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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 29, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable E. CLAY SHAW, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Bryce Anderson, pastor, Church of the Living Word, Vincennes, Indiana, offered the following prayer:

God of our forefathers, refuge of good and wise people in every generation: when history began, You were the first enlightener of minds. Yours was the Spirit that first led them out of their brutish estate. You are the Lord and giver of life, the source of all knowledge, the fountain of all goodness.

The patriarchs trusted You and were not put to shame. The prophets sought You and You committed Your word to their lips. The psalmists rejoiced in You and You were present in their psalms. The apostles waited upon You and they were filled with Your Spirit. The martyrs called upon You and You were with them in the midst of the flame.

Forbid it that we should fail to profit by these great memories of the ages or to enter into the glorious inheritance which You have prepared for us through 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DEFAZIO 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. Monahan, 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. 247. An act to reauthorize the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND BRYCE ANDERSON

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

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that our session today began with a prayer delivered by Bryce Anderson, pastor of the Church of the Living Word in Vincennes, Indiana.

It is a proud and longstanding part of our heritage that the work of Congress begins only after God's blessing and favor is sought, and I am proud that Pastor Anderson could participate in this historical duty.

In 1987, Pastor Anderson and his wife, Bobbie, established the Church of the Living Word as an outreach to their community. In his 16 years as pastor,

Bryce has demonstrated the commitment and dedication that make him both a role model and spiritual leader in Knox County.

Bryce shares with the first Speaker of the House, Frederic Augustus Muhlenberg, the notion that service to God and public service go hand in hand. Like so many of our founders, Pastor Anderson believes the church has both a role and responsibility to be active in faith and in service to community and country.

Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more.

ON THE RELEASE OF U.S. CITIZEN FUMING FONG

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, for both sides of the aisle, Monday evening was a great time for New Jersey and America. I was at the Newark Airport at 11 p.m. when Fuming Fong, an American citizen who has been held in prison by the Chinese for 3 years, was finally released and returned home.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the State Department, most notably Assistant Secretary Kelly, and Will Laidlaw from the U.S. embassy in Beijing who came with Fuming Fong to join his family here in the United States. He is from West Orange, New Jersey, which is part of my district.

Fuming Fong is an electrical engineer. He was charged in a universal charge of bribery, which so many people are in Chinese prisons for. He was detained by the Chinese Government in February of 2000. After meeting with the Fong family in August 2001, I made the decision that this was something we could all get on board with, and so I went to China in January and the end of this year to plead with the Chinese Government, indeed, the President himself.

□ 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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Mr. Speaker, any time that we begin to take freedom for granted, I would like my colleagues here in this House to think of Fuming Fong and what he went through and how beautiful this country of America is.

WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHERS

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

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I once again want to talk a little about the Washington Waste Watchers and the work that a number of us are trying to do to root out waste in Washington. The examples are just one after another; but one that hit me, I think like a ton of bricks, was the \$814,000 in salary and bonuses for a Head Start executive director in Kansas.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, when we bring these up, our good friends on the Democratic side of the aisle have only one solution. What is their solution? Do they join us when the chairman of the Committee on the Budget proposes to cut 1 percent in waste, fraud, and abuse? No, they propose increased taxes on the American people.

When we see a \$470,000 grant to study individuals, now, listen to this, drinking alcohol while watching pornography, do we get the Members of the other side of the aisle coming forward to say we want to help cut waste, fraud, and abuse? No, they propose to increase taxes on the American people. When we see, for example, the Impact Aid funds intending to go to schools in South Dakota that were instead used, some of them, to purchase real estate, to purchase a Lincoln Navigator and a Cadillac Escalade, do we get our friends on the Democratic side of the aisle to say we want to support you in cutting this waste? No, they propose increasing taxes, 25 times just this year alone.

NO MONEY FOR EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the whining from the other side of the aisle is extraordinary. They can see all this waste, fraud, and abuse; but they control the White House, the Senate, and the House and yet they do not do anything about it. Puzzling.

Here is something else they do nothing about which is very puzzling. There are 4 million American workers who have exhausted their unemployment benefits and cannot find work. The President and the Republican majority say that we cannot afford to extend unemployment benefits to these people, despite the fact there is \$20 billion sitting in the Unemployment Trust Fund of taxes paid by Americans.

No waste, fraud, and abuse here; there are just people who cannot find work and want it. Now, the Republicans say we cannot afford it, but they are borrowing hundreds of millions of dollars to pay Iraqis for no-show jobs. The anti-waste, -fraud, and -abuse crowd is happy to pay Iraqis for no-show jobs, but they will not give unemployed Americans benefits out of a trust fund. These are people who want to work and cannot find work because of the miserable economic record of this administration.

IRMO HIGH SCHOOL'S BLUE RIBBON AWARD FOR 2003

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the students and faculty of Irmo High School in Irmo, South, Carolina. Irmo High just received recognition from the U.S. Department of Education as a blue ribbon school, their third such award.

As Secretary of Education Rod Paige has said, schools chosen for the blue ribbon will be ones that are meeting our mission to ensure that every child learns and no child is left behind. Blue ribbon recipients will be national models of excellence that others can learn from.

I want to personally thank the hard work of the faculty who have visited Washington, including Principal Gerald Witt, teachers Phil Tanner, Jan McCarthy, and JROTC director Colonel Pete Sercher. Also, School District Five school board members have supported the progress made at Irmo High School, especially Jan Hammond, Paula Hite, and Carol Sloop. Yet above all, the ones who really deserve recognition are the students who have achieved remarkably.

Irmo High School is truly an example of educational success, and I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the school today, a day highlighted by the visit of California Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops.

THE ECONOMY

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, when I travel home to Los Angeles County, the people ask me, where are the jobs? Where are the extended unemployment insurance benefits?

When we look at this chart, we can see that since January of 2001 we have not made any progress. In fact, in the San Gabriel Valley the unemployment rate is still above 10 percent, and it is double digit in areas that are unincorporated in East Los Angeles where we have high minority populations. These

are working people that are looking for relief. They are waiting for unemployment insurance. And they are also asking why is the Republican Party not doing more to strengthen our economy.

The Democrats want to provide pay increases for our Reservists and our military families. I am ashamed to say these are the same families we represent that are in waiting lines to get food, these Reservist families in my district; and I think that is abominable.

We need to provide a tax incentive to encourage companies to keep jobs at home, not abroad, like Halliburton and Bechtel. We need to raise the minimum wage. We need to pass a highway infrastructure bill that will keep good-paying jobs, not minimum-wage jobs, but jobs that pay above minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to consider proposing those incentives that we are talking about today to restore the economy for Americans.

NO FINANCIAL AID FOR SEX OFFENDERS ACT

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the No Financial Aid for Sex Offenders Act for 2003. It is a national embarrassment that we are handing out taxpayer dollars for pedophiles and rapists to take college courses while hardworking young people from poor and middle class families are left to flip hamburgers and mow lawns to pay for college.

In 1972, Congress created the Pell grant program to help children from low- and moderate-income families go to college. In 1994, Congress prohibited State and Federal prisoners from getting these Pell grants. This past year, 54 violent sexual predators in Florida obtained over \$200,000 in Pell grants at taxpayer expense. They got a free ride by exploiting a loophole, that is, they were involuntarily confined in something called a civil commitment center as opposed to being called a prison.

This legislation closes that loophole and ensures that this money will be used as intended, by needy law-abiding college students. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation, H.R. 3385.

ARMED FORCES TAX FAIRNESS BILL

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it is outrageous, it is unbelievable, but it is true. The House Republican leadership has kept at the Speaker's desk, since March of this year, the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Bill. Several months ago, they said we could afford to give a \$230,000 tax break to American citizens living safely here at home making \$1