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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 18, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANNA G. ESHOO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Ron Jackson, East Gaffney Baptist Church, Gaffney, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, our Heavenly Father, Your praise will always be upon our lips because You are the wonderful counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

We thank You for every blessing of life. You have been so good to us. We are grateful for the privilege of living and working in this great country.

Thank You for our President and every Member of this body. May there be love for You and love for one another because love never fails. Bless each marriage and strengthen every family.

Bless our military personnel around the world. Give each one strength, grace, wisdom and courage. Comfort those families who have experienced the death of a loved one in service of our country.

Loving Father, please minister to the devastated families, students and others who are dealing with the tragedy that has occurred at Virginia Tech University.

Now I pray that You would give wisdom and clear guidance to each Mem-

ber of this body as they conduct our Nation's business today.

I offer this prayer in the wonderful name of our all sufficient Lord.
Amen.

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 Florida (Mr. STEARNS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STEARNS 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.

CALENDAR WEDNESDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Today is the day of Calendar Wednesday. The Clerk will call the roll of committees.
The Clerk called the committees.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. SESSIONS. Parliamentary inquiry, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. SESSIONS. I understand that the procedure that the Chair just went through is known as Calendar Wednesday. Is it correct that any bill reported by a committee and placed on the Union or House calendar could have been called up by the chairman as the committee name was read?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A non-privileged bill otherwise in order may

be called up on formal authorization by the reporting committee.

Mr. SESSIONS. Further parliamentary inquiry, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. SESSIONS. H.R. 1429, Head Start Reauthorization, was reported out of the Ed and Labor Committee on March 23, 2007. Would it have been in order for the chairman or his designee to call up H.R. 1429 at this time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Clause 2(b) of rule XIII is sufficient authority for the chairman of a committee to call up a bill on Calendar Wednesday.

Mr. SESSIONS. Further parliamentary inquiry, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. SESSIONS. Similarly, H.R. 493, the Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act, was reported by the Ed and Labor Committee on March 5, 2007. Would it have been possible to call up H.R. 493 at this time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Yes.

Mr. SESSIONS. Further parliamentary inquiry, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. SESSIONS. Is it in order for Mr. McKEON, the ranking member of the Education and Labor Committee, to call up the bill under his committee's jurisdiction, Head Start?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A committee member other than the chairman must have specific authorization of the committee to call up a bill on Calendar Wednesday.

Mr. SESSIONS. Further parliamentary inquiry, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. SESSIONS. Is it in order for any member of the minority to call up a bill during the call of the committees?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A committee member other than the chairman must have specific authorization

□ 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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of the committee to call up a bill on Calendar Wednesday.

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Mr. SESSIONS. Further parliamentary inquiry, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. SESSIONS. Is the chairman of the committee the only person that is in order to call up a bill during the call of the committees on Calendar Wednesday?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Calendar Wednesday business may only be called up on formal authorization by the reporting committee. Clause 2(b) of rule XIII is sufficient authority for the chairman of a committee to call up a bill on Calendar Wednesday.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REVEREND RON JACKSON, GUEST CHAPLAIN

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

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, today's opening prayer was given by the Reverend Ronald B. Jackson. Reverend Jackson serves as the minister of East Gaffney Baptist Church in Gaffney, South Carolina, a pulpit that he has filled with distinction since 1989.

Reverend Jackson's ministry is based in East Gaffney Baptist Church, but not confined there. He has a television ministry in Greenville and a radio ministry in Gaffney. He is a prominent preacher, for sure, but he is also a pastor who has been recognized for service throughout the Southeast. He has established, for example, a foundation to help needy ministers and their families called the Parsons' Pantry Fund.

Three years ago, Governor Sanford awarded him the Order of the Silver Crescent, our State's highest award for volunteer service.

Reverend Jackson has spread the gospel from the Second Baptist Church of Great Falls, South Carolina, where he was called to the pulpit, to Bethel Baptist Church in Charleston, South Carolina, and even to Bourbon Street in New Orleans, where he was assistant chaplain, before coming home to South Carolina and eventually settling in Gaffney.

Reverend Jackson is married to Karen A. Jackson. They have two children, Kimberly McMillin of Inman and Bryan Jackson of Gaffney; and three grandchildren. Karen also has a son, Brock Burgess, of Gaffney.

On behalf of the House, I want to thank Rev. Jackson for his inspiring prayer and the Speaker and Rev. Coughlin for asking him to open today's session.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 one-minute requests from each side.

THE IRAQ WAR

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago, the United States invaded Iraq, ostensibly to eliminate weapons of mass destruction. When no such weapons were found, instead of declaring victory and bringing the troops home, the administration in its arrogance decided to dismantle the major institutions of Iraqi society and settle into a long-term occupation in order to remake Iraq in our own image.

The dismantling of Iraqi institutions, the army, the Baath party, et cetera, led to the breakdown of the delicate balances in Iraqi society and the emergence of civil war between Sunnis and Shiites. The continuing occupation led, as occupations do, to the development of a nationalist insurgency.

Now we have Sunni, Shiites and the insurgents shooting at each other and all shooting at American troops. This will go on as long as the occupation continues. The only way out is for Congress to mandate a timetable for a phased withdrawal of our troops.

Only such a mandate can get the Iraqi Government to step up to the plate. As Defense Secretary Gates said yesterday, the strong feelings expressed in the Congress about the timetable probably has had a positive impact in terms of communicating to the Iraqis that this is not an open-ended commitment. Only a mandated timetable for withdrawal will end the endless occupation and end the endless bloodshed of young Americans.

USING PATIENT CARE MANAGEMENT TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, eighty percent of health care dollars are spent treating chronic illnesses. These are complex cases where patients have multiple doctors, treatments, medications and tests. Errors can result from confusion and miscommunication, but case management can be effective in reducing these errors.

However, Medicare and Medicaid do not reimburse for patient care management. Unnecessary hospitalizations increased from about 1 percent for a patient with just one condition to 27 percent for a person with eight chronic conditions.

The Federal Government will pay billions to treat chronic illness that could have been prevented. The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center found that care management can reduce re-hospitalizations of diabetics by 75 percent. Another study reduced hospitalizations of patients with heart disease by 50

percent. We cannot continue to finance a broken health care system and expect different results.

We need to transform our health care system to make sure that we focus on patient safety, patient quality and patient choice. I urge my colleagues to learn more about patient management care programs by visiting my Web site at murphy.house.gov.

DEALING WITH VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

(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, environmental awareness has created an awareness of the urgency of collective action to save our planet. We need a similar commitment to dealing with violence in America. Would that the tragic events in Blacksburg, Virginia, which took 33 lives, be an isolated example of the effects of gun violence in America.

In fact, about 32 people perish each and every day in America in handgun-related incidents. The level of violence in our society constitutes a national emergency. I am offering the following approach to change America's direction, away from death and disintegration and towards life and social cohesiveness. First, passage of legislation to create a Cabinet level Department of Peace and Nonviolence, H.R. 808; second, passage of H.R. 676 to create Medicare for all, not-for-profit health care system focusing on mental health care issues; and, third, a ban on handguns, legislation which I am currently drafting.

America is being engulfed in violence every day. Let's show that we have the wisdom and the courage to come from our hearts to meet this challenge.

GO GATORS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to mourn the recent tragedy at Virginia Tech, we are reminded once again how fragile life is. Notwithstanding this tragedy, I would like to take a short moment to acknowledge the accomplishments of the University of Florida, which I represent in Gainesville, for repeating as men's national basketball champions.

This historic championship makes the Gators the first team since 1991-1992 to win back-to-back national titles and become only the seventh school ever to repeat as champions. With the Gators' 84-75 victory over the Ohio State Buckeyes, Florida remains the only school in the NCAA history to hold both the men's basketball and football championship titles in the same year.

The Florida Gators are excellent representatives of both the university and