

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend W. Don Young, Senior Pastor, Heartland Worship Center, Paducah, Kentucky, offered the following prayer:

My Lord God in heaven, the leaders of this Nation pause every day to acknowledge Your grace, Your mercy, and most of all Your blessings. They acknowledge by this exercise that this Nation was built on your principles.

And Father God, it appears that we are the players that will determine the destiny of this beloved United States of America. Good people all over the world believe we are standing on a precipice at this moment in history.

Either America renews her relationship with You, or we continue our moral free fall, which, sadly to say, will ultimately mean our demise. We, the pastors, political leaders, we just cannot allow that to happen. So God help us to guide this great people in such a way that You can bless America again.

Please help us to honor You and You alone with the decisions that will be made today and in future sessions. It is in my Lord's name that I ask these things. 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 Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARNAHAN 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.

RECOGNIZING PASTER W. DON YOUNG

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

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Pastor Don Young of the Heartland Worship Center in Paducah, Kentucky, for leading today's opening prayer.

Pastor Young was born and raised in Childress, Texas, and following his graduation from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, he became the founding pastor of the Bible Baptist Church in Paducah, Kentucky, where he ministered to the needs of the founding 29 members of that church.

Pastor Young has been there now for 45 years, and the church has 3,000 members and is now known as the Heartland Worship Center. Average Sunday attendance is 1,700, largely because of Pastor Young's unique preaching style and the programs he has initiated to meet the spiritual needs of people from all walks of life.

Heartland's vision statement is: Influencing people to come, instructing people to grow, inspiring people to go.

Under Pastor Young's leadership, the center supports 29 missionaries in foreign countries and the United States, assists the members of the congregation with counseling needs, supports the mission projects endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention, helps with the spiritual and moral development of our youth, and honors our men and women in uniform as they prepare for deployment overseas.

Heartland Worship Center is blessed to have such a dedicated servant whose compassion and faith have guided him throughout his entire life.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in welcoming Pastor Young and thanking him for today's prayer.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION NEEDS HELP

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, you remember the old Peanuts cartoon strip, and the booth with the sign on it that said, "The doctor is in"? Well, too many times these days nobody is in at the doctor's office, and we are not currently improving the situation.

Many doctors are being forced to shut their doors and leave the practice of medicine due to skyrocketing insurance premiums. In addition, medical schools are seeing fewer young people apply, not as many people interested in becoming doctors.

This week we will be talking a lot about problems and solutions to the challenges we face in health care, and a few questions we must answer are: Where will our doctors come from? What can we do to increase the number and maintain the quality of those wanting careers in medicine?

Skyrocketing medical school costs raise critical questions. Is the cost of medical schools preventing some of our best and brightest from choosing to become a doctor? How will this affect the quality of care for all patients?

Mr. Speaker, patient choice is about being able to choose the doctor that is right for you. If bright young people are not going into medicine, we all lose. Let us work to improve our system so patients will be able to have the right to choose the doctor that is best for them.

CAFTA IS BAD FOR AMERICA

(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, the North American Free Trade Agreement caused 5.6 million well-paying jobs to leave the United States. If they were replaced at all, they were replaced by insecure, low-wage employment paying 77 percent less.

CAFTA, modeled after the North American Free Trade Agreement, will hurt workers in the United States and Central America. Under CAFTA workers are much more likely to lose their jobs than find better ones, especially if they work in U.S. manufacturing or Central American agriculture, small business or government.

U.S. workers will have to compete in a race to the bottom with sweatshop wages and low standards in Central America reinforced by the weak labor provisions in CAFTA. Provisions that will stay in effect are those like those in El Salvador where they fail to provide for reinstatement of workers fired because of antiunion discrimination; as in Guatemala, where the labor code mandates that unions obtain permission from the labor unions to strike; as in Honduras, where the law prohibits the formation of more than one trade union in a single enterprise.

CAFTA will result in lower wages for the people in this country. It will result in the loss of jobs in this country, and it should be defeated.

REEXAMINE THE BRAC PROCESS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I have some concerns with the base closure process currently taking place. Under the recommendations, Ellington Field in Houston, Texas, is scheduled to lose all of the F-16s and the 147th Fighter Wing. This would endanger the ability to protect southeast Texas.

The base closure criteria is based upon military and strategic importance, but it also needs to factor in homeland security risk assessments as well. The F-16s at Ellington Field protect Houston, the fourth largest city in the United States.

The city has two major airports. It has the largest medical center in the United States. It is, of course, the home of NASA. It has the Port of Houston, the second largest port in the United States, and two additional ports, Port Arthur and the Port of

Beaumont where one-third of the military cargo goes to Iraq, not to mention the petrochemical area and the energy capital of the world.

So, Mr. Speaker, I plan on introducing a resolution in Congress this week that will call on the President to factor in homeland security in the base closure process and disapprove of any recommendation unless the President is convinced that the recommendations will not adversely affect homeland security in the United States. We need to keep the F-16s flying over Houston.

POSTAL MODERNIZATION

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today we will be considering important legislation dealing with the modernization of the Postal Service. It contains some important provisions I have been working on since I came to Congress to make sure that the postal facilities, which are the cornerstone of a livable community, are, in fact, playing by the same rules as the rest of America.

Too often the Postal Service has not played by those rules, with bad results in site location, building and remodeling. While the Postal Service has made some improvements in recent years managing these facilities, this legislation makes clear that the Postal Service will obey local land zoning, planning and environmental regulations, very important developments, playing by the same rules as the rest of America.

It will hasten the day when the U.S. Government itself as the largest landlord, landowner and employer, will lead by example, and behave the way we expect the rest of Americans to behave. It will not cost any extra, but it will help make American families safer, healthier and more economically secure.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, today the Senate will hold hearings to start the process for comprehensive immigration reform. We will soon start those same hearings hopefully in the House.

As we begin this, I simply want to remind everyone here that we believe in the rule of law. We need to enforce the rule of law. We need to enforce our Nation's laws, but in order to do so, we have to have laws that we can enforce.

Those who say let us enforce the law, the current law, and then have a temporary worker program have yet to offer a proposal to actually enforce the current law, which would require that the 10- to 15 million illegals who are now, most of them, working in jobs would actually be deported to their country of origin and subject to a 10-year bar from reentry.

If that is what people mean by enforcing the current law, then please offer a proposal to do so. But, if not, then let us work together on a comprehensive plan for comprehensive immigration reform that has a guest worker plan and also a provision to enforce the new law. That is what we need to do in this country.

NEED FOR ACCOUNTABILITY ON THE CIA OPERATIVE LEAK

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, as the sordid tale is unfolding about the Bush administration's outing of one of our covert intelligence agents, as that unfolds, there is an aspect that I just learned about, I wanted to share with my colleagues, last week.

Last week with some Senators, we had a hearing where we listened to former CIA agents about the impact of this event on our national security system, and these four agents spoke as one. And what they said was interesting to me, because what they said was the outing was bad enough where they destroyed the covert status of one of our spies, but what is almost as bad or worse is that the President has refused to take action to deal with whoever is responsible for that wrongful act.

And to them that was a message that the President just did not honor the trust we have to keep the secrecy of our spies secret. That makes it more difficult to recruit. We are trying to recruit people for cells in London right now. How are we going to recruit them when we out, the administration outs, a spy and does not take action to deal with that?

That is as disturbing as the outing originally. The President needs to act. We need to pass House Resolution 363 to get to the bottom of this.

SUPPORT CAFTA

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I have always believed that trade means jobs, and that is especially true on the Indiana farm. As we consider the Central America Free Trade Agreement, think of this.

Today U.S. agricultural goods exported to that region of the world face tariffs and barriers of 15 to 35 percent. By ending the one-way street, CAFTA will essentially result in my State seeing up to \$41 million a year in additional agricultural exports.

Trade means jobs. Not that this is a new idea. Adam Smith wrote in *A Wealth of Nations* in 1776, "All for ourselves and nothing for other people seems, in every age of the world, to have been the vile maxim of the masters of mankind."

Even Benjamin Franklin said, "No nation was ever ruined by trade." And Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote in his personal journal, We rail at trade, but the historian of the world will see that it was the principle of liberty; that it settled America, destroyed feudalism, made peace and keeps peace, and abolished slavery.

All of those great American Founders and thinkers were right. Trade means jobs. I urge my colleagues to support CAFTA in that spirit.

OPPOSITION TO CAFTA

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to address my strong opposition to the Central American Free Trade Agreement. I oppose CAFTA not because I oppose trade, but because I oppose unfair trade agreements that fail to stand up for our national economic interests and protect American jobs.

□ 1015

There are a number of problems with this agreement that make it impossible for me and many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it. The blatant deficiencies regarding environmental standards, labor standards, and our agriculture interests are the most glaring.

Now, this Congress can consider the CAFTA proposal only on an up-or-down vote with no amendments allowed. Entering into an agreement that does not require the Central American countries to strengthen their environmental laws does a disservice to the workers and citizens of all countries involved.

Our choice is clear, Mr. Speaker. I urge each of my colleagues to reject this unfair trade agreement and send our representatives back to renegotiate a better deal for the American people.

HONORING SERGEANT SHAMUS GOARE

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to reflect on the remarkable life of Staff Sergeant Shamus O. Goare, who died June 28 in service to his country. A native of Danville, Ohio, Sergeant Goare was killed when his Chinook transport helicopter came under attack by a rocket propelled grenade in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan. He was 28 years old.

Sergeant Goare gave the ultimate sacrifice to his country. By celebrating his life, we will ensure that in death he will not be forgotten.

Sergeant Goare joined the Army in 1994. As a member of the elite Night Stalkers, Sergeant Goare willingly took on some of the most dangerous missions presented. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the