

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God of the Jewish-Christian scriptures, You call forth Your people to move out from blood-stained doorways into the wandering freedom of the desert, until they found a promised land.

By the spirit You led Jesus into the desert to discover Your living presence through fasting and prayer.

Guide Your people in these days of grace in and through the political ways of Congress. May the trials of argumentative discussions and the discipline of compromise lead Your people across the barren land of uncertainty. Shape within them new resolves of faithful service, and open for them paths of greater justice and new-found peace.

Help us, O Lord, to renew the covenant of old which makes us Your own, even 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 her 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.

DEMOCRATS AND CONFUSING SENIORS ABOUT MEDICARE

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the new Medicare prescription drug benefit. Under this historic program, seniors are receiving the drugs they need at reduced cost. So far, more than 27 million Medicare beneficiaries are now getting coverage and saving money on their prescription drugs. Even more amazing is that 380,000 new beneficiaries are signing up each week.

This is a program that is working for most seniors, and any early problems

are quickly being corrected. The new drug coverage offers more and better choices at a lower cost. Premiums have been lowered to an average of \$25 a month, down from the \$37 that was previously estimated. Yet Democrats continue their coordinated campaign of confusion. On the one hand they are telling seniors that the prescription drug program is a disaster, and then in the same breath they are urging them to sign up. Mr. Speaker, this reminds me of someone turning to you and saying, "Hey, this milk tastes bad. Try it."

Seniors are hearing from Democrats that the milk is bad, yet they are being asked to taste it. It is no wonder some seniors are confused. I would be, too.

MAKING THE TAX CUTS PERMANENT

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

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give the American people some straight talk on why we need to make the tax cuts permanent. As tax day rapidly approaches, President Bush urged Congress to make the tax cuts permanent, and with good reason. If Congress does not make the tax cuts permanent, a family of four in central Florida making \$50,000 would see their taxes go up by nearly 50 percent.

It is no accident that we have a strong and vibrant economy today. During President Bush's first term, Congress acted to lower income tax rates across the board, cut taxes on capital gains and dividends, and eliminate the marriage penalty.

Now, what have we seen as a result? We have seen 5 million new jobs created in the last 2½ years. We have seen an unemployment rate that is lower than the average unemployment rate in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. We have seen home ownership rise to 69 percent, the largest record in history. So don't believe the hype. Our government has received more revenue after the tax cuts than we received before the tax cuts. Let's make these tax cuts permanent and keep our economy strong.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NORTH COLLEGE HILL TROJANS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, at this time last year I predicted that I would be standing here once again to congratulate Coach Jamie Mahaffey and his North College Hill Trojans. Well, they proved me right after winning back-to-back Division III Ohio State high school basketball championships.

Just this past weekend, North College Hill captured its second State championship with a convincing 90-73 triumph over Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph. The victory topped off an

impressive 26-1 season, including a number three national ranking by USA Today and a unanimous number one ranking in the final Ohio Associated Press State poll.

The Trojans made their road to Columbus look easy, defeating their opponents by an average of 33 points a game and knocking off the reigning Division I State champions from Ohio and Kentucky. In fact, statistics like these have already brought calls for a threepeat next year.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the North College Hill Trojans, the players, coaches, parents, fans, teachers, and administrators on bringing the championship back to the Cincinnati area. We are very proud of you, North College Hill.

AMERICAN FLAGS BANNED AT HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, students at Skyline High School in Colorado are banned from waving the American flag. The principal is reported as saying, "These flags were being used as a symbol of bigotry, a symbol of hostility. They were being used to inflame different groups, and we're not going to tolerate that."

This principal is more concerned about hurting the feelings of people illegally in the U.S. than he is about Americans' freedom of expression. This principal is obviously unaware the flag was offensive to the British who were also illegally in the U.S. When the British reinvaded the United States in 1814 and were illegally on American soil, they marched on Washington waving the British flag, and they burned this very building. The British then sailed upriver to Fort McHenry and were offended by this defiant American flag that was flying. They tried to shoot it down, but Old Glory flew, and we have it down the street in the National Archives, bullet holes and all. We got our National Anthem from the glory of the Star Spangled Banner at Fort McHenry.

The American flag cannot be banned in America. How absurd. What flag do you fly there at that high school, the white flag of surrender so as not to offend anyone illegally in the United States? Good thing the commander at Fort McHenry didn't care about what the British thought and was proud to be an American. And that's just the way it is.

RESPECTING CAPITOL POLICE

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, last week we finally saw the Democratic Party roll out their ideas about how we should secure America,

and they put a very heavy emphasis on how important they thought it was to support our first responders.

How ironic it was, then, on that very same day to hear allegations that a Democrat Member of this House struck a Capitol Police officer, and how disheartening to hear the response of the Democratic leader of this House. It was, she said, no big deal.

To those who might agree with the Democrats that allegedly assaulting a Capitol Hill Police officer is no big deal, I would respectfully remind them that just a few years back two members of the Capitol Police were shot and killed in the line of duty by a deranged man who was trying to attack the majority whip, and that during moments of danger and evacuation Capitol Police stand their posts while the rest of us seek to secure ourselves and the safety of others.

This is only my second term here, so the Capitol Police don't always recognize me and occasionally they do check my identity. They stop me and check my identity. No problem.

Madam Speaker, I wish to go on record as supporting the jobs that the brave men and women in the Capitol Police do to protect all of us, and let me just say to them thank you.

MEDICARE PART D

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

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise and share yet another story of success regarding the Medicare part D prescription drug benefit. Today I would like to tell you about Lola Squires of Cedartown, Georgia.

Lola is a widow and lives on a fixed income. As you can imagine, every dollar of her monthly budget is precious to her livelihood. Due to chronic illness, Lola was paying \$1,000 a month for her prescription drugs, which used up almost all of her income.

Lola is now enrolled in a Medicare part D plan. As my office was assisting her, we learned that she did qualify for the extra help due to her limited resources, and I am happy to report, as of today, Lola is paying a mere \$27 a month for her medication. \$27 a month. That is a saving of more than \$900 every month for Lola.

Madam Speaker, the Medicare part D success stories are pouring in. Seniors have until May 15 to enroll in a plan without penalty; so in the next few weeks, it is absolutely essential that Congress put real people over partisan politics and help our seniors get the medicine they need to stay well.

INDONESIA IS A STRATEGIC FRIEND

(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. Madam Speaker, as supporters of freedom confront terrorism worldwide, it is appropriate to recognize the Republic of Indonesia's extraordinary efforts to advance democracy. Newly appointed Ambassador Sudjandnan Parnohadinin-grat recently made a convincing presentation in the Washington Diplomat regarding the significance of his country, which is the world's third largest democracy of over 220 million and the world's largest Muslim population which spreads across 17,000 islands.

Despite al Qaeda terrorist attacks and economic collapse, and the catastrophic tsunami, Indonesia has rebounded with fair and free elections and an economic growth rate from 5.5 to 6 percent annually. America is fortunate to be a friend and partner of Indonesia, a dynamic nation which joins us in working for regional peace and winning the war on terrorism.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF PHILLIP FROST AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 81) providing for the appointment of Phillip Frost as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 81

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of the expiration of the term of Manuel L. Ibanez of Texas on May 4, 2006, is filled by the appointment of Phillip Frost of Florida. The appointment is for a term of 6 years, beginning on the later of May 5, 2006, or the date of the enactment of this joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Joint Resolution 81 provides for the appointment of Phillip Frost to serve on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

This 17-member board, which governs the Smithsonian Institution, is comprised of the Chief Justice and Vice President of the United States, three Members each from the House and Senate, and nine citizens who are nominated by the Board and approved jointly in a resolution of Congress.

Our first regent nominee, Phillip Frost, founded Ivax Corporation, and has served as the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board since 1987; he also served as President of Ivax from 1991 to 1995. Before founding Ivax, Dr. Frost chaired the Department of Dermatology at the Mount Sinai Medical Center of Greater Miami from 1972 to 1990. His other work involved joining the University of Miami School of Medicine faculty in 1966. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Frost was named the 2001 National Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young.

A native of Philadelphia, Dr. Frost attended the University of Paris from 1955 to 1956. He received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Pennsylvania and his medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York in 1961.

Dr. Frost and his wife Patricia, who currently serves as Chair of the Smithsonian National Board, have displayed a genuine commitment to the arts through personal leadership and philanthropy. In 1986, they gave their entire 113-piece collection of American abstract art to the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Dr. Frost has experience serving on a variety of boards and possesses significant fiscal experience with matters of government oversight.

□ 1415

I believe the Smithsonian can benefit greatly from Phillip Frost's financial, educational, and leadership experience. And I urge my colleagues to support House Joint Resolution 81.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I too rise in support of House Joint Resolution 81 to appoint Dr. Phillip Frost of Florida for a 6-year term as a citizen regent of the Smithsonian Institution.

Dr. Frost, who is a medical doctor, is a noted collector of American abstract art and a philanthropist, who, since 1987, as was mentioned, has served as the chairman of the board and CEO of the IVAX Corporation, which develops and markets pharmaceutical products.

Dr. Frost and his wife, Patricia, gave their 113-piece collection of American abstract art to the Smithsonian American Art Museum in 1986. In another major philanthropic donation, they previously gave a \$33 million gift to the University of Miami for its school of