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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 17, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JESSIE L. JACKSON, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rabbi Stuart L. Berman, Police-Clergy Liaison, New York City Police Department, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, guardian of the people of Thy covenant, help us to reflect clearly and strive conscientiously in the performance of our responsibilities this day. Let us be permeated by the time-tested ideals of our society, and may our days be blessed with the enduring accomplishments of this, the 110th Congress. We may be of different faiths, but we share a common love of this great land.

Let us direct all our efforts toward the eradication of hatred, prejudice and blindness of mind. Grant us breadth of vision to build bridges of understanding among all the citizens in our communities back home. May we never forget the common bond of kinship that unites all who were created in Thy divine image.

Grant us strength of body and health of mind. Enable us to face the challenges of life with faith and courage. Teach us, O Lord, the power of love, not the love of power.

In moments of doubt, strengthen us in our convictions. In hours of gloom, illumine our paths. In adversity and

frustration, gird us with patience and tolerance. Above all, O Lord, imbue us with the wisdom to count our blessings.

And we all say Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed and agreed to without amendment a bill and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1553. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to advance medical research and treatments into pediatric cancers, ensure patients and families have access to information regarding pediatric cancers and current treatments for such cancers, establish a national childhood cancer registry, and promote public awareness of pediatric cancer.

H. Con. Res. 381. Concurrent resolution honoring and recognizing the dedication and achievements of Thurgood Marshall on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment

in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5501. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes.

WELCOMING RABBI STUART BERMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) is recognized for 1 minute.)

There was no objection.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure and an honor for me today to welcome our guest chaplain, Rabbi Stuart Berman, and to thank him for such a wonderful prayer this morning.

New York, and my community in particular, have been fortunate to have had someone so dedicated presiding in our area. Most recently, Rabbi Berman served at the Woodside Jewish Center. However, he has had a very accomplished and profound career throughout his lifetime.

The rabbi nobly served on the Presidential Inaugural Committee, the Presidential Transition Committee, the White House Conference on Children and Youth Drug Abuse Panel, as well as the White House Conference on Aging.

In 1985, Rabbi Berman made history in the State of Florida and became the first rabbi to ever be appointed a prison chaplain.

In New York, he again placed the community first and was appointed police-clergy liaison, City of New York Police Department, and Sanitation Department Chaplain. He is also a prolific author of numerous publications and articles, and he previously hosted a weekly television talk show on FAN-TV.

□ 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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I would also point out that Rabbi Berman offered a prayer at the dedication of the post office renaming for my predecessor and his friend, our mutual friend, Congressman Tom Manton, when it was being named in his honor.

Rabbi Berman is joined today by his son, Nathaniel, and his sister, Zell. Audrey, his wife, who is an early childhood specialist with the New York City Board of Education, unfortunately could not be here with us and with him today. But we all know that she is very, very proud of her rabbi.

Thank you, Rabbi, for being here.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATING JERRY NORTHEY

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Jerry Northey, on his retirement after 12 years as president of UAW Local 838, and after 36 years of working at John Deere in Waterloo. Jerry has served four terms as president of the local 838 in my hometown, making him the longest-serving president in the local's history. In fact, he served as president more than twice as long as any of his predecessors.

As president of Local 838, with over 3,000 members, the largest union local in Iowa, Jerry has been a strong and effective advocate for workers. Under his leadership, the local has seen a net gain of more than 500 jobs over the life of the current contract. Thanks to Jerry's leadership, the union and John Deere have successfully settled every collective bargaining agreement since 1987.

Jerry has also led corporate ventures between John Deere and the UAW, including recently coming together to raise an impressive \$1 million for the Cedar Valley United Way campaign.

I know that Jerry will be greatly missed at the local hall and at John Deere, and I would like to thank him for his tremendous service, congratulate him on his many accomplishments, and wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO LISTEN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, President Bush listened to the American people this week, and he lifted the executive

moratorium on energy exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf. Unfortunately, a congressional ban still exists and remains in place.

Congress needs to listen to the American people. Whether it is the folks back in central Texas that I represent, or the people on the coast of Maine or Southern California, Americans want to explore safely and properly for American energy. 67 percent of the American people want sound exploration using safe practices, and to have American industry.

There is only one obstacle that stands in the way, and that is Speaker PELOSI and the Democrats in Congress. Americans are counting on Congress to work together to lift this ban.

Republicans are ready to work with Democrats to do just that. Give us a chance to have a vote on this, and we will have American energy for the American people.

PHOTO-OP IN THE ARCTIC

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we are soon going to be greeted by a photo-op in the Arctic with some of our Republican friends doing a little fly-over. It is an example of their "drillusion."

We have been fighting the Republican energy policy that is trapped in the 1950s. For the first 12 years I was in Congress they made it impossible, indeed, sometimes even illegal to even study improving fuel efficiency standards for cars.

For the last 7½ years, we have had two Texas oilmen in the White House, their secret energy task force, their disastrous 2005 Energy Act and, by the way, their Dept. of Energy which missed all 34 deadlines to improve appliance efficiency.

And what do we get from years of Republican control and their energy policy? \$4.35 cent a gallon gasoline.

Democrats, from the beginning, have provided new energy incentives. We have improved auto fuel efficiency standards for the first time in 30 years. And today we are going to have the Drill Responsibly on Leased Lands Act, the DRILL Act, to use the millions of acres they already have to be able to provide oil for this country. Together we can solve this gas price crisis which is the result of the President's failed energy policy and our addiction to foreign oil.

THE GUILTY GO FREE BECAUSE OUR GOVERNMENT HAS BLUNDERED

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Border Agent Luis Aguilar, Jr. was on patrol in January on the Arizona border chasing two vehicles of suspected drug deal-

ers. As the vehicles, a Hummer and a pickup, realized they had been discovered and fled back to the Mexican border, Agent Aguilar put road spikes in front of the vehicles. The Hummer, however, went off the road and ran over and killed Agent Aguilar.

The driver, Jesus Navarro Montes, was quickly arrested by the Mexican government and held on unrelated drug charges. However, he was released 6 months later because the U.S. Government never requested extradition proceedings.

Members of Congress have asked the Justice Department what happened. We received a standard bureaucratic, nonsensical letter saying, "we're not telling you." In other words, our Justice Department blundered by not requesting extradition, and now won't admit it.

This is incompetence. Montes, meanwhile, is still probably running drugs into the United States.

We owe it to all border agents and the family of Agent Aguilar to capture this killer. Maybe we should offer an old fashioned reward for his capture, and let our friends in Mexico do the job our government won't do.

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE PREVENTION ACT

(Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced a bill to protect our Nation's food supply and rural economies. This bill, the Foot and Mouth Disease Prevention Act of 2008, will block meat imports from Argentina until the USDA can certify to Congress that every region of that country is free of FMD.

The USDA is currently considering opening the U.S. protein market to select regions of Argentina, a country with a history of FMD outbreaks. This plan is flawed. It assumes that a highly infectious, airborne disease like FMD would stop at imaginary borders, and it trusts Argentina to effectively police itself.

Argentina is a country that lacks the infrastructure to handle FMD outbreaks. The USDA hasn't conducted a safety assessment in Argentina since the 2006 outbreak there, yet it is still moving with their plan to regionalize the country. This doesn't make sense, and it is not sound policy.

FMD has the potential to wipe out our livestock industry overnight, as it did to the British economy, which lost nearly \$20 billion with their outbreak in 2001, resulting in 6 million animals destroyed. A similar outbreak here would cripple the livestock industry, shut down exports of American beef, and send meat prices through the roof.

I urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this bill to block the USDA's plan to regionalize Argentina.