

and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

In the New Testament, Luke 4:18-20 teaches us these words:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to proclaim the good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not in order.

Mr. RUSH. And to recover sight to the blind, to set the oppressed free.

I urge all who hear these words to heed these lessons.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is no longer recognized.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will ask the Sergeant at Arms to enforce the prohibition on breaches of decorum.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must remind Members that clause 5 of rule XVII prohibits the wearing of hats in the Chamber when the House is in session. The Chair finds that the donning of a hood is not consistent with this rule. Members need to remove their hoods or leave the floor.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, America has the best health care system in the world.

Long before coming to Congress, I spent my energy in the life and health insurance field. In selling individual contracts, I found that questions of preexisting conditions and portability were a major concern for people buying individual health insurance contracts.

Over the years, I became convinced that these two major challenges could be solved by breaking down the walls between the individual States. This would provide a much larger pool of applicants, thus allowing for a much more reasonable base to underwrite the cost of covering those preexisting conditions and allowing for more effective portability.

□ 1040

When we debated how to solve the problems affecting our health care system 2 years ago, many were warned that government would go too far and must not be the solution. Our former Speaker said, "We have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it." Well, now we know what is in it, and it's time to speak up.

Mr. and Mrs. America, do not allow a federally mandated program to undermine the best health care system in the world. Do not allow a Federal mandate to get between you and your physician. Do not allow government to undermine your right to choose between

the great variety of protection available in the marketplace. Do not allow a politically appointed board to ration health care in the name of reducing costs. Do not allow the Federal Government to take us down the pathway to socialized medicine. Do not allow us to be dominated by those who would have America look more and more like Europe.

So, Mr. and Mrs. America, it's time for all of us to come together. We can solve the problems of our existing health care system without allowing a bunch of unelected bureaucrats getting between you and great health care.

You need to tell Congress to do their job—solve the problems without destroying the best health care system in the world.

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 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dennis Culbreth, First Baptist Church, Jasper, Alabama, offered the following prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, I want to thank You so much for the privilege we have to pray to You today. You are the Creator of all. It is through You that we can have hope and we can have grace.

Father, You have blessed our country as no other country has been blessed. I pray, Lord, that You will never let this body forget Your goodness and Your mercy to us all. Guide these legislators in such a way that Your will is promoted throughout the world.

Continue to use our country as a beacon on the hill. It is because of Your mercy our country is a light of hope shining in a lost and a dark world.

Dear Lord, please let us never take this freedom for granted. As these representatives gather from across the Nation, we ask for Your guidance and for Your wisdom as these men and women seek to make decisions that affect the lives of every American here at home and across the world.

And this I pray in Jesus' name, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

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

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

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

Mr. COHEN. 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. 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. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. REYES 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 agree to the request of the House of Representatives that the Senate return to the House the bill (H.R. 5) "An Act to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system."

WELCOMING REVEREND DENNIS CULBRETH

THE SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor and my privilege this afternoon to welcome our guest chaplain, Dennis Culbreth, who gave today's opening prayer.

Dr. Culbreth, as senior pastor, serves a congregation of 2,400 at First Baptist Church in Jasper, Alabama. Prior to his tenure at First Baptist Church in Jasper, he served congregations across Alabama, Virginia, and Georgia.

In addition to his service within his congregation, Dr. Culbreth has also been an active member of the senior executive leadership team for the North American Mission Board and the Virginia Baptist Convention.

Dr. Culbreth earned his bachelor of arts at Samford University, his master's in divinity at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and his doctorate at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He is a native of Evergreen, Alabama, and enjoys spending time with his family—his wife, Marybeth, and children

Andrew, Matthew, and Grace—as well as playing an occasional round of golf.

Dr. Culbreth is a devoted and inspired leader in our community, and it's a privilege to have him here today to be with us and to give our opening prayer.

It's my honor to serve him, his family, and his congregation in the Fourth Congressional District of Alabama.

Again, I welcome Dr. Culbreth to the United States House of Representatives this afternoon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

CONVICTED RAPIST COLLECTS MONEY FROM VICTIM

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the white ribbon campaign's theme is "No Excuse for Abuse."

Crystal Harris was raped by her abusive husband, and it was not the first time he hurt her, abused her, or even threatened her. But this particular crime and rape was caught on tape. So, Shawn Harris was convicted and sent to prison for 6 years. It sounds like justice prevailed. The outlaw was put away. But that's not the rest of the story.

A judge ordered that once the sex offender husband gets out of jail for rape, the victim must pay him \$1,000 a month in spousal support and, get this, she has to pay the legal bills for the divorce—his legal bills.

The victim has to pay the rapist. It should be the other way around. The criminal should be paying Crystal restitution because rape is never the fault of the victim, and a victim never owes the perpetrator anything.

No judge, no law should force victims to financially support convicted rapists because there is no excuse for abuse.

And that's just the way it is.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the chaplain of the day asked God to look over this Congress. I ask God and think the preacher should have asked for direction a little bit further, to look over the Supreme Court, because the Supreme Court has in its hands the Affordable Care Act.

A report was just issued yesterday that said in my home city of Memphis, African American women are twice as likely to die of breast cancer than Caucasian women. That's unacceptable.

Part of that is because they don't get the health care they need. The Afford-

able Care Act will see to it that everybody gets access to affordable health care, that there won't be a disparity of twice as much for the cost of insurance for women than men, and that mammograms will be offered to people, ladies, without a co-pay.

If the Affordable Care Act passes, that disparity in health between white women and black women in my city and in America will end. That is wrong.

Part of what's happened in my city is a vestige of Jim Crow, and even though those laws have been repealed, we still suffer from them, and there is a lot in the Affordable Care Act that will end those. I hope the Supreme Court rules on the side of life.

RESTORE THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

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

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, 1 week ago today, I introduced H.R. 4232 with my colleague from Ohio, Congressman TIM RYAN.

The Restore the Freedom of Information Act is a commonsense, bipartisan bill that would make it easier for American taxpayers seeking information from the Federal Government's multibillion-dollar bailout programs.

When the executive branch ceases to function as an arm of the government and begins taking ownership of private enterprise, they should not be able to hide behind the Freedom of Information Act restrictions and keep secret their dealings and the use of taxpayers' dollars.

In the auto bailout, the administration actively took away the pensions of Delphi's salaried retirees and now refuses to release documents to tell the taxpayers how this happened.

Mr. Speaker, whether it's the auto industry, the financial sector, or even a future bailout, taxpayers deserve access to this information, and H.R. 4232 will do just that. The Restore the Freedom of Information Act will ensure that the administration can not continue to hide its decisions from public scrutiny and deny American taxpayers the access they deserve.

□ 1210

BUDGETS ARE ABOUT VALUES

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, budgets are about values. The budget we are about to debate today, the Republican budget, does not reflect American values. It is a budget for the survival of the fittest. It cuts the highest tax bracket from 35 percent to 25 percent. That's going to add \$5 trillion to the debt. In order to compensate for that, this budget cuts \$5.7 trillion in domestic discretionary spending.

If this budget were ever to become law, it would push back all the progress we've made over generations in terms of malnutrition, in terms of poverty rates, in terms of protecting our seniors. It is a budget that would make Charles Darwin blush. It is a budget not worthy of this House, and it is a budget I hope will be resoundingly rejected because of the values that do not reflect America at its best.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MAMMOTH SPRING HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Mammoth Spring High School boys' basketball team.

This season, the Bears won 36 and 7 and claimed Arkansas' Class 1A State Championship trophy after defeating the Sacred Heart Rebels by a score of 42-39. This is the first ever State championship victory for the boys' basketball team, and it is a great source of pride for the Mammoth Spring community.

I would like to commend Head Coach Jeremy Cude for leading his team to a State championship. Additionally, I would like to recognize players Mason Brown, Seth Brown, Joby Busch, Wayne Coffey, Houston Cooper, Craig Hoover, J.D. Major, Tyler Mullins, Josh Parker, Ryan Roberson, Cortley Rutledge, Dylan Skaggs, A.J. Smith, Matt Turnbough, and Garrett Wooldridge for the leadership they have shown.

Great accomplishments like a State championship don't happen without a great deal of dedication. The Mammoth Spring Bears and their head coach have put Mammoth Spring on the map and have brought a great deal of pride to their community. Now that the boys' basketball team has brought a State championship trophy home to Mammoth Spring, I have no doubt that the players will set new, even higher goals to achieve.

Congratulations once again to the Bears and to the entire Mammoth Spring community for their State championship victory.

CESAR E. CHAVEZ

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

Mr. REYES. Today, I proudly stand and join with millions of Americans in remembering the life and legacy of one of our greatest civil rights pioneers in our Latino community, Cesar Chavez.

An advocate for social justice, Cesar Chavez dedicated his life to giving voice to those who couldn't speak for themselves. Cesar Chavez advocated for strong health care for communities. He advocated for good-paying jobs from