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House of Representatives

The House met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 20, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROB SIMMONS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Amidst questions of Federal funding and the efficiency of the budget process, there is a unique American success story, where a modest Federal investment has inspired a multibillion-dollar public-private partnership, the majority of the funds actually voluntarily provided by individual citizens supporting local education, cultural, current events, and even emergency information. I am referring, of course, to

America's public broadcasting system, where every week more than 87 million Americans tune in to public television, and there are 30 million regular public radio listeners.

In virtually every community across the country, people can tune in to over 1,000 public broadcasting radio and television stations for programs that inform and inspire, for help with reading or job training, for the latest in digital services, for local news and unique information, and for a myriad of other special reasons. Because these local stations determine their own program schedules and often produce their own programming, they respond to community needs and leverage local support.

There has been a key role for us here in Congress. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting distributes an annual appropriation that we provide in accordance with a statutory formula, the vast majority of which goes directly to public radio and television stations.

While this Federal appropriation accounts for only 15 percent of the entire cost of public broadcasting, it leverages critical investments from State and local governments, from universities, businesses, foundations and, most important, those millions of viewers and listeners of public radio and television who provide their voluntary contributions.

Now, this public support from the Federal Government is critical, because it helps fill in gaps in addition to inspiring those partnerships. Make no mistake, if the Federal government reduces or eliminates its support, there will still be public broadcasting in the large metropolitan areas, New York, San Francisco. My hometown of Portland, Oregon, will have public broadcasting.

But what will suffer is not just the quality of the programming, but the expensive service to rural and small town America which cannot generate enough resources to provide its own service. That will suffer.

Sadly, again, this year, public broadcasting is under attack in the appropriations process. One of the most dismaying cuts would be the advance funding program for 2009, ending a 30-year practice. It goes back to 1975, where the Federal Government recognized that the long-term investment in these partnerships require people to be able to plan for the future. So we have provided a cost-free guarantee of future funding. It has provided long-term stability to make this unique partnership work, but, sadly, the appropriators would eliminate this advance funding.

Another cut, which is hard to fathom, would be taking away money for digital conversion at the same time the FCC is mandating that all broadcasters need to be compliant by February 2009. This funding would be for the third and final installment, which is important for leveraging money from other partners, State matching grants, for instance.

At a time when public broadcasting is leading the way for digital conversion, it is ironic that our appropriators would eliminate this program. It would take away funding for educational programs like Sesame Street, Between the Lions, and Maya and Miguel, putting them at risk. At a time we want highly qualified teachers ready to teach, Internet-based teacher professional development would also be eliminated.

These major reductions in funding would have an immediate and severe impact on our communities and our constituents, as I say, especially in small town and rural America. These cuts from the appropriating process are despite strong shows of support on a bipartisan basis for our colleagues urging full funding.

Last year we had an embarrassing political battle here on the floor of the House, where a bipartisan majority had to overturn the worst of the cuts. One can only hope that we will be spared this saga and that the appropriating

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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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process will provide the funds that American public broadcasting needs.

HONORING ARTHUR GLIDDEN, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF THE WOLFEBORO CENTRE COMMUNITY CHURCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent, Mr. Arthur Glidden, for his hard work and dedication to the continuation and protection of the Wolfeboro Centre Community Church. He has worked on this project for over 43 years. Mr. Glidden is 83 years old and has been a resident of my hometown of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, for his entire life. Arthur's wife, Dotty, is also a lifelong resident of the community and a supporter of the church.

In 1841, a group of Wolfeboro citizens purchased one-third of an acre for \$17 to build a nondenominational worship center for the Christian members of that area. This traditional New England church was started, and it continued in operation with the generous help of the congregation.

In 1964, Arthur Glidden became president of the church board and began what has now become his long-standing devotion to the parishioners and the care and preservation of the building. Arthur has taken the traditions of when the meeting house was first built, and he has raised them to a higher level.

For almost 25 percent of the life of the Wolfeboro Centre Community Church, he has been its greatest protector and benefactor. At times, almost single-handedly, Arthur Glidden lifted the church up to save it from declining attendance and carried it forward on his shoulders until it was safe and secure again. Arthur Glidden is to be commended for his steadfast dedication to the Wolfeboro Centre Community Church and all of his efforts to improve the community in which he lives.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.

□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KUHL of New York) at 11 a.m.

PRAAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, set the hearts of Your people on fire with a spirit of equal justice in all circumstances and the spirit of love for neighbor and enemy as well.

Inflame true desires of understanding in the Members of Congress, Lord, and in all people of this Nation; that the barriers which now divide may be broken through; and that the bonds of mutual respect may be strengthened.

May all in the human family learn to appreciate one another, pardon those who have done wrong and initiate the first gesture of reconciliation to others.

Like spokes in a wheel, Lord God, by drawing closer to one another may we be drawn closer to You, Father of all, 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 gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas 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.

SUPREME COURT NEEDS TO PROTECT THE RIGHT TO LIFE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, life is a precious gift from God. It is something that should be honored, cherished and never taken for granted. The unborn are the most innocent and vulnerable members of our society, and their right to life must be protected.

Mr. Speaker, I was delighted when this Congress passed legislation in 2003 to prohibit partial birth abortions. This barbaric act entails partially removing a fetus in the third trimester from its mother's womb and then brutally killing it by puncturing or crushing its skull. The day that President Bush signed the bill banning this heinous act was a great one for our Nation. Unfortunately, some activist judges in the Eighth U.S. Circuit and Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals have taken it upon themselves to strike down this law, and countless lives are lost as a result.

That is why I am pleased that the U.S. Supreme Court said yesterday it will consider a second appeal to reinstate the Federal ban on partial birth abortions. It is my hope the Supreme Court will rule in favor of the right to life and reinstate a ban on this terrible act.

A NEW DIRECTION FOR AMERICA—RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an ongoing moral crisis in this Congress and this administration.

Through fiscal irresponsibility and corporate welfare, this Congress has eroded away at American values and standards; and decent, hardworking Americans are the ones paying the price.

As Americans, we believe that anyone who works 40 hours a week, 365 days a year should be able to afford basic necessities for themselves and their families.

The reality is that there are millions of workers out there trying to support their families on \$5.15 per hour, and I think my state has most of them. And as everyone knows, \$5.15 does not buy you a lot nowadays.

Each day, millions of minimum-wage workers are forced to choose between food, shelter, health care, or clothing. No American who works hard for a living should have to make those types of choices.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an appalling 9 years since we have seen an increase in the Federal minimum wage. The Labor-HHS appropriations bill includes a provision to raise the minimum wage to \$7.25, hardly a living wage. This was a chance for Congress to do the right thing, but the bill has not been sent.

PERMANENTLY REPEALING THE DEATH TAX

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give the American people some straight talk on why we need to permanently repeal the death tax.

The death tax causes one-third of all family-owned small businesses to liquidate after the death of the owner. It is also an unfair tax because the assets have already been taxed once at their income level.

If Congress doesn't act to fix this problem, then in the year 2010 the death tax will be zero. But in 2011 the death tax will go back up to 55 percent in tax rates.

The only family-owned business in America that knows for sure whether their leader will die in 2010 is The Sopranos.

The uncertainty of the death tax makes it impossible for people to write their wills or do their estate planning.