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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Monsignor George B. Flinn, Vicar General, Pastoral Life in Ministry, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, source of all that is good and holy, be with us today. These men and women gather here as representatives of the people, honored by such a call to service, but also fully aware of the awesome responsibility such a vocation demands.

Grant them the insight to discern what is in the best interest of all our citizens, the wisdom to choose what is good and moral and just, and the courage to do what is necessary, even in the face of adversity, misunderstanding and opposition.

Help them to grasp the nobility of their calling to serve in the arena of politics, aptly named the "art of the possible," as they face the challenge of making possible the growth of our citizens and our Nation, in virtue and integrity and prosperity.

May all that is accomplished today reflect a true spirit of justice, compassion, concern and real dedication to the well-being of all the citizens of our beloved country. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SHUSTER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minuteutes on each side.

WELCOMING MONSIGNOR GEORGE B. FLINN

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank, honor and express my sincere appreciation for Monsignor George Flinn, our guest chaplain. Reverend Flinn, originally from Cresson, Pennsylvania, and as we say back home, up the mountain, has dedicated his life to faith and community outreach. His service has made the Altoona-Johnstown area a better place to live because of his commitment to our local parishes.

Reverend Flinn has been assigned to a number of churches in central Pennsylvania, including Sacred Heart and Saint Rose of Lima in Altoona, and Saint Monica of Chest Springs. Most notable to me, though, is his service at Saint John Gualbert, where he organized a major campaign to renovate the interior walls of the cathedral.

This drive became known as "This is Our Church," while Monsignor Flinn uniquely reached out to local businesses, community leaders and the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. This type of outreach has truly made our neighborhoods and small towns a much better place and a more memorable place. His story is a reminder to us all to take a moment from our busy schedules to help others and reach out to the community.

As we mourn the passing of Pope John Paul and celebrate the appointment of Pope Benedict, we should also

commend and thank our local church leaders like Monsignor Flinn, because their hard work is truly making our Nation a better place to live.

END THE FILIBUSTERS ON QUALIFIED NOMINEES

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, John Bolton is the President's nominee to be U.S. ambassador to the U.N. The Senate has not yet voted on his nomination. A few Members are holding up that vote so they can explore his treatment of lower-level staffers.

Janice Rogers Brown and Priscilla Owen are two of the President's nominees to be Federal judges. The Senate has not yet voted on their nominations. A few Democrats have promised to hold up these votes so they can prove a political point.

What do these three have in common, I mean, other than being victims of the Senate's partisan machinations? They are all highly qualified. They would all do a great job. They would all receive the support of a majority of Senators. They are all nominated for jobs that are currently vacant. That is right; the jobs the President has asked these people to do are not being done.

That is not the President's fault. That is not BILL FRIST's fault. Some Democrats paid a political price for obstructionism last November. It seems that some of them are still slow learners.

AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, over in Baghdad, we are attempting to establish a democracy which will require an

□ 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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