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No. 100

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 18, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RAY LAHOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend H. Warren Casiday, Emanuel Reformed United Church of Christ, Thomasville, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

May we join in prayer, please. O Lord, Our Lord, how majestic is Your Name in all the Earth. We pause at this moment to turn our hearts and minds toward You.

God, You have called each of these fine men and women to the respective positions in this great House to serve You, to serve their constituents, to serve each citizen of our great country. Bless each Representative as they respond to Your call.

Grant each of them wisdom as they seek to understand what is both right and necessary for America at this time. Grant that they may have the courage to reach the decisions that will be consistent with Your desires for our Nation. Grant each Representative the peace that comes with the knowledge that they have attempted to do Your will for our country. May You continue to bless this great Nation of ours through the faithful service of each Member of this distinguished House.

By Your grace, may each of these requests be granted. I offer this prayer in

the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

Mr. McNULTY. 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.

Mr. McNULTY. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KUCINICH 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 Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed

with amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 333. An act to amend title 11, United States Code, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 333) "An Act to amend title 11, United States Code, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints: Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KYL, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. MCCONNELL, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces there will be 10 1-minute per side, beginning with the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), the sponsor of the guest chaplain today.

WELCOME TO GUEST CHAPLAIN, THE REVEREND H. WARREN CASIDAY

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Thomasville, North Carolina, is known as the chair capital of the world. It is also the home of the Emanuel Reformed United Church of Christ, where our guest Chaplain today has served for the past 7 years. We are pleased to have Warren, his wife, Marie, and son, Jason, with us today.

Mr. Speaker, I visited the Emanuel Church many months ago for a dinner on the grounds, and on that day some

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of the parishioners expressed interest in having their pastor to serve as our guest Chaplain and here he is today.

Reverend Casiday received his divinity degree from the Duke University School of Divinity in Durham; and Warren presently serves, Mr. Speaker, as the president of the Thomasville Ministerial Association and the Chair City Toastmasters in Thomasville.

Warren said to me, Mr. Speaker, just a few moments ago, "I am a follower of Christ and I am humbled and honored to be the guest Chaplain today." I say to him, Warren, we are honored and privileged to have you and your family and your congregation in Thomasville back home watching.

WE NEED TO UTILIZE NATURAL GAS RESOURCES

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, everybody here and everybody in America actually knows we are facing an energy shortage; but I ask today, what are we doing about it?

Our demand for oil and gas continually rises, and we seem to diminish our supply of these natural resources at the same time. In times of crisis we have actually drawn from our fuel reserves, but we always fail to replenish them. Right now the demand for gas is outstripping our demand for oil. By 2020, we will consume 62 percent more natural gas than we do today.

But while our demand grows, our production slows. We need to act now; but we cannot, because 40 percent of our natural gas sits under sagebrush protected by Federal regulations.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are paying 20 percent more for natural gas than they did a year ago. What do we tell these people? We need to tell them that we can and will correct this energy problem responsibly and quickly by passing the Energy Security Act proposed by the chairman of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this important and necessary piece of legislation.

U.S. NEEDS POLICIES TO END NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the news from the administration yesterday is that there is an intention to weaponize space, to deploy space-based missile defenses, which would be a clear violation of the 1972 ABM Treaty.

In 1972, the Russians and the United States signed an agreement which provided for the cessation of the nuclear arms race and to take effective measures towards reductions in strategic

arms, nuclear disarmament, and generally and complete disarmament. On May 26, 1972, the two great powers agreed we would get rid of nuclear weapons; yet in the last week we have had the administration have its first test of its missile shield, and now they are talking about the weaponization of space.

We began our session today with a prayer, and the prayer should continue to be, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And I do not think it is the will of the divine to end this world in a nuclear conflagration. We should work towards the elimination of all nuclear weapons, and we should work for an end to policies which cause this country to move towards the weaponization of space.

THE JERUSALEM PLEDGE

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Israel has sought a just and lasting peace for its people, who like people all around the world, only want to raise their families and go about their business in peace and harmony.

Last year, Israel offered the most comprehensive concessions to bring a permanent peace to the Middle East. Instead of acceptance, the Palestinian answer has been to set off a campaign of terror against Israel.

Sixty years ago, European Jews stood alone and the world pledged this would never happen again. I, along with many others, have taken The Jerusalem Pledge being spearheaded by the Simon Wiesenthal Center for a World Conference on Solidarity with Israel. This conference summons Jews and friends from all over the world to Jerusalem to stand together in a show of support.

I have already planned a trip to Israel to reaffirm my longstanding support during its time of need. Because terror will not succeed against solidarity.

ABOLISH THE IRS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. The IRS said last year's 81 percent error rate dropped to only 73 percent this past year. Unbelievable. The Internal Rectal Service screws up 73 percent of the time and then brags about it.

If that is not enough to cause your 1040 to crepitate, IRS agents gave the wrong advice to taxpayers only 50 percent of the time last year, according to an investigation.

Beam me up. The IRS does not need more workers; the IRS does not need more money. These stumbling, fumbling, bumbling mistake-prone nincompoops have got to go.

I yield back the need to pass the Tauzin-Traficant 15 percent flat retail sales tax, abolish the income tax, and abolish these nincompoops at the IRS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House, and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings, or other audible conversation, is in violation of the rules of the House.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S BALANCED ENERGY PLAN

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for 8 long years, America has ignored energy. There was no energy policy at all under a Democrat administration. So I applaud President Bush for his courage to put forth a balanced energy plan.

The White House plan conserves energy, protects the environment, and increases production. It is time to end our almost total dependence on foreign oil. As my colleagues know, almost over 50 percent of our oil comes from other countries. Not only is that a threat to our national security, but it affects our energy prices.

Just look at California. Since California's Gray Davis failed to enact a plan that encouraged production, they are facing blackouts, high prices, and an uncertain future. Support the President's energy plan. The time is now. It is right for America.

SEND ENERGY BILLS TO THE NAVY

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

Mr. FILNER. Well, now we do know what the administration's energy plan is, Mr. Speaker. When my constituents' bills doubled and tripled in the last year, we asked for Federal help to stop the price gouging and refund those criminal overcharges, but the administration turned a deaf ear. But yesterday, when the Vice President's bill was found to be doubled or almost tripled to \$186,000, what did he do? He said the Navy is going to bail me out. I do not have to conserve. I do not have to worry about energy policy; the Navy will pay my \$186,000.

So I am asking all my constituents and people all around the country to send their utility bills, which have doubled or tripled, to the Navy, care of the Vice President. That seems to be what the energy policy is of this Nation. Have the Navy pay our utility bills.