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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEINER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.

June 19, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANTHONY D. WEINER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, Father of all, as we approach the weekend, we praise You and we bless You, for our fathers, both living and dead.

Their very presence or their memory may endow us with strength wrapped in gentleness, forbearance revealed in practicality, and a self-giving love which is a reflection of Your creative life and goodness.

May the fathers of this Nation be the first and best teachers of their children to find satisfaction in hard work, greatness in moral character, and faith in powerful ways.

May all fathers be blessed in their work, in their games and sports, and in the joys of family life.

This we ask of You, Heavenly Father. 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.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. HALVORSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. HALVORSON 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

FIX COVERAGE GAP IN MEDICARE PART D COVERAGE

(Mrs. HALVORSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HALVORSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express the urgent need to fix the coverage gap in Medicare

part D's prescription benefit plan, especially as we take up health care reform legislation this year.

The coverage gap, better known as the "doughnut hole," is getting worse each year. This gap is tied to health care costs, which are increasing at a rate much faster than inflation. In fact, the costs for people that fall into the doughnut hole are expected to more than double by 2016. In my State of Illinois, 32 percent of Medicare part D beneficiaries fall into this gap, and only a small fraction ever make it out.

Mr. Speaker, in America, no senior should have to choose between their meals and their medication. If we don't solve this issue, this situation will only continue to get worse. We must take the time to address this serious gap in coverage for our seniors.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue as we continue the health care reform debate.

TRIBUTE TO FULLER KIMBRELL

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate, pay tribute and honor a great Alabamian on the occasion of his 100th birthday, which will be this Saturday, a milestone that very few individuals get to reach.

Fuller Kimbrell was born on June 20, 1909, in Berry, Alabama, and was one of 10 boys. As a young man, he was quarterback and captain of his local football team, as well as helping his family on the farm. He traveled across the country during the Great Depression and returned home to Berry, Alabama, and then on to Fayette, Alabama. Today he resides in Tuscaloosa.

Mr. Kimbrell entered politics and served in the Alabama State Senate for the 12th District of Alabama, and he also managed Big Jim Folsom's gubernatorial campaign in 1954. Additionally, he went on to serve as an adviser

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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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to several successive governors in the great State of Alabama.

Until his retirement in 1984, he owned and operated Fayco, which was located in Fayette, Alabama, which is in the district I am privileged to represent.

Mr. Fuller Kimbrell has served on various civic and committee organizations such as the Lions Club, the Fayette Chamber of Commerce and the Alabama Farm Equipment Association, as well as the Alabama Road Builders Association, just to name a few.

Mr. Kimbrell has made so many great contributions to Alabama and our Nation. It is an honor to pay tribute to this great Alabamian and this great American. I am thankful to know Mr. Fuller Kimbrell, who is an inspiring example to all of us. I look forward to having the benefit of his wise counsel for many years to come, and I wish him a very happy birthday this Saturday.

A SORRY DAY IN THE HISTORY OF THE HOUSE

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a sorry day in the history of the House. Repetitious, unnecessary, unwise votes set about to obfuscate the business of this body was the order of the day. We set a record for the number of votes cast in a single day, but we also set a record for irresponsible, mischievous and obfuscatory behavior. It was a sorry use of the time of this institution.

The time of this institution is a public resource during which we are supposed to do the Nation's business. We are supposed to conduct that business on the floor, in the committees and in our offices. No opportunity was made available for the Members of this body to do that. The institution has not been helped by that behavior, nor has its reputation been helped.

I say that if this kind of behavior persists, we will fall lower in the respect of the American people, as very well we should.

Yesterday was a sorry event. The business of the Nation was obfuscated. The necessary actions that need to be taken on important concerns of the Nation, like health care, like the economy, like the budget, like some 12 or 13 appropriations bills that need to be addressed, were not done.

There are hundreds of items upon which the committee and the Congress could well be using its time. Yesterday we could not because of willful, obfuscatory and mischievous behavior by Members of this institution. It is time to bring that to a stop.

MIRANDA RIGHTS FOR ENEMY COMBATANTS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Justice Department has ordered Miranda rights to be read to terrorists captured on the battlefield. The administration is confusing constitutional rights of arrested criminal defendants in the United States with acts of war by terrorists against the United States in foreign lands.

Miranda rights ordered to be given by the Supreme Court do not apply to a group of people who have a worldwide mission to murder in the name of religion who are captured by our military in Afghanistan.

Never mind, sayeth the administration. Enemy war combatants must be told: "You have the right to remain silent. You have the right to a lawyer. If you cannot afford a lawyer, we will provide one for you. And anything you say may be used against you."

This new policy is misguided. Never in history have captured war combatants overseas been treated with such an overflow of privileges. They have been dealt with by our military, especially regarding interrogations.

But now I guess we are changing all that. But that ought not to be. I guess next we will have a whole battalion of lawyers going into the battlefield to tell our troops if and when they can shoot back. Have we gone a bit too far? And that's just the way it is.

URGENT NEED TO FIX HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. We urgently need to fix health care. Every day Americans worry not simply about getting well, but whether they can afford to get well. Millions more wonder if they can afford routine care to stay well.

Premiums have doubled over the last 9 years, three times faster than wages, and the average American family already pays an extra \$1,000 in premiums every year for a broken system that supports 46 million or more uninsured Americans.

We have the most expensive health care system in the world. We spend almost 50 percent more per person on health care than the next most costly nation, but we are no healthier for it.

We need a uniquely American solution that builds on the best of what works—to foster competition among private plans and provide patients with quality care, ensure that every American child is covered, invest in prevention and wellness to help every American live longer and healthier lives, and ensure that doctors and nurses get the information they need to provide you with the best individualized care.

Never again will coverage be denied if you allow that we go forward with this plan. Never again will one have to make a life or job decision based on coverage. Never will anyone have to let

your family suffer financial catastrophe or bankruptcy.

"No" is not the answer.

LET'S USE OIL SHALE

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, energy prices are a vital concern to all Americans. As gasoline prices are edging up and as the economy is in a recession, we all need a policy of making energy affordable and available.

Oil shale is a promising source of energy for America's future. I am holding in my hand a piece of oil shale from western Colorado. My State, along with Wyoming and Utah, have an estimated quantity of 1 trillion, with a "T," barrels of oil products within our oil shale.

Unfortunately, this administration put oil shale development on hold almost as soon as it took office. This is unfortunate, because we should not be importing oil products from the Middle East if we have it here at home. On top of that, the cap-and-tax policy that this administration is pushing will also drive up the cost of energy.

Mr. Speaker, let's have an energy plan that uses American energy without needless taxes and costs piled on.

CREATING COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. 47 million. 47 million is an absolutely unacceptable number of Americans who go every single day without health insurance, who when they are sick can't afford to go to the doctor, which means that when they do have an ability to access the health care system, they have to wait until they are so sick that they use the emergency room as their primary access point, which makes health care astronomically more expensive.

When a child in America is 5 years old, American families don't have to wring their hands every day wondering how they are going to pay for a child's education, because it is universal. You go to kindergarten starting on the first day that you are 5 years old.

That doesn't happen in America when you turn 5 years old and it comes to health care. Parents all over America have to worry when their child gets sick whether they are going to be able to take their child to the doctor, is their problem going to get worse.

Parents and families in America have to worry about whether they are going to continue to have their coverage if they don't have a job. They have to worry about being able to get coverage when they are sick. Those are worries that are unacceptable in the most prosperous, most democratic nation in the