



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2005

No. 144

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 3, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CANDICE S. MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Lonnie Mitchell, Sr., Pastor, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Spokane, Washington, offered the following prayer:

God of mercy, God of grace, pour out Your spirit upon those chosen to conduct the business of this great Nation in this legislative body.

We come to You, Lord, with deep reverence and confidence in Your power to sustain equality and justice for all through those who swore to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America.

We commend to Your care and guidance each member of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of our government. Order their steps in Your word of truth that You may accomplish Your will.

Lord, we pray for those who have lost their lives from war or natural disaster. We pray for poverty-stricken lives all over this world. We pray for all families affected by life's calamities.

Lord, let freedom reign in the hearts and minds of our national leaders to bring about the ideology of the Founding Fathers: One Nation Under God.

Respectful of all faiths, I humbly ask this in the name of Jesus. 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 Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WESTMORELAND 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 REV. LONNIE MITCHELL, SR.

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

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Congresswoman CATHY McMORRIS in honor of Pastor Lonnie Mitchell, Sr. He has shepherded the people of Bethel AME Church in Spokane, Washington, for 14 years, overseeing numerous efforts to love and serve the people of Spokane. His church stands as a beacon in one of Spokane's neediest neighborhoods, truly striving to be a cathedral of love where everybody is somebody in Spokane and Jesus is the center of the attraction.

Under the direction of Pastor Mitchell, Bethel AME is changing the face of its surrounding community through many ministries, including the Richard Allen Youth Academy, the Richard Allen Apartments, Allen Enterprises, the GED education programs, the Neighborhood Networks Program, the Equal Justice Program, and others.

Pastor Mitchell and the Bethel AME family have recently stepped out again on a new mission to help the people of Spokane through the Emmanuel Family Life Center. This project will continue to help families and individuals receive the help they need to succeed and live freely.

In addition to being dedicated to his church family, Lonnie Mitchell is also a man devoted to his wife, Elisha, and his three children, L.J., ChaeAnna, and Camille.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who is leading a church to reach out to those who need it most. I know Congresswoman McMORRIS is honored to have Pastor Mitchell in her home district and to know that he will always be laboring to help and love others in their community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain additional 1-minute speeches, up to 10 per side.

JOURNALIST NEAL PIERCE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Last night, friends and colleagues gathered to honor 30 years of outstanding journalistic accomplishments of Neal Pierce, a founder of the National Journal, editor of the Congressional Quarterly, a prolific writer on public affairs, a syndicated columnist, and author of a dozen books.

His most important contribution has been his keen observations about State and local governments, especially about America's regions, our metropolitan areas that have been the location of the growth and cultural and economic progress that has made such an impact on America.

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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He has not merely chronicled these developments. His insightful analysis has helped make communities better. That is the ultimate role of the journalist and is deeply appreciated by his many friends, admirers, and readers, to say nothing of millions of Americans who have benefited from his analysis. We thank you, Neal.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN, FATHER OF TEXAS

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, on this day 212 years ago, the Father of Texas, Stephen F. Austin, was born. Austin, only 27 years of age, organized, financed, and led the first legal colony of Americans to settle a portion of Mexico called Tejas, or Texas as we call it.

In 1822, 300 families entered Texas, this fantastic frontier on the plains of civilization. Although the settlers were loyal to Mexico, a new Mexican Government soon began abolishing the civil rights of the colonists, so Austin went to Mexico to voice concerns over the abuses, but he was imprisoned for over 2 years.

After finally being released, Austin and other Texans decided to go their own way. Texas declared independence from Mexico. Thousands of well-trained Mexican troops poured into Texas to stop the rebellion. The outnumbered Texas volunteers and settlers fought and died at the brutal battles of Goliad and the Alamo, but ultimate victory occurred at the battle of San Jacinto in 1836. Austin and others, like Crockett, Travis, Bowie, and Houston, finally won the day for freedom. Texas was free, a new nation, a new republic. The rest, they say, is Texas history.

MISPLACED PRIORITIES

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday of last week, the Education and the Workforce Committee, of which I am a member, passed the single largest cut to student aid in history.

By taking \$15 billion out of the Federal aid programs, the Republican leadership proved again that its agenda is replete with misplaced priorities. When we had the choice to lift up a generation of young Americans by helping them achieve the dream of a college education, we chose instead to give more comfort to the already very comfortable. Our differences are profound. It appears that so are our values and what we perceive to be America's priorities.

Future generations of Americans are entitled to a basic education, but they will not be able to afford it after we reconcile how to pay for the hurricane damage, the wars in Iraq and Afghani-

stan, and even two more tax cuts that have not yet begun to take effect and will not even benefit 97 percent of American families.

Madam Speaker, we cannot afford to hold sacred the tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans at the expense of the values, priorities, or needs of the middle class. Americans deserve better.

NEED FOR BUDGET RECONCILIATION

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support our House Republican leadership and their pledge to control government spending through deficit reduction. We must restore fiscal discipline to the Federal Government, ensuring our children and grandchildren live in a society based on opportunity, not dependence on a bloated Federal bureaucracy swimming in greater debt.

It comes as no surprise to hear Democrats cry: raise taxes; spend more. I feel like Bill Murray in "Ground Hog Day," that great movie. Regardless of the day, regardless of the problem, Democrats have no new ideas, just crying: more taxes; more spending.

Higher taxes are a problem, not a solution, and always lead to larger, more intrusive governments, and larger budgets. As elected officials, Madam Speaker, we must make prudent decisions to reduce the deficit. I urge my colleagues to support deficit reduction and work constructively to control government spending.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET PRIORITIES

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, the government is in a fiscal crisis. We are borrowing \$1.2 billion a day to run the government under the Bush administration and the Republican leadership. They have raised the national debt to \$8 trillion in 5 short years, but now they are newly born as fiscal conservatives, and they want to cut \$50 billion.

From where? Student loans, the school lunch and breakfast programs, those kids are eating too much, foster care and child support enforcement to help the deadbeat dads. They will, unfortunately, more than overspend their cuts to those struggling people and those good programs. They want \$70 billion of tax cuts, \$20 billion more added to the sea of red ink that is drowning America in tax cuts for, guess who, the wealthy because trickle-down is the highest form of achievement in Washington, D.C. these days. They want to bleed struggling Americans to float the yachts of the wealthy on a sea of red ink one more time while lying about what they are doing.

THE AMAZING AMERICAN ECONOMY

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, if you were to listen to many folks in this Chamber, you would think there was absolutely no good news to be heard anywhere. With the challenges this Nation has faced over the past couple of months, the economy ought to be in awful shape. Right?

Madam Speaker, there is news that you just will not see on the major television stations or read in the newspapers, the one success of our economy, the amazing American economy. The gross domestic product, the most clear measure of our economic activity, rose by 3.8 percent in the third quarter. That is an increase of 3.8 percent. That is in spite of Katrina and Rita and all the damage that they brought to our shores. The past 10 quarters have been phenomenal. That is 2½ years. Growth during that time has been greater than 3 percent in every quarter and more often more than 4 percent. That is good news.

And the deficit? Well, that has improved as well, decreasing nearly \$100 billion in the last fiscal year alone. That is good news.

Madam Speaker, Republicans have a plan to reform the government in order to achieve savings for the American people. I urge my colleagues to embrace the good news in our plan.

REGARDING IRANIAN PRESIDENT'S DISTURBING REMARKS

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

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, the world is much smaller today than it was; and when we particularly focus in on the Middle East, we need peace. However, I am deeply disturbed by the remarks of the new Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, when he was addressing 4,000 students, using the language of Ayatollah Khomeini, where he says and threatens: "Anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury."

Who is this guy? We cannot allow this kind of language to stand in this day and age. We must make sure that we condemn this kind of language and those kinds of acts. Here is a guy with a questionable background. Some of our hostages say that he is the individual who was there when they were held in Iran. The international community must come together and make sure that there are no nuclear reactors there. We must make sure that it is clear that we are going to stand by our friends and allies in Israel in this regards and that we are going to be the ones that are going to force peace to be in the Middle East and we are not going to have this kind of rhetoric language continuing. We cannot allow this