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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Rick Astle, Director of Missions, Waccamaw Baptist Association, Conway, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Our Father in heaven, on this National Day of Prayer, we confess that Your way is perfect, Your Word is proven, and You are a shield to all who trust in You.

Make today a day when men are willing to repent of sin and to look to You for guidance, for Your seat is not on one side or the other of an aisle, but on the throne of heaven.

Interrupt the strategies of hate forming even now, such as what has manifested from Columbine to Virginia Tech, from Oklahoma City to Ground Zero.

Lord Jesus, each of our elected officials, locally and nationally, are on our hearts today, along with each man and woman in our Armed Forces and their families. Bless and protect them, Lord.

Pour out Your spirit today, that we may be assured that You are still blessing America.

I pray in Jesus' name. 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 Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE 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 RICK ASTLE

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Reverend Rick Astle, who just delivered the invocation for the U.S. House as we begin this National Day of Prayer, a time when communities across America will be joining in prayer for our country today. And what better person to begin this day than a man whose prayer ministry has carried him across our country and who has written a book on this very subject.

Born and reared in Oklahoma, now residing in Whiteville, North Carolina, he is married to the former Donna Strickland of Lumberton, who is with us today; and they have one son, John, who is a law student at North Carolina Central.

Rick was educated at the University of Kentucky and at Southern Baptist Seminary, and he has served Southern Baptist churches for over 30 years, has spoken in over 20 States, and is author of the book, The Priority of Kingdom-Focused Prayer, and now is the Director of Missions for the Waccamaw Baptist Association in Conway, South Carolina.

And as his brother-in-law, I am particularly honored to have him open us on this very special National Day of Prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute speeches on each side.

H.R. 1234

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, today's news indicates the Iraqis are beginning to be upset that the Bush administration, with the unfortunate help of this Congress, is trying to force the sovereign Government of Iraq to pass a hydrocarbon act which will give the U.S. oil companies control of \$6 trillion worth of Iraqi oil assets.

Now, the wealth of Iraq, the oil wells, ought to be decided by an Iraq Government not under U.S. occupation. But yet, in the bill that was vetoed yesterday, there was a provision that would have forced Iraq to have privatized its oil assets or the U.S. would pull our troops without having an international security and peacekeeping force in its place. That is nothing but extortion.

As Congress comes together to put a plan to get us out of Iraq, let's stop trying to steal Iraq's oil. Let's bring our troops home. Let's have an international peacekeeping and security force that can come in as our troops leave. It is time to take a new direction, and that is exactly what H.R. 1234 is about.

MONEY FOR MONKEY BUSINESS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, this House last night, about 11:30 p.m., authorized money for some absurd projects, including the study of bison hunting on the prehistoric Great Plains and, get this, the study of the sex lives of the Phayre's Leaf monkeys.

Meanwhile, our troops in Iraq are running out of money to fight the bad guys. Why? Because some Members of Congress think they know more about conducting the war in Iraq than the Generals do. So this congressional surrender group refuses to send more money without also demanding the day the United States will retreat and quit the fight.

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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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This Nation is at war with the people of hate. Those ill-informed people who are determined that we lose this conflict by keeping a tight fist on the war money have their priorities wrong.

Money for the study of monkey business, but no money for the troops is a mockery. Money for our troops is more important than investigating the sex lives of the Leaf monkeys and the study of prehistoric bison anyplace in the world.

Mr. Speaker, we need to work as late tonight to provide money for our U.S. warriors as we did last night to send money to the monkeys.

And that's just the way it is.

POWELL DOCTRINE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the Vietnam War, retired General Colin Powell outlined the Powell Doctrine, which stated simply that any future military action should include "massive force and a plausible exit strategy to avoid endless entanglement."

As we now know, from the very start of military operations in March 2003, President Bush fought the war in Iraq with an inadequate number of troops and never had an exit strategy, but simply believed the ideologues in the White House that Iraq would blossom into a self-governing democracy. On every score, his policy ignored the Powell Doctrine.

The President's veto on Tuesday of this week failed the test of the Powell Doctrine again. He rejected the plausible exit strategy outlined in the Iraq supplement, namely, a responsible redeployment of our troops out of Iraq's civil war 15 months from now, and instead reembraced his own policy of endless entanglement.

The people of this country deserve more than the political spin contained in the President's televised veto. We need to see his own plausible exit strategy, and, frankly, we need to see it from those who voted to sustain his veto, as General Powell put it. But, even more important, our soldiers and their families who are bearing the brunt of this war deserve a President who heeds the lessons of past military mistakes, not one who keeps repeating them.

IRAQ

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

Mr. AKIN. The Democrats' supplemental bill was a crafty way to quit in Iraq. Now, certainly each of us individually, and even as leaders and nations, is tempted at various times in the face of overwhelming odds to quit and to give up; and yet greatness in leaders and greatness in nations is frequently measured by a stubborn and cussed determination to carry on.

We think, of course, immediately of George Washington at Valley Forge, we think of Winston Churchill challenging the people of England to rise up and to be strong against the Nazis; he loved to mispronounce it to bait Hitler. But we also recall in our own history how we were in Vietnam, how we bombed North Vietnam, and in the observation of Jeremiah Denton, who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam, how we were just very close to victory. North Vietnam was about to capitulate because of the bombing, and then we cut and run.

The test before us today is for the courage and the heart of not just the Iraqi people, but the American people. What are the measurements we should be looking at? It is not the day for the sunshine patriot, but for the cussed and the strong and the brave.

THE TEST OF PATRIOTISM IS COURAGE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Sometimes the test of patriotism is courage. And I would simply argue that every newspaper headline is not true. We, the Democrats, maintain the courage that America has asked us to exhibit, the love and respect for our soldiers, full funding in the emergency supplemental.

We also are to push the envelope. Isn't it interesting that Secretary Rice is now sitting down with a Syrian official, the same administration criticizing the Speaker of the House, who led to begin the diplomatic surge?

This is a failed policy. Vietnam was not a cut and run; our soldiers were victorious. So are the soldiers in Iraq; they are victorious. But this administration has failed and failed and failed.

The Democrats will maintain their courage. They are patriots. They believe it is time to bring our troops home, to entrust to the Maliki government the responsibility of sovereignty. It is important to lead the Iraqi people toward peace, not use our brave and valiant soldiers as shooting targets for a failed and miserable policy.

Patriots stand for courage, and the Democrats are courageous and will continue to do so.

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CAMBODIA/IRAQ

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as we debate our policy in Iraq, perhaps it's useful to consider a lesson from history.

In all the media coverage of the war supplemental debate, a shameful anniversary in our history slipped by, mostly unnoticed.

Last week marked the anniversary of Congress's decision to cut off military funding for our involvement in Southeast Asia. The result, as predicted, was genocide; 3 million innocent people slaughtered in Cambodia's killing fields.

Mr. Speaker, similar warnings exist today in Iraq. Observers from across the political spectrum say a precipitous withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq could very likely result in a region-wide bloodbath. No one wants to see this, yet withdrawal is what many in this body are pushing for.

Mr. Speaker, before we act, let's remember the lesson of history. And we all want our troops to come home safely, but we need to win first and then come home. Defeat, surrender and genocide are not acceptable alternatives.

And Mr. Speaker, as a personal note, I'd like to say before I end, welcome to the world to little Joseph Thomas Offutt, a new grandson, namesake born earlier this week, 9 pounds, 14 ounces. You've brought great joy and happiness to our family. May you enjoy a long, good life.

THAT DOG DOESN'T HUNT ANYMORE

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

Mr. PASCRELL. That dog doesn't hunt anymore. I'm sorry.

Three things that are never discussed on this floor, never. Number 1, the pilferaging that's going on in Iraq right now make the few hairs we have on our head left stand on end. It is a disgrace that the American people's money has been stolen, to this day.

Number 2, by the way yesterday, let me tell you what progress is. A half hour of electricity yesterday in Baghdad. I want to hear progress. Secondly, the redeployment of our troops. No one is saying cut and run. No one's saying throw out the American flag. You won't discuss redeployment to the borders to protect the safe havens.

Number 3, let's talk about the amount of refugees that are in Iraq. Two million have left the country. What about the 1 million of Iraqis who have had to get out of their homes, who have no food or shelter?

Don't you talk about progress. That dog doesn't hunt any longer. Face the facts. This is not reality TV.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McNULTY). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

SUSTAINING THE VETO

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