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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. LAHOOD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 24, 2004.

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

Don Aldo Brunacci, Casa Papa Giovanni, Assisi, Italy, offered the following prayer:

''May the Lord give you peace,'' St. Francis of Assisi.

Lord, merciful, almighty, Creator of heaven and Earth, we praise You for Your glory and thank You for Your love and protection. We are gathered here today in Your name. You have entrusted us with the gift of leadership of a great Nation. Give us the wisdom and the strength we need to fulfill our mission according to Your will. Help us never to betray our mission but to do Your will in respect and obedience to our own conscience. Give us the gift of discernment never to falter in our decision-making.

Lord God, You have treated our Nation with great generosity. Help us to treat others with kindness, generosity, and justice.

Give us peace of mind and heart, that peace which comes from You. Grant peace to our families, to our Nation, and to the whole world.

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. BOOZMAN. 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. BOOZMAN. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 California (Mr. OSE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. OSE 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.

WELCOMING DON ALDO BRUNACCI

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

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our guest chaplain, Don Aldo Brunacci. A canon of the Cathedral of San Rufino in Assisi, Italy, Don Aldo Brunacci is being honored with the National Gaudete Medal. It is presented to a community leader who represents the life and teaching of St. Francis of Assisi.

Don Aldo embodies the spirit of service and joy that St. Francis taught. His life has exhibited the words engraved in the medal: ''For service to God and humanity in the Franciscan spirit of compassion and sacrifice, faith and humility, hope and joy.''

In January 2003, he was presented with the Order for Merit of the Italian Republic, awarded by President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi of Italy, for his service in assisting hundreds of Jewish refugees during World War II. Currently, Don Aldo operates the Casa Papa Giovanni, a major retreat house in Assisi.

St. Bonaventure's College is here in Washington today to honor Don Aldo with this prestigious award. He is not only a proud example to his community and his family, but also to his country and his faith.

INSIGHTFUL EDITORIAL CENSORED

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, ''Catering to the Religious Right,'' that is the tagline the editors at the San Jose Mercury News used to introduce its March 15 editorial and cartoon regarding President Bush's science policy.

The editorial outlined the Bush administration's distortion and censorship of scientific research. On global warming, stem cell research, drinking water and air, women's health, the Bush administration has overlooked proven scientific data to placate big business or the religious right.

The Mercury News serves the largest media market in Northern California and is read by millions of people around the world, and I thought that

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