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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 9, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Of late, signs of spring speak of new life, O Lord. May the first gasps of freedom stabilize the Earth with fresh beauty. May heroic hearts of leadership the world over burst forth with psalms of thanksgiving for Your saving grace and goodness.

Hopefully, Lord, our spring fasting and renewal in prayer will peel away illusions for the Nation and personal self-deception. May rage, violence and anger be drowned out by gentle rains as, with common endeavor, we work for the uprooting of weeds and the planting of new seed.

Let destructive forces be silenced by constructive ideas and collaborative efforts. By Your Spirit, Lord, renew the face of the Earth.

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.

Mr. WOMACK. Madam 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.

Mr. WOMACK. Madam 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WOMACK 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. 23. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 85-874, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, reappoints the following individuals to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts:

The Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD).

The Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN).

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-567, the Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, reappoints, the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Interest Declassification Board:

Sanford Ungar of Maryland.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet in joint meeting to hear an address by The Honorable Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Monday, February 28, 2011, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 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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During the recess, beginning at 10:50 a.m., the following proceedings were had:

JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE JULIA GILLARD, PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

The Speaker of the House presided. The Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Mrs. Kerri Hanley, announced the President pro tempore and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore taking the chair at the left of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort The Honorable Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR);

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING);

The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER);

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN);

The gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON);

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY);

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON);

The gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA);

The gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN);

The gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA);

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY); and

The gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The President pro tempore of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort The Honorable Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY);

The Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL);

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO); and

The Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR).

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Her Excellency Heng Chee Chan, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for her.

At 11 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m., the Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced The Honorable Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia.

The Prime Minister of Australia, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you The Honorable Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

Prime Minister GILLARD. Mr. Speaker, Mr. President Pro Tempore, distinguished Members of the Senate and the House, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am the fourth Australian Prime Minister to address you. Like them, I take your invitation as a great honor. Like them, I accept it on behalf of Australia.

Since 1950, Australian Prime Ministers Robert Menzies, Bob Hawke and John Howard have come here, speaking for all the Australian people, through you, to all the people of the United States. They each came with a simple message, a message which has been true in war and peace, a message which has been true in hardship and prosperity, in the Cold War and in the new world, a message I repeat to you today:

Distinguished Members of the Senate and the House, you have a true friend down under.

For my parents' generation, the defining image of America was the landing at Normandy . . . your "boys of Point-du-Hoc" risking everything to help free the world. For my own generation, the defining image of America was the landing on the Moon. My classmates and I were sent home from school to watch the great moment on television. I'll always remember thinking that day:

Americans can do anything.

Americans helped free the world of my parents' generation. Americans inspired the world of my own youth.

I stand here, and I see before me the very same brave and free people. I believe you can do anything still. There is a reason the world always looks to America: Your great dream—life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—inspires us all.

Those of you who have spent time with Australians know that we are not given to overstatement. By nature, we are laconic speakers, and by conviction,

we are realistic thinkers. In both of our countries, real mates talk straight. We mean what we say, so let me say this to you:

You have an ally in Australia—an ally for war and peace, an ally for hardship and prosperity, an ally for the 60 years past—and Australia is also an ally for all of the years to come. Geography and history alone could never explain the strength of the commitment between us. Rather, our values are shared and our people are friends.

This is the heart of our alliance.

This is why in our darkest days we have been glad, glad to see each other's face and hear each other's voice. Australia's darkest days in the last century followed the fall of Singapore in 1942.

And you were there with us.

Under attack in the Pacific, we fought together.

side by side . . . step by bloody step.

And whilst it was Australian soldiers at Milne Bay who gave the allies our first victory on land in the Pacific War, it was American sailors at the Battle of the Coral Sea who destroyed the fear of an invasion of Australia.

Distinguished Members of the Senate and the House, Australia does not forget. We will never forget.

The ultimate expression of our alliance, the ANZUS Treaty, was not signed until 1951, but it was anticipated a decade earlier in the judgments—the clear, frank and accurate judgments—of an Australian Prime Minister; and in the resolve—the extraordinary, immovable resolve—of an American President. In the decades since, we have stuck together in every major conflict—from Korea and Vietnam to the conflicts in the Gulf.

Your darkest days since Pearl Harbor were 10 years ago in Washington and New York.

And we were with you.

My predecessor John Howard was quite literally with you, and he came to this Capitol when you met on September 12 to show you that Australians would be with you again; and after 50 years, under a new Prime Minister and a new President, the ANZUS Treaty was invoked.

Within Australia's democracy, John Howard and I had our differences, but he was and is an Australian patriot, a man who was moved by what he saw here in that terrible September. He was and is a friend of America. When John Howard addressed you here in 2002, we were already with you in Afghanistan, and we are with you there still.

I want you to know what I told Australia's Parliament in Canberra, what I told General Petraeus in Kabul, what I told President Obama in the Oval Office this week: Australia will stand firm with our ally the United States.

Our friends understand this, that we will stand firm with you; but perhaps more importantly, our enemies understand this, too.

We must be very realistic about Afghanistan's future. Australia firmly