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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Elton Van Welton, Crossroads Baptist Church, Leesburg, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Lord, Almighty God, we thank You this morning for Your divine blessings upon our country and upon our lives individually. With heartfelt concern, we remember those Americans serving our country in uniform today and pray for Your protective hand over them. Bless and love their families in their absence.

I ask, Lord, as our source of life and strength, that You will encourage and edify us all that we might remain faithful in the task that You have called us to. Lead today this Chamber and its Members in the pathway of humility. By Your spirit, guide them to take up the towel of leadership to meet the needs of our country by lifting up others more than themselves. Allow their lives as servant leaders to empower all Americans to live in like manner. This we pray in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SALAZAR 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 THE REVEREND ELTON VAN WELTON

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend a warm welcome to our guest chaplain, the Reverend Elton Van Welton of Leesburg, Virginia.

Reverend Van Welton is the senior pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church. In the two short years he has been at Crossroads, the church membership has grown dramatically, and its rate of financial giving to world missions to the poor and to the hungry has increased by over 500 percent. He has also worked to establish many local ministries, such as Saving Addicts for Eternity, which partners with local Narcotics Anonymous groups to provide spiritual guidance to those struggling with addiction.

Pastor Van Welton first joined the ministry in 1999 after receiving a master's in divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Before his career as a pastor, Reverend Van Welton received his juris doctorate from Regent University and was a practicing attorney in the Commonwealth of Virginia before he received his call to the ministry.

I commend Rev. Van Welton for his dedication to spreading the word of the gospel and for his faithful service to our community in northern Virginia. It is a blessing to have him here today to serve as our guest chaplain.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to a joint resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S.J. Res. 13. Joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the International Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S PROPOSED VETO

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, after running up more debt than the 42 Presidents who preceded him, \$3.2 trillion borrowed and spent, \$9 trillion total debt on the backs of the American people, presiding over a doubling of our international debt to more than \$2.2 trillion, last week he proposed that we should borrow and spend another \$190 billion on the war in Iraq, nearly 600 since he launched this unnecessary war.

Subsidies to Big Oil, scandals about no-bid contracts, the President has rediscovered his long-lost, inner-fiscally conservative self. He's going to cast the first veto of his Presidency on a bill that would spend money, after an orgy of borrowing, spending and misspending on many dubious things. His target, 10 million low-income kids.

The President stands on principle. Or is it he's standing on a pile of campaign cash contributed by the insurance industry to the Republicans?

EARMARK REFORM

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that earmarks are not fairly distributed. But with the new disclosure rules in place this year, for the first time it's been documented. In an analysis of House-passed appropriation bills, CQ Weekly and Taxpayers for

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Common Sense found that a disproportionate share of earmarks went to relatively few Members of Congress.

Now, obviously Federal priorities are not concentrated in the districts of appropriators and leadership. Those Members are simply in a better position to steer Federal money home. That's hardly a defensible way of spending taxpayer money.

I've often said that we had higher aspirations when we were elected than to grovel for crumbs that fall from the appropriators' table. But given the lopsided share of earmarks that appropriators got this year, here's hoping that enough Members will finally say, why bother, and we can finally end this practice.

SCHIP

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, the President has asked for another 190 billion more dollars for the war in Iraq. That's 190 billion more dollars for more of the same.

For 41 days for the cost of the war, 10 million American children would get their health care. For 1 month for the cost of the war, 7½ million American children would get their health care. And for 1 week for the cost of this war, 2½ million would get their health care.

The President is asking for an open-ended, open-wallet commitment to Iraq, and the American children get an empty stocking.

Meanwhile, under the President's own plan, 1 million American children would lose their health care, according to the experts. Nearly 1 million children would create a very long line in America's emergency rooms. The emergency rooms are President Bush's answer to America's health care crisis.

Seventy-two percent of Americans support our reauthorization of the children's health care bill. The President and 15 Republicans stand in the way of 10 million children receiving the health care that we receive here as Members of Congress.

There have been three vetoes in President Bush's term: one to end the war, one to permit stem cell research, and now one to allow 10 million children to get their health care. That says it all about President Bush.

EARMARK REFORM

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the majority party ascended to power with a promise that they would make this Congress the most open and ethical Congress ever. Most open and ethical indeed.

Perhaps the majority party should have said something like, We will be open and ethical when it suits our purpose. That wouldn't have been a catchy

phrase maybe on the campaign trail, but at least it would have been honest.

For instance, the majority promised to clean up the earmarking process, but so far that, too, has been a hollow promise.

Recently, we had the SCHIP and it was riddled with hidden earmarks. And yet not one sponsor of these provisions has ever been identified, and they have denied that there's any earmarks in them whatsoever.

Now the Republican Party has now offered a simple resolution to clean up the process of earmarks, but not a single Democrat has signed on to this resolution.

I call on my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, in the majority, to allow for a real debate on ethics and earmarks. Let the House debate H.R. 479 so that we can have an open and honest discussion and we can truly get to what you promised, an open and ethical Congress.

CHIP

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, today the President has before him legislation to strengthen and expand CHIP for 10 million children of hardworking American families. And if the President lives up to his promise, he will veto this important bill and turn his back on American families.

The President's veto makes it clear that he simply does not understand the financial struggles of working families in this country who are unable to afford health care for their children. The President's veto makes it clear that health care for America's children simply is not his priority.

CHIP, the public-private partnership, has enabled millions of American children and hardworking lower-income, middle-income families in this country to afford high-quality private health coverage. Our Nation's Governors, business community, health care providers, children's advocates, insurance industry, labor unions, religious leaders, parents and grandparents support this affordable commonsense plan. All but the President and his Republican allies in Congress support extending CHIP to more of America's uninsured children.

The President's veto is shortsighted, callous and wrong. We must override the President's veto and vote for health care for America's children.

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ENSURE THAT FREEDOM AND FAIRNESS REMAIN ON OUR RADIO AIRWAVES—SUPPORT THE BROADCASTER FREEDOM ACT

(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, the enmity that exists between American talk radio and the Democratic Congress came into high relief this Monday as leaders in the Senate engaged in repeated and distorted personal attacks of a prominent American commentator.

Now, while many see this as more politics as usual in Washington, DC, I see something more. I believe these attacks on talk radio are a precursor for returning censorship to the airwaves of America in the form of the Fairness Doctrine.

This week Congressman GREG WALDEN and I requested that the Democratic leaders bring the Broadcaster Freedom Act to the floor of this Congress immediately and take the power away from the FCC in this or any future administration to regulate the airwaves of America. The Broadcaster Freedom Act is cosponsored by 203 Members of Congress, and it enjoys broad bipartisan support.

The freedom of the press should not be a partisan issue. Let's reject the attacks on American radio personalities and ensure that the Fairness Doctrine stays on the ash heap of broadcast history, where it belongs.

THE PRESIDENT'S VETO OF THE SCHIP EXTENSION

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the deed is done. The President just vetoed the Children's Health Insurance Program. He is asking for \$190 billion for the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and yet vetoed \$35 billion that would provide health care to 10 million low-income American children over the next 5 years.

Let's be perfectly clear. The President is refusing to spend \$7 billion a year on children's health while insisting on \$10 billion a month in Iraq. The President and Republicans in Congress say that we can't afford this bill, but where were the fiscal conservatives when the President demanded hundreds of billions of dollars for the war in Iraq? He along with many of the Republicans in Congress are willing to throw these hundreds of billions of dollars into a disastrous war, and yet when it comes to providing health care to children, they say we don't have the money.

The truth is we do have the money and, in fact, the children's health bill is fully paid for, unlike the half a trillion dollars we have already spent on this war.

It is time for us to say you are either for covering uninsured American children or you are with a President who prefers to spend this money on an endless war.

VETERANS FUNDING

(Mrs. DRAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1