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No. 127

House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARSON of Indiana).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 29, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDRÉ CARSON 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.

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, the future health of America is at a crossroad, requiring us to make a critical decision. Will we choose the road that promises a healthier future for all Americans or will we choose to continue down the path that has led the United States to lag behind 28 United Nations countries in life expectancy?

Incredibly, the United States annually spends \$2.2 trillion on health care, more than any other nation. Seventy-five percent of that health care budget is spent largely on preventable chronic disease conditions. Yet the United States has the highest rate of preventable deaths among the majority of in-

dustrialized nations. Even more troubling is the fact that the number of people in the United States with preventable chronic diseases continues to rise steadily.

If unchecked, public health experts agree that nearly half of our population will suffer from at least one chronic disease by the year 2025.

Mr. Speaker, we can no longer ignore the science that links nearly 60 percent of premature deaths in our country to preventable environmental conditions, to social circumstances or to negative behavioral choices. We have known for almost a decade, for example, that being overweight and physically inactive accounts for more than 300,000 premature deaths each year in the United States, second only to tobacco-related deaths.

While we continue to ignore this preventable reality, our Nation's obesity epidemic shows no sign of abating. It may very well be that today's children will be the first in a generation to have shorter, less healthy lives than their parents.

However, there is good news. The road to a healthy future often requires only simple, small choices that have proven to be effective in reducing the incidence and severity of many chronic diseases. They include better eating habits, exercising more and taking an aspirin every day.

Unfortunately, these proven preventative strategies fail to reach large numbers of people at risk for chronic diseases. One reason for failure is our health system continues to prioritize medical care based on disease treatment rather than health care focused on prevention and on the control of diseases before they become more costly and difficult to treat.

Next year, as a new Congress and as a new administration work to fix our broken health care system, it is imperative we prioritize disease prevention and public health in the formulation of any health policy.

For that reason, I am introducing a resolution today calling for an increased Federal commitment to prevention and public health. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by my co-chairs from the Study Group on Public Health: Representatives JIM McGOVERN and KAY GRANGER; Representative JIM MORAN from the Prevention Caucus; and Representative DIANA DEGETTE of the Diabetes Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, the future health of our country is at a critical point in our history. New research has shown that investing in clinical- and community-level prevention saves lives and significantly reduces health care costs.

It is, therefore, essential that the road we choose to a timely, accessible, effective, and affordable health care system includes a focus on public health and prevention. Both are key elements to reaching our goal of a strong and healthy nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 36 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARNAHAN) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord, is it what people say or what others say about us that mirrors our

□ 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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truth? Is a person or a nation measured by words written or spoken or by ordinary deeds?

Is it what people say in prayer or on blogs or in the media that is most revealing? Or does silent and routine work truly record our deepest meaning?

The Scriptures seem to reveal You, Lord, as One who truly listens to people; yet our words tell You nothing. For You see all we do and fail to do. You even read human hearts.

You alone are the most high. You do not change. It is we who change as a nation, as a people; sometimes unknowingly, sometimes reluctantly, sometimes freely.

So have mercy on us, Lord, and reveal to us truth, now and forever.

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 New York (Mrs. LOWEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. LOWEY 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 has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3352. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 28, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 28, 2008, at 9:50 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the House amendments to the Senate amendment H.R. 3221

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 28, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 28, 2008, at 11:35 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.Con. Res. 395

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled joint resolution was signed by Speaker pro tempore HOYER on Monday, July 28, 2008:

H.J. Res. 93, approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

WAR PROFITEERS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I bring you news from Iraq and the war profiteers that make money off this war.

According to the Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction and as reported by the Washington Post, a California contractor "was paid \$142 million to build prisons, fire and police stations that were never built or finished."

The Inspector General states, "Millions of dollars in waste are associated with incomplete, terminated and abandoned projects."

The biggest fiasco was an incomplete prison that was so poorly constructed that the floors are collapsing. This facility is totally useless to the United States and Iraqi governments.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me this is yet another example of incompetence, waste, and possible fraud against America.

If crimes have been committed, the Justice Department needs to prosecute anyone that steals money from America during this time of war, because the long arm of American law even reaches crooked contractors in Iraq.

And where shall we send these people? To the well-built Guantanamo Bay Prison where we house war criminals.

And that's just the way it is.

TERRORIST BOMBINGS

(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. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend the world was reminded that we face a global war on terrorism. Terrorists murdered or maimed hundreds of innocent civilians in India, Turkey, and most recently, yesterday in Iraq. These attacks, which numbered well over a dozen, are a stark reminder of the hideous nature of the enemy, who have declared war on modern civilization.

The groups responsible for these attacks are not always the same people. However, their motives in disrupting peace and prosperity and taking the lives of innocent individuals are the same as those who seek to kill American families. That is why we must stand together with our allies against such heinous attacks.

I want to express my deepest sympathies to the people of India, Turkey, and Iraq. If we are to defeat those who will murder innocent civilians and destroy the prosperity of free Nations, then we must work together. Despite their best efforts, our enemy's brazen disregard for innocent life will only strengthen our resolve.

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

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, freedom is not the business of the Republican Party or the Democratic Party alone. It is not the business of liberals or conservatives alone. Freedom is the work of every American and every Member of Congress.

It was in that spirit that 3 years ago, I authored the Free Flow of Information Act with my colleague Congressman RICK BOUCHER from Virginia. The bill provides a qualified privilege to shield confidential sources from disclosure except in cases where national security or classified information is at issue.

Last year, the House proved that freedom is not an issue alone in the province of the left or the right by passing the measure with an overwhelming bipartisan vote.

Last week, the Washington Post and Washington Times proved the same. Newspapers with great liberal and conservative traditions alike have endorsed this vital legislation.

We learned this morning that the Senate may consider the Free Flow of Information Act as soon as tomorrow, and so I respectfully rise to encourage our colleagues in the other body to remember, freedom is not the business of Republicans or Democrats, liberals or