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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MAHONEY of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.
November 5, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM MAHONEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) for 5 minutes.

PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF OF PAKISTAN

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, this weekend a devastating blow was struck against the efforts to try to grow and make sustainable democracy in Pakistan when President Musharraf of Pakistan announced that he would have an emergency order which has essentially become martial law against all those in the country who disagreed with him; against all of those on the supreme court, all of those in the legal commu-

nity, all of those in general society who disagree with him are now subject to arrest, are subject to beatings, are subject to imprisonment. That is wrong, and this country cannot look the other way.

For too long this administration and this Congress have looked the other way as President Musharraf has worked to limit and now crush democracy in Pakistan. Too many excuses have been offered to allow him to continue this trend against free and open elections, against a growing democracy, against a growing independent press and TV stations because we said he is helping us in Pakistan against the terrorists, the Taliban, in Afghanistan.

Of course, what we know is that he has played us over these many years as he has received billions of dollars in aid. He has continued to play us to suggest that he is really concentrating on the effort to rid both Afghanistan and Pakistan of terrorists, but in fact that is not what has been taking place. In fact, he has cut agreements, he has arranged for safe haven, for safe travel for the Taliban as they have moved back and forth against our troops and against people in Afghanistan who are trying to establish a democracy there.

Some months ago when I visited Afghanistan, we asked the commander of our troops there what was the biggest threat to our troops in Afghanistan, and he said the border with Pakistan. And that remains true today as the Taliban move back and forth, as recruits from al Qaeda move back and forth, and at a time when President Musharraf simply gives voice to the idea that he is going to stop this from happening, that he is going to create an environment where that will not be allowed to continue. That simply has not happened, because President Musharraf has been more interested in securing his reelection as the leader of Pakistan than he has been in getting

rid of the extremists and the terrorists. In fact, he has allowed the extremists to grow even in Islamabad, where their presence wasn't known only a few years ago.

We must take a stand against these actions. We must speak out. The administration has spoken out now, but already questions are being raised as to whether or not we will condition aid, whether or not we will forcefully show Musharraf that we cannot have him crush democracy in Pakistan. Pakistan needs more democracy, not less. It needs democracy to strengthen that country so that it can reject extremism and terrorists. It needs free elections so that the people will believe that they are represented, not by the continuing building of a dictatorship by President Musharraf who controls the military, who controls the intelligence, and now is using them against the very people that he is supposed to represent, and that is the people of Pakistan. We cannot stand by while he takes this extraordinary effort to crush democracy, to potentially postpone the elections, to seize the independent media, and to throw hundreds and hundreds so far of his citizens into jail because they simply seek to oppose him and seek a brighter future, a more democratic future for the country of Pakistan.

The time has come for this country to take a very strong stand against the corruption of this government and the growing dictatorship presented by the rule of President Musharraf.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

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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