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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Monsignor Richard W. O'Keeffe, Immaculate Conception Church, Yuma, Arizona offered the following prayer:

Ditāt Deus, God Enriches. Those magnificent words are found on the seal of the State of Arizona as we celebrate today our 96th birthday as entering into the States of the United States. And so this morning we thank God for all those enriched graces that He has given to each and every one of us.

As we pray here this morning, we ask the Lord of all our endeavors to give our elected Congress men and women the courage to follow noble aspirations, strength to support worthy causes, integrity to seek the truth, and in all of their legislative duties, be their inspiration and guide.

Lord, You remember forever Your covenant with us. Even though it was centuries ago that You formed a community of family life with us, still You remain continually faithful. Enable us by Your merciful help to keep faith with You, to renew our covenant at important or difficult moments of our life so that at the end we may receive the promise of the covenant.

Lord, to those who believe in You, You promise kindness and truth, justice and peace. When we are faced with difficulties, increase our faith, but do not lower our ideals. From the least likely places You can bring forth the triumph of Your grace. These things we ask in Your name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PALLONE). 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 gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BLUMENAUER 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 MONSIGNOR RICHARD O'KEEFFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.
Mr. GRIJALVA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is my pleasure to welcome Monsignor O'Keeffe as our guest chaplain today.

Monsignor O'Keeffe has been tending to the spiritual and human needs of people in Arizona for over 40 years, of which the last 30 has been in Yuma, Arizona. It is fitting that he provides today's blessing, as we also memorialize the passing of Congressman Lantos, a great champion of human rights.

Monsignor O'Keeffe is highly respected in Yuma and all of Arizona for the work he does on behalf of human rights, civil rights and advocating for the underrepresented in our community.

He is an active member of the community, encouraging community leaders to take responsibility for social justice, recruiting young and old to engage in civic participation. His experience and passion has led him to be a founder of the Yuma Interfaith Organizing Committee.

I am honored to work with him and receive spiritual and community guidance from him. He is a source of strength for all of us who interact with him.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome my friend Monsignor O'Keeffe to the House of Representatives.

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.

GO TIGERS, GO

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I know today we're going to talk a lot about FISA, but before we do I want to rise to commend the University of Memphis men's basketball team on an outstanding season. So far the Tigers have amassed 24 wins, no losses, earning them the top national ranking in college basketball.

Thanks to the enthusiastic support of the Memphis Tiger fans, and especially the "Blue Crew," the Tigers hold the Nation's longest home court winning streak, 47 wins in a row.

ESPN has called them and their coach, John Calipari, relentless and unselfish.

I applaud the Tiger basketball team for setting an example of teamwork and tenacity that all teams, individuals and even this Congress would do well to follow.

On behalf of the people of the great City of Memphis and the great State of Tennessee, I congratulate the Tigers, and I wish them luck on the remainder of the season.

Thank you for making us proud.

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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PRESIDENT BUSH'S BUDGET TARGETS PUBLIC BROADCASTING AGAIN

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Well, it's a new year and again the Bush budget targets public broadcasting. Year after year, they've attempted to chop away at that investment. Year after year Congress rejects it.

This year it is a \$420 million reduction, including \$200 million that's already been allocated for this year. This assault on public broadcasting is not just undermining the digital conversion, the education and public affairs that we have grown to rely on, it's a direct assault at small-town and rural America where it's more expensive to reach and they don't have the donor base to provide it for themselves.

The irony is that San Francisco, New York, Washington and, dare I say, Portland, Oregon will always have public broadcasting. But if this Bush budget is adopted, it's going to decimate public broadcasting in rural and small-town America.

Please join the over 110 members of the bipartisan Public Broadcasting Caucus to again reject this assault on public broadcasting.

PROTECT AMERICA ACT

(Ms. GRANGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, once again the Protect America Act is set to expire. If the bipartisan Senate FISA bill is not passed in time, our intelligence agency will be blinded to our enemies' plans and required to consult a lawyer before eavesdropping on foreign terrorists.

The House should immediately pass the Senate's bipartisan bill which passed the Senate by a 68-29 vote. Our intelligence community needs a long-term fix in our intelligence laws, not a month-to-month extension.

More importantly, the Senate FISA bill grants liability protection to telecommunications companies that helped the government after September 11. Allowing these companies to be subjected to frivolous lawsuits threatens their cooperation in the future. This could have a crippling effect on America's counterterrorism efforts.

Yesterday, the Democrat majority chose partisan politics in the face of a strong bipartisan solution that directly determines the fate of our intelligence gathering abilities, and the House Democrat leadership failed. The American people have asked for solutions, not political grandstanding.

We should take up the bipartisan Senate FISA bill immediately. This cannot wait until we return from the President's Day recess.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to speak on what I call "The Daily 45."

The Department of Justice reports that on average, every day here in America, 45 people are shot and killed in a fit of revenge, robbery or troubled relationships. These are more than our soldiers who are killed in Iraq and Afghanistan each and every day.

Today I reflect on a story that has captured the hearts and the minds of Chicago area residents. On Saturday, February 2, the day began like any other day for six unsuspecting women. Five of these women, customers and workers at a Lane Bryant clothing store in the southwest suburbs of Chicago, were heartlessly murdered during an apparent midday botched robbery attempt by an assailant wielding a gun.

37-year-old Connie Woolfolk, 42-year-old Rhoda McFarland, 22-year-old Sarah Szafranski, 33-year-old Carrie Hudek Chiuso, and 34-year-old Jennifer Bishop should not be forgotten. Neither should we forget the sixth woman who was shot in the neck, but survived.

When will America say, "Enough is enough"? Stop the killings.

FISA

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

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, what is it that my friends on the other side don't understand about the threat that faces our country today? Have they not seen the reports coming from Iraq where al Qaeda in Iraq has now stated that their objective is to use Iraq to launch attacks against Jerusalem and Israel? Have they not read the reports today about a radical Islamist plot to perhaps assassinate the President of the Philippines? Have they not read about the attacks or the arrests in Denmark of radical Islamists perhaps planning an attack in Denmark?

What is it that you don't understand about the nature of the threat, that this is a global threat that wants to defeat us in Iraq, that wants to destabilize modern Islamic regimes, wants to eliminate the State of Israel, establish the caliphate and reach for the brass ring, which is to attack the United States? Why are you unwilling to put the Senate FISA bill on the floor and give the intelligence community the tools that they need to keep America safe?

HEALTHY HOSPITALS ACT

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

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, here's today's grisly toll.

235,626 cases, 11,661 deaths, and a cost of \$5.89 billion. What I'm talking about here are the number of people who obtain and die and the overall cost of infections in our hospitals every year, from MRSA, from pneumonia and other infections. It is time that Congress got serious about this.

In the last 3 years since I've first introduced this bill, 90,000 people have died each year from infections they pick up at hospitals. It is time we pass the Healthy Hospitals Act, H.R. 1174, and work to make sure our hospitals are safer.

THE LAWLESSNESS SOUTH OF THE BORDER

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Americans are under vicious attack in Mexico. The new threat comes from south of the border in the form of organized and violent Mexican kidnapers.

Last year, 26 San Diego, California residents were kidnapped and held for ransom while traveling to Mexico. Numerous Mexican nationals also were kidnapped. Some victims were murdered. Only a few of the people kidnapped were ever rescued. They reported that they were beaten, tortured and sexually assaulted.

The FBI says that these sophisticated kidnapers are growing in number. The State Department has even issued a travel alert for U.S. citizens living and traveling in Mexico. This new form of terrorism is very disturbing.

While President Calderon is here in the United States lobbying for illegal immigrants to get amnesty, Mexican and U.S. citizens are being victimized in his home country. President Calderon would do well to stay home in lawless Mexico, get his house in order and protect the rights of hundreds of his own people and the U.S. citizens who are being abducted and held for ransom by these outlaws.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1015

IMPERATIVE FISA RENEWAL

(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, the bipartisan Protect America Act, a critical anti-terrorist law that closes loopholes in our intelligence laws and protects civil liberties is, once again, about to expire. The House must act today on this critical piece of legislation, which passed the Senate by 68-29. If this Senate bill is not passed in time, our intelligence agencies will be blinded to our enemies' plans and required to consult a lawyer before eavesdropping on foreign terrorists.

Democrats have had more than 6 months to make the Protect America