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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOUSTANY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 24, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, Jr. 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 God of the heavens, without our realizing it, we are swirling around the sun on this revolving planet. We tend to think we are standing still and the sun is moving over us. The summer sun lengthens our days and, like an explosion, new life bursts around us.

Knowing how important summertime is to children, we ask You to protect them and help them to discover Your gracious presence in the midst of their fun. As Americans, we bless You for this time of year and thank You for family picnics, barbecues and baseball games.

Guide the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives in their work today. Grant them and their staffs a beautiful weekend filled with summer blessings, good times shared with family and friends.

In their recreation, their plentitude and their free time, renew them in Spirit and give them grateful and generous hearts. Ever mindful of Your constant love, may they offer You thanks 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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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. 1812. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a demonstration grant program to provide patient navigator services to reduce barriers and improve health care outcomes, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 163. Concurrent resolution honoring the Sigma Chi Fraternity on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will receive five 1-minute requests on each side.

NEW PLAN ON SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the need to strengthen Social Security.

As a former president of a community college, and as a mother and grandmother, I have an obligation to ensure that our children and grandchildren are not putting their hard-earned money into a system that is going broke.

Social Security is sound for today's seniors and for those nearing retirement, but it needs to be improved for younger generations.

This week, my colleagues on the House Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), laid out a good first step to help ensure that Social Security will be there for our children and grandchildren.

The GROW accounts which they described would be owned by individuals. Each worker would have an account with his or her name on it, and the accounts would be assets they can leave to their loved ones as part of their estate.

And for those of us who believe that Americans can spend their money better than the government can, this plan is welcome news, because when money is placed in one's own account, that money cannot be spent on other government programs.

My colleagues took a great first step. I am hopeful that the Democratic leadership will soon decide their obligations to the American public go far beyond these partisan halls.

UNWORTHY OF OUR DISCOURSE

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

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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minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday the President's top political adviser stated, and I quote, "Liberals saw the savagery of the 9/11 attacks and wanted to prepare indictments and offer therapy and understanding for our attackers."

This statement is offensive, divisive, and patently false.

Three days after those barbaric attacks, this House voted 420 to 1 to use all necessary and appropriate force against those responsible.

The Senate passed the same measure 98 to 0.

I do not know whether Mr. Rove's statement was calculated to exploit collective national pain for partisan political gain, although his slash-and-burn track record speaks for itself.

But Mr. Rove should apologize and retract it. And the President of the United States, who represents not Republicans, not Democrats, but all Americans, should repudiate it today.

The President came to office stating he wanted to change the tone in Washington. Today, today he can demonstrate that he meant it.

FIFTH AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I thought I would read part of the United States Constitution. Maybe the folks down the street at the Supreme Court will hear part of it.

No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation. This is the fifth amendment of the Constitution, Mr. Speaker.

This simple amendment does not permit government to take our homes and give it to some private entity, some private developer to build a parking lot. But yet the Supreme Court yesterday misinterpreted this simple provision in our Constitution; and now a private corporation, with the aid of government, can take our homes without our consent and build some shopping mall.

This amendment was to protect our homes from others who want to take our land. The purpose of this amendment was for public use, like a school. The Supreme Court once again has got it wrong and allows this modern-day land grabbing by government for big developers without our consent. The Supreme Court, once again, has lost its way.

COMMENTS OF KARL ROVE

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, Republicans began this week when one Mem-

ber accused the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEX), me, and Democrats in general of being anti-Christian. The gentleman retracted his comments.

They are ending this week with Karl Rove characterizing Democrats as weak in responding to 9/11 and endangering our troops. He needs to retract his remarks.

My district is 40 miles from Ground Zero. Democrats and Republicans died in that rubble. Democrats and Republicans are fighting and dying in Iraq and Afghanistan. Mr. Rove dishonors them by politicizing 9/11. He dishonors our troops by dividing them at a time of war.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago or 3 weeks ago we had the Armed Services markup on the defense authorization. Democrats offered amendment after amendment to strengthen our troops, better force protection, deeper investments, better quality of life for their families. Republicans opposed those amendments because we could not afford it. They said that the tax cuts that Mr. Rove engineered were more important.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Rove must repudiate his comments. The President must ask Mr. Rove to repudiate his comments. This is the first administration that I know of that is every day seeking to divide the American people during a time of war.

WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY

(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, President Bush and Republicans are working hard to protect Social Security for today's retirees and strengthen the program for future generations. This week Republicans offered several positive proposals that will help solve the problems plaguing Social Security.

However, to ensure that we find a lasting solution, Democrats should join us at the negotiating table. On Wednesday, The Washington Post editorial page questioned: "Democrats need to ask themselves, now what? Is it enough to keep sticking their fingers in their ears while saying no? Failing to act now will make the problem harder to fix down the road. Cuts or tax increases will have to be steeper the longer the problem goes unaddressed."

President Bush has invited Democrats to share their ideas on Social Security, but unfortunately his request has been met with silence or obstruction. While inaction may be politically safe, it does not help the millions of Americans who rely on Social Security.

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

H.R. 3010, LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Labor-HHS appropriations bill we will continue debating later today is a stunning example of the impact that this Congress's misplaced priorities can have on what most consider to be a basic human right, access to a quality education.

With this bill we have made a conscious choice. While we give away tax cuts worth \$140,000 dollars a year to millionaires, families earning \$30,000 a year will not be able to afford sending their children to college. It is an unconscionable choice that defies our values.

The bill turns its back on priorities like No Child Left Behind and IDEA, which have been cut by \$40 billion and \$4 billion respectively, as well as College Work Study and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, which are frozen for the second year in a row.

Before I was elected to Congress, I spent 30 years as a college administrator. I came to understand just how difficult it is for students and their families to afford college.

Every day I worked with them to scrape up the money, grants, scholarships, whatever we could find to help them realize part of the American Dream, the opportunity to earn a college education.

Mr. Speaker, with this bill we have made a conscious choice to provide more comfort for the comfortable at the expense of those who are trying to make a better life for themselves. Our students deserve better.

NEW CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS, GEORGIA

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the new city of Sandy Springs. A celebration that has been 30 years in the making took place in Fulton County, Georgia, on Tuesday night as 94 percent of voters chose to incorporate into what will be Metropolitan Atlanta's second largest city.

Countless people worked long and hard to make this city a possibility. All those folks who put in the time and effort into making the city of Sandy Springs a reality are to be raised up as an example of the positive outcome from fervent belief and diligent commitment.

I have always believed that the government closest to the people is the most responsive. And it is only fair for these citizens to have their local tax dollars to better their own community and have their own city council, one much more attuned to their needs and concerns.