



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2007

No. 54

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BALDWIN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 28, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rabbi Paul Silton, Temple Israel, Albany, New York, offered the following prayer:

May the author of liberty and equality, who created all human beings in His image, bless all of you who have been chosen by the citizens of this great bastion of democracy to represent them.

May He grant all of you the privilege of discovering His will and doing it wholeheartedly. May He touch your lives with the spirit of wisdom and insight. May He grant all of you the ability to make wise decisions and the satisfaction of doing a multitude of good deeds. May He strengthen you to walk in paths of honesty, to courageously meet every challenge, and to overcome all obstacles.

May you be blessed with long and peaceful lives, lives free from shame and reproach, lives filled with many years of physical vitality, so that you may see all your heart's desires for goodness fulfilled and the work of your hands established.

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 New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PASCRELL 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 DR. RABBI PAUL SILTON

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

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome my very dear friend, Dr. Rabbi Paul Silton, and to thank him for offering the opening prayer this morning for the United States House of Representatives.

Rabbi Silton has served the community of New York's Capital Region for over 30 years as Rabbi of Temple Israel, the largest conservative synagogue in northeastern New York. He began his career at Temple Israel as the education director where he was responsible for fostering growth at every education level, including the addition of an adult education program.

Rabbi Silton has made enormous contributions not just to Temple Israel, but to the entire community. He founded the Holocaust Survivors and Friends in Pursuit of Justice. He also hosted a 3-day National Holocaust Conference for 1,500 participants at Temple Israel.

He has also organized a multitude of services for the community Kristallnacht and the Holocaust Memorial commemorations.

Through the efforts of Dr. Rabbi Paul Silton, Temple Israel has received numerous awards from the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, in addition to education awards for programming, high school education, and the Framework for Excellent Synagogue School Program Award.

I am proud to welcome my very dear friend, Dr. Rabbi Paul Silton this morning, and to thank him on behalf of the entire United States House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY WITHOUT RAISING TAXES

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, rather than pulling out the tired old talking points of "tax and spend," I wish my colleagues and my good friends on the other side of the aisle would actually read the Democratic budget resolution. Really, it makes for pretty good reading.

If they did, they would see that nowhere in the budget do we call for any increase in taxes; nowhere.

In fact, if the Republicans read our budget, they would see that it actually directs the Ways and Means Committee, of which I am a member, to come up with immediate relief for middle-income families who would otherwise be subject to the alternative minimum tax. Unless we reform that tax, 19 million families will have to pay higher taxes in 2007.

The President played games with this tax, coming up with only a 1-year fix.

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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H3187

You hear it in your own districts. Democrats are committed to coming up with a permanent solution.

Our budget allows the Ways and Means Committee to extend other middle-income tax relief, including the child tax credit and marriage penalty relief, while remaining true to the PAYGO principle.

Madam Speaker, this is a good budget that provides tax relief to middle-income families, and at the same time, finds balance within the next 5 years. I suggest we take a look at it.

DEMOCRAT BUDGET

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, in all my years of public service, I have never had a constituent tell me that they are taxed too little. Whether it is income taxes, property taxes, estate taxes, capital gains taxes, car taxes or some other tax, Americans give plenty of money to the government.

But for House Democrats, it seems that is not enough. How else do you explain a budget resolution that proposes the largest tax increase in American history by letting all of the tax cuts expire?

Their budget plan will deliver a hard blow to working families in our vibrant economy. By bringing back the marriage penalty, 23 million taxpayers will see their tax bill go up. By cutting the child tax credit in half, 31 million taxpayers will pay an average of \$850 more a year.

In all, House Democrats are asking hardworking Americans to fork over an extra \$400 billion over 5 years.

Madam Speaker, the other side will try to sell this budget, but don't be fooled, this is tax-and-spend politics at its worst, and it should be rejected.

HONORING CÉSAR CHÁVEZ

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 80th birthday of an American hero, the late César Chávez.

For 7 years, I have fought for a national holiday to honor César Chávez, a man who not only carried the torch for justice and freedom, but was the hope of thousands of impoverished people. César Chávez believed in "la causa," the cause; and he believed in "la huelga," the struggle.

As we approach his birthday, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 76, a resolution that educates our youth about his heroic life, celebrates his accomplishments and honors him with a national holiday.

The battle for social justice is far from over. But in the words of César Chávez, "si se puede."

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF BROWN

(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, what can brown do for you? You may be familiar with this phrase because it is the new UPS advertising slogan. During the past 100 years, UPS has done much for American workers and the American economy.

Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, UPS employs more than 427,000 people and is the world's largest package delivery company. It is incredible to know that this global behemoth began in Seattle, Washington, as a messenger service by a 19-year-old teenager who borrowed \$100.

Throughout 2007, UPS is celebrating its milestone 100th birthday by hosting employee events around the world. The celebration in more than 55 U.S. cities will revolve around the arrival of a mobile centennial exhibit. I was pleased South Carolina's Second Congressional District had the opportunity to participate in UPS's success when the birthday celebration came to the Midlands, and Rich McArdle was introduced as the new district manager.

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

HONORING CÉSAR CHÁVEZ

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 76, which would establish a national holiday in honor of César Chávez.

César Chávez dedicated his life to teaching others that persistence, hard work, faith, and willingness to sacrifice oneself breaks down barriers. He committed himself to achieving justice and equality for all farm workers, and paved the way for momentous social change.

In 1962, César Chávez formed what is known as the United Farm Workers. His efforts initiated one of the greatest social movements of our time. He dedicated himself to fighting for safe working conditions, reasonable wages, decent housing and the outlawing of child labor for farm workers everywhere.

Mr. Chávez embraced nonviolent tactics to help focus national attention on the problems that existed for farm workers. Mr. Chávez was said to have given his last ounce of strength defending the farm workers before he died in his sleep on April 23, 1993.

César Chávez is honored throughout America for his tireless work to help those who could not help themselves.

In my hometown of Houston and my district every year we celebrate the life and times of César Chávez by holding a

Hispanic heritage parade and day of celebration. A national holiday in honor of César Chávez would serve as an inspiration to those who seek to create a better world in the legacy of one who served to remind us that together all things are possible; in Spanish, "si se puede."

2008 DEMOCRATIC BUDGET

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

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this week, the Democrats will bring to the floor their budget, fiscal year 2008, that they passed out of committee. This budget promises to do two things: Raise taxes and increase spending.

My Republican colleagues and I will put forth a substitute that uses common sense to balance the budget in 5 years. It lowers spending, reforms unsustainable entitlement programs, and encourages economic growth without raising taxes.

Madam Speaker, as a result of the Republican supported tax policies passed in 2001 through 2005, every taxpayer who paid income taxes this year will get tax relief. My Republican colleagues and I believe government should limit taxing and spending and ease the burden on the economy. Let the country grow. The difference between the two budgets are plain and simple: The Democrats trust government, the Republicans trust people.

I urge my colleagues to support the fiscally responsible Republican substitute when it is brought to the floor later this week.

HONORING FORMER CONGRESSMAN JOHN BRADEMÁS

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

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of my distinguished predecessors in representing the district I am now privileged to serve in Congress and to celebrate his recent 80th birthday.

Dr. John Brademas served the then-Third District of Indiana in the House of Representatives for 22 years, from 1959 until 1981. While in Congress, Dr. Brademas played a leading role in writing most of Federal legislation enacted concerning schools, colleges and universities, services for the elderly and the disabled, libraries, museums, the arts and humanities.

During his last 4 years on Capitol Hill, John Brademas served as House majority whip under Speaker Tip O'Neill. Our distinguished former colleague was a dedicated and highly effective legislator and shaper of national policy. He has also been president of the Nation's largest private university, New York University.