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No. 8

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 14, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ELLEN O. TAUSCHER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Silvester S. Beaman, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Wilmington, Delaware, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, the focus of our adoration, the hope of our salvation and the source of our strength.

In this immense Hall for which the reverberating echoes of great men and women have raised their voices for the cause of justice, liberty and equality, we pause to surrender to Your sovereign authority.

We invoke Your presence. We petition You for wisdom. We await Your effectual power.

A Nation and world look to this deliberative body to be a voice for the voiceless, help for the hurting, and inspiration for the weary. Give us courage for our times. In the season of celebration, help us to see the transformative light of faith that inspired Mahatma Gandhi, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, that transcends the things that divide and help us to hold fast to those universal principles that unite.

God, may our motives, words, actions, and love define us in these, our

defining moments, by Your grace and according to Your will.
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 Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas 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. 60. An act to prohibit the sale and counterfeiting of Presidential inaugural tickets.

WELCOMING REV. DR. SILVESTER S. BEAMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Delaware, Congressman CASTLE, is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize and to thank Rev. Silvester Beaman, pastor of the Bethel African Methodist

Episcopal Church in my hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, for leading the House in prayer this morning.

Pastor Beaman's prayer, asking this body to be a voice for the voiceless, to help the hurting and to inspire the weary is a message for all of us which we should carry forward each and every day.

Pastor Beaman is widely known for his passionate and uplifting sermons. When I visit his congregation, I am welcomed with open arms by an enthusiastic group of individuals. He has worked to grow his church to more than 2,000 members, and he oversees a youth mentoring program, a senior citizens ministry and an AIDS task force. His compassion has no limits, and his enthusiasm cannot be contained. It is for these reasons that I have asked him to come before us today and to lead us in prayer.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize Pastor Beaman's wife and childhood sweetheart, Renee, and daughter, Asaiah, who are also with us today.

Pastor Beaman, thank you for being here and for sharing your blessing with the U.S. House of Representatives.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 5, 111th Congress, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming:

Mr. MARKEY, Massachusetts, Chairman.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Wisconsin.

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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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE SOUTH COBB HIGH
SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

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

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak to the Nation and to honor the South Cobb High School marching band—the Blue Eagle Band—for being selected to march for Barack Obama, the first African American to be elected President, in this extraordinary and historic inaugural parade.

This is an extraordinary story, Madam Speaker, but it is not just a Georgia story; it is an American story. For, when these young people were recognized and were selected for marching in this parade, they didn't have the money to come and no means, but people all across this country, from as far away as Arizona and California—over 16,000 donations and over 85 corporations—provided a way for these young people to come, young people who happen to come from the lower end of the economic stream. So you see, Madam Speaker, I am so proud to represent this extraordinary school from Austell, Georgia, from Cobb County, my district.

Next Tuesday, when we're watching this parade and when we see this Georgia high school band go by, it will not just be a Georgia story; it will be an American story. It will not be just a story of small achievement; it will be a story of America. People will say, "There goes America's band," because they got here and made it, because they practiced the values that made this country great with the spirit of the American people behind them.

THE TWIN TRIBES OF TERROR:
HAMAS & HEZBOLLAH

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the U.N. Human Rights Council, a bastion of hypocritical countries, such as Saudi Arabia, that publicly whip women who have been raped, claiming rape is the woman's fault, has now self-righteously condemned Israel for defending itself from the terror group Hamas.

The U.N. Council condemns Israel and ignores that Hamas has been murdering Israelis for years by firing rockets into civilian areas. Israel has been hit by more than 8,000 missiles, mortars and rockets since 2000 by the group Hamas.

The resolution also failed to condemn Hamas for using Palestinian people as

human shields for its war operations against Israel.

Since the Council was established, most of its unfounded resolutions have been related to Israel. However, it disregards major human rights violators, such as the twin tribes of terror—Hamas and Hezbollah. This shows the incompetence of this anti-Israeli council.

By the way, Madam Speaker, Hamas has just reinstated crucifixion in Palestine. Most humans would agree this is somewhat antisocial conduct. The Human Rights Council is neither concerned about humans nor rights.

And that's just the way it is.

GAINING CONTROL OF AMERICA'S
MONETARY SYSTEM

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Instead of using bail-out money to help people save their homes, the banks have thwarted \$350 billion in TARP funds, have used the money to buy other banks and have created a credit freeze. The banks have been permitted to pyramid debt out of sight. If we bail them out, the government and the corporate state become one and the same.

The wealth of the Nation is being accelerated upwards. We're moving from industrial capitalism to feudal capitalism where the rich get richer while 10 million Americans are out of work, while 10 million Americans face the loss of their homes and while American manufacturing jobs are endangered.

We have to take control of our money system. Put the Federal Reserve under Treasury and the fractional reserve system. We don't have to borrow money from banks, putting ourselves deeper in debt. We can create the money, spend it into circulation for jobs, health care, education, and infrastructure.

Throughout history, those nations have prospered which have had control of their monetary system. I am going to be introducing legislation to help effect exactly that.

SCHIP

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, today, the House is again going to consider the Democrat SCHIP Expansion Act.

This polarizing expansion of the welfare state was stopped by the veto pen last year, and that's where it ought to stay. Once again, the bill fails to ensure that all low-income children will be covered; but, instead, it is going to increase the number of adults on SCHIP. Once again, the bill will grant health care benefits to illegal aliens. The bill will force the taxpayer to pay

the health care premiums for children who already have quality, private health insurance. Even though President-elect Obama promised we wouldn't tax anyone making less than \$250,000 a year, this bill will impose the most regressive tax on the poor in history with the tobacco tax increase.

It is shameful that the Democrats are playing politics with America's needy children. I urge all of my colleagues to vote against this bill.

SCHIP

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

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today because signing a robust SCHIP authorization bill into law will truly make this a happy new year for more than 170,000 kids in my home State of Arizona.

The coverage that they receive through Arizona's SCHIP program, known as KidsCare, will change their lives, will change their futures and will change the future of the country.

At the end of 2008, more than one out of every seven or over 16 percent of kids in Arizona were uninsured. That makes Arizona the fourth nationally for the percentage of children in each State that goes without health insurance.

I am deeply concerned about the worsening economic crisis, and what the growing unemployment means for health insurance in our future.

As we work to stabilize our economy, Democrats and Republicans have to stay united for our children. We are their representatives. We are their voices. We have to speak out for the kids of our Nation. In this economic climate, we must not fail to recognize that health care continues to be incredibly expensive, the most costly economic challenge confronting our families and businesses.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the SCHIP reauthorization.

OBJECTIVE MEDIA REPORTING

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, after an election, it's useful to take a brief look back before moving forward. According to the Nonpartisan Project for Excellence in Journalism, during the Presidential campaign, media coverage of Senator MCCAIN was three times more negative than the coverage of Senator Obama. President-elect Obama won by about 7 percent. That means, if the media's one-sided coverage changed the minds of just 4 voters out of 100, the media, because of their bias, determined the outcome of the election.

Now that the election is over, will President-elect Obama get a free ride from his media allies?