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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

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

By Your divine providence, Lord God, through free election and the personal decisions of the American people, You have assembled these individuals as Members of the House of Representatives.

They are the men and the women who will create the laws that will guide the Nation, direct the behavior of the people of this country, and, through the appropriation process, shape the priorities of the future.

In Your judgment, Lord, they are the ones who are adequate for the moment to address the problems and needs of Your people.

Because the United States is regarded as the most powerful Nation in the world at this time, this Congress, as it is, becomes Your instrument to unite people around the globe and accomplish Your holy will in our day.

Knowing their awesome responsibilities and understanding the limitations of human nature, we, the people, commend them to You, Almighty God, for we place our trust in You now and forever. 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 Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GUTKNECHT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic 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 agreed to the following resolution:

In the Senate of the United States, June 13, 2005.

Whereas J. James Exon served in the United States Army Signal Corps from 1942-1945 and in the United States Army Reserve from 1945-1949;

Whereas J. James Exon served as Governor of the State of Nebraska from 1971-1979;

Whereas J. James Exon served the people of Nebraska with distinction for 18 years in the United States Senate where he was a proponent of a strong national defense and knowledgeable source of geopolitical matters;

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable J. James Exon, formerly a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions of the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable J. James Exon.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 483. An act to designate a United States courthouse in Brownsville, Texas, as the "Reynaldo G. Garza and Filemon B. Vela United States Courthouse".

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1140. An act to designate the State Route 1 Bridge in the State of Delaware as the "Senator William V. Roth, Jr. Bridge".

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amendment by Public Law 99-7, the

Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the One Hundred Ninth Congress;

The Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH).

The Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS).

The Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR).

The Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to ten 1-minute requests on each side.

SHAME ON CONGRESS IF WE DO NOT BAN CLONING

(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, Edmund Burke once said: "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." I might change that to read: "All that is necessary for human cloning to begin in America is for Congress to do nothing."

When Korean scientists announced last month they had cloned 18 sick people and killed their clones to get their stem cells, some thought that would provide the motivation for the Congress to ban human cloning. They were wrong.

The history of cloning is replete with defects, deformities, and death. It took 277 tries to clone Dolly the sheep. That is 276 dead and deformed sheep. And yet Congress does nothing to stop human cloning from happening in America. The House has done very little to force the Senate to act, and the House has yet to take up a bill this year.

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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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Human cloning is wrong and dangerous, no matter what cause it serves. Yet Congress and its leaders refuse to act, content to wait for a politically opportune time for a vote. But scientists are not operating on our electoral timetable. While we wait, cloning is coming down the pike, and it will happen here sooner than we know if we do not act.

Those who would delay and do nothing will bring shame on Congress and on this body if we do not stop it.

DEALING WITH PROBLEMS FACING GULF WAR VETERANS

(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, Abraham Lincoln in his second inaugural said: "We shall care for him who has borne the battle." Today, men and women who have served this country in the Gulf War are waiting for this Congress to respond affirmatively to their medical needs.

Congress took steps in the 1990s by authorizing a scientific research program that looked into Gulf War Syndrome, and that report from the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf Veterans Illness found out that the illnesses suffered by Gulf War veterans, these often debilitating problems, could not be scientifically explained by stress or psychiatric illnesses; that veterans were having problems with their neurological and immunological systems, and they were having it with a frequency that was twice those of peer veterans not deployed.

They cited a list of possible exposures, which included chemical weapons, biological weapons, drugs to protect them from biological and chemical weapons, depleted uranium, oil well fire smoke, diesel fuel, jet fuel, and on and on and on.

Today, Congress will have before it a budget-neutral amendment that will give us a chance to do something about funding a program to help deal with the problems that Gulf War veterans are experiencing.

PASSING NEEDED PENSION REFORM

(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, pension plans are on the minds of the American people. Just typing the words "pension plan" into an Internet search engine yields over 4,000 returns in less than a second.

Americans are very concerned about their retirements. Couples who were planning where they will spend their golden years now are trying to figure out what to do with shrinking pension checks, as businesses struggle to fund their pension plans.

Government and taxpayer bailouts are not fair to the public, and they are not a solution to the problem. Recent hearings here in the House have made the case crystal clear as experts have said that they think we need industry-specific reform.

United Airlines recently dumped their pension plan onto the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation, so now thousands and thousands of their employees face an uncertain future and the PBGC goes billions of dollars further into the red. This is a no-win situation for everyone involved.

Mr. Speaker, let us take action. Let us be proactive, and let us pass much-needed pension reform now.

ANSWERS NEEDED FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING IRAQ

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, if you do not know where you are going, you are never going to get there. Another truism is that you do not begin a war without a plan to win the peace.

Is it now well past time for the legislative branch to ask of the executive branch the very things that our constituents are demanding of us: What is the White House's strategy for success in Iraq? How many Iraqi troops need to be adequately trained and sufficiently equipped, to take over the military protection of that country? How many Iraqi police forces are needed to restore law and order? How many more American dollars are needed to rebuild the infrastructure so that nation can be economically viable? And what does this administration consider to be political stability?

These are reasonable questions. We should have had the answers before we went to war, but we must demand them now. It is unfair, not only to the mothers and fathers of our soldiers, but to our senior military officers of our country not to know where they are headed in Iraq.

RESTORING HOPE, ORDER, AND PURPOSE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

(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, the world has entrusted peacekeepers from the United Nations with the tremendous task of promoting peace and international cooperation throughout the globe.

Unfortunately, for years we have watched U.N. peacekeepers neglect their lofty goals and actually contribute to the demise of war-torn nations. From the jungles of the Congo to the swamps of Sierra Leone, U.N. peacekeepers have committed crimes,

including sexual exploitation, corruption, sex trafficking, and the systematic rape of women. In Bosnia, the U.N. quashed an investigation into the involvement of U.N. police in enslavement of Eastern European women.

Today, Congress has a rare opportunity to restore hope, order, and purpose to the U.N. Decades of U.N. waste, fraud, and abuse prove that strong action is the only remedy for the problems plaguing the organization. By linking U.S. support to U.N. reform, we can ensure the U.N. peacekeepers rightfully fulfill their mission.

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

THE GROWING NATIONAL DEBT

(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, these are tough economic times; but our economy is resilient, and I trust that we will eventually turn things around. But even then, this administration has created structural problems that will hinder us over the long run.

This administration continues to set economic records, only they are the wrong economic records. We have set under this administration a record trade deficit of over \$600 billion, a record budget deficit of over \$450 billion, and they have raised the debt ceiling three times. As we stand here, our national debt is over \$7.8 trillion, and that is over \$26,000 for each citizen.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell my colleagues, that is not the legacy that I want to leave to my children and my grandchildren and the children of America. I hope it is not the legacy that Members want to leave.

REFORM THE UNITED NATIONS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to help stop sexual predators among the United Nations peacekeeping forces and vote in favor of the Hyde U.N. Reform Act of 2005.

It is monstrous that an international organization charged with assisting nations to rebuild after major turmoil has experienced an alarming number of scandals involving sexual harassment, rape, sex trafficking, misconduct, and harassment. Even one instance of these terrible crimes is appalling and unacceptable; but, unbelievably, over the past decade their appearance is frequent.

United Nations peacekeepers, the very people who have been sworn to protect and assist those most in need, in some instances have been the perpetrators of these deplorable crimes against the most vulnerable of our population, refugees. These crimes are yet another example of the ways in which