in the year 2042, if we do not whack benefits 27 percent, the program will be going bankrupt. We all agree that in the 1950s, there were 16 workers for every one retiree, and today there are 3.3 workers for every retiree. And we all know this because the Democrats participate in the Federal Employee Thrift Savings accounts, which allow them to choose interest-earning accounts similar to the personal accounts the President has proposed.

Madam Speaker, I again ask the Democrats, Please put your ideas on the table; we will not boo.

HONORING RALPH LOPEZ

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

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments of Ralph Lopez as the sheriff of Bexar County. Sheriff Lopez was reelected to serve the people of Bexar County for a fourth term this past November, 2004. He has dutifully served the people as sheriff since 1993, and continues to excel as one of Bexar County's most memorable sheriffs.

Before serving as sheriff, he was a decorated member of the San Antonio Police Department for 35 years, and was a cofounder of the Crime Stoppers Program in 1983.

While a member of the San Antonio Police Department, Sheriff Lopez worked towards receiving a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

Since the early 1990s, Sheriff Lopez has received numerous awards, including the Outstanding Political Service Award from the Texas Public Workers Association in 1996 and the Barbara Jordan Award for Excellence in Public Service in 1995.

Along with his many accomplishments for the people of Bexar County, Sheriff Lopez has been married to his lovely wife, Nancy, for 46 years. I ask that we honor Sheriff Lopez, who exemplifies what is the best of San Antonio.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT RIDDLED WITH PROBLEMS

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the