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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: You, Lord God, are before us as the radiance of the stars. One bright beam of Your spirit can illumine the mind and heart of any human. And so You call some of Your people to lead others through the difficult times of any dark day and become light to the nations.

Be with the Members of the House of Representatives today. They have great aspirations for achieving what is good for this Nation and desires to formulate laws and policies that will strengthen the Union. But temper their hopes with sincere humility before one another and before the people who truly govern.

To achieve justice is to live rightly in Your sight and simply accomplish Your Holy Will. To legislate for others does not ask for scholarship, but rather the boldness to act out of the wisdom that comes from a compassionate heart.

For You alone, Lord, are the fulfillment of the law and all the prophets, 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 Florida (Mr. KELLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KELLER 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 Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 335. Concurrent resolution honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 97th anniversary.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-170, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Ranking Member of the Senate on Finance, announces the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel: Katie Beckett of Iowa.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 68-541, as amended by Public Law 102-246, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, appoints John Medveckis, of Pennsylvania, as a member of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board for a term of five years.

### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Arkansas may state his inquiry.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, under the rules that are adopted for action in the House today, a very restrictive rule was adopted by the Rules Committee not allowing certain amendments in order, including an amendment by the senior-most Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, Mr. SKELTON, the number two man in our leadership, Mr. HOYER, and others.

Under the rules of the House, I know that rule can be modified by the Rules Committee if it meets again. May it also be modified by unanimous consent as this day progresses to allow other

amendments to be considered during the defense bill by this great Nation during a time of war?

The SPEAKER. The House by unanimous consent could modify the rule governing consideration of the bill.

Mr. SNYDER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that occurs fairly early this morning.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. There will be five 1-minute speeches on each side.

### LONE STAR VOICE: DIANNE ROWLAND

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Dianne Rowland of Houston has written me about the illegal invasion into the United States. She writes, "I just heard that the Border Patrol is providing information to the Mexican Government on the location of the Minutemen. Obviously, the Mexican Government then relays that information to the illegals, since Mexico wants to transfer their problems to us."

"Stop the spying and reporting on the Minutemen. During World War II, would we have notified Japan or the Germans where we had Civil Air Patrol stations? I think not. This isn't any different, only we don't yet have a declared war with Mexico. However, it is apparent that we do have a war between the government and the American people."

"Leave the Minutemen alone. They are the only people I trust on the border. They are providing a service free of charge and doing a job that you, the government, can't do and refuse to do. They are not breaking any laws, but feeding information to Mexico should be against the law."

□ 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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Mr. Speaker, is our government at war with our own country? This Nation has the obligation to protect our borders, and those who play the role of Benedict Arnold and help Mexico to illegally invade the United States should be held publicly accountable and dealt with by the American public. And that's just the way it is.

#### WALL STREET IGNORES MAIN STREET

(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 Dow Jones will hit a record and the Nation's economists will be doing their hosannas, but who profits when factories and businesses are closed in the United States and cheap goods made by no-rights, no-benefits, low-wage Chinese workers flood our markets?

We have an \$804 billion trade deficit. Hello?

Since 1982, \$4.5 trillion in assets have been transferred from American to foreign owners. Hello?

Wall Street thumps their golden tub for the Wal-Marts and the cigarette-peddling Altrias while record numbers of Americans are laid off, file bankruptcy, lose their homes, their health care benefits, their retirement and savings, and in some cases, their families. Why do we celebrate Wall Street when Wall Street does not celebrate Main Street?

Wall Street makes a killing while gas prices soar, health care costs skyrocket, and food prices increase. We need a new way to measure our economy, as in how many people are working at good-paying jobs and have job security, and how many have health and retirement benefits.

Let us create economic progress for all in America, not just for a privileged few.

#### AMNESTY IS NOT THE ANSWER

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, the most controversial issue in this illegal immigration debate is amnesty. Opponents say it rewards illegal behavior. Supporters say it is not amnesty because they pay a \$2,000 fine. Who is right?

Well, consider this analogy. Somebody robs a bank and gets away with \$1 million. Our government tells him he can keep the money, but we expect him to pay a \$2,000 fine.

Now apply that to illegal immigration. A person breaks our laws by sneaking across the border. They then commit a felony by using a fake Social Security card to get a job. Our government tells them they won't be prosecuted; rather, they can remain in this country and apply for citizenship as long as they pay a \$2,000 fine.

In both cases, the bank robber and the illegal alien get to retain the benefit of their illegal behavior merely by paying a small fine. Common sense and history tell you that rewarding illegal behavior will only encourage more of it. After granting amnesty to illegals 20 years ago, we have gone from 3 million illegals to 11 million illegals. Our government has been fooled once by this amnesty argument, let us not be fooled again.

□ 1015

#### MCALLEN-EDINBURG-PHARR REGION OF TEXAS

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, this week, the business periodical INC.com named the McAllen-Edinburg-Pharr region in my congressional district in Texas as its second hottest mid-size metropolitan area in the country.

When I first came to Congress nearly 10 years ago, this area was one of the poorest, economically deprived and most neglected regions of the country. It was plagued with three decades of double digit unemployment rates. I made it one of my primary goals to help curb these trends, and I am thankful to have seen that dream come true in 2006.

Today, the area is booming. The population has increased by 48 percent in 10 years. Creation of new jobs is up substantially, and the unemployment rate is now below 8 percent. Children are graduating from high school and accessing higher education, and more students are seeking advanced college degrees. I have seen the increase in Federal resources, investments in human capital and infrastructure. Thanks to business investment, job training programs and open markets, McAllen, Edinburg, and Pharr are models of achievement for the rest of the country.

The successes experienced in this region are the results of a collaborative effort by community leaders and a tremendous amount of hard work.

I congratulate all those involved in so many of the projects, conversations and planning that we had along the way. We must continue our collaborative efforts to improve the quality of life in South Texas.

#### OUR THRIVING ECONOMY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, House Republicans took action to block tax increases on working families, seniors and small businesses by voting to pass the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005. It was an honor to join my colleagues in working to help every American family keep more of their hard-earned money. After all, Republicans know that indi-

vidual households know how to spend their own money much better than the Federal Government does.

Tax relief, along with other pro-growth policies, is helping the U.S. economy grow at a fiery pace. Recently, the U.S. Department of Commerce reported that the U.S. gross domestic product, GDP, grew 4.8 percent in the first quarter of this year. Our economy has created more than 5 million good-paying jobs since August 2003, and the unemployment is lower than the average of the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.

Despite the Democrats' efforts to paint a gloomy picture, Americans are reaping the benefits of our tax cuts and are thoroughly enjoying the success of our economic boom.

#### GAO PTSD REPORT RELEASE

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

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to make my colleagues aware of a GAO study being released today.

GAO studied services at the Department of Defense and the VA to help identify and treat veterans of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom who may be at risk for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

GAO found only 22 percent of personnel who were at risk for PTSD were referred by DOD providers for further evaluation.

When 78 percent who were at risk do not get referrals, then this is clear the assessment system is not working. Health assessment and reassessment are absolutely the right thing to do, and I applaud DOD for these programs.

But if we are not confident that those who need further evaluation will actually receive it, what purpose does it serve?

We need early assessment, diagnosis and counseling to prevent the effects of PTSD. This Congress needs to press both DOD and VA to do a better job in helping veterans with PTSD and other mental health issues.

#### HONORING NORFOLK'S TOP COPS

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

Mrs. DRAKE. Today, the Fraternal Order of Police will honor two of Norfolk's own as part of their annual ceremony honoring the Nation's "top cops." Investigators Judy Hash and Earl Killmon will be recognized for their contributions in disrupting a violent drug ring and bringing a suspected cop killer to justice. What began as an investigation into the murder of a North Carolina police chief during a routine traffic stop quickly began to provide leads to individuals distributing cocaine, marijuana and ecstasy and committing acts of violence stretching over State lines.