

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HOLT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KANJORSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ANXIETIES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 36 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, there's great concern all over the Nation for those who follow what is going on in our financial institutions. That concern is entirely appropriate.

There's great anxiety all over the Nation by hardworking men and women who do not know how they're going to be able to continue to pay the soaring energy costs for both their vehicles and their homes.

Yet, still, the Congressional leadership continues to refuse to put a piece of legislation on the floor for a vote that could immediately send us well on our way to energy independence by allowing us to produce that with which this Nation has been so blessed.

There's much anger over the disgusting immorality of corporate executives who padded their own pockets with millions of dollars by creative bookkeeping and representations that mortgage securities had value that they did not actually have.

There's incredulity in America over Members of Congress who have spent years decrying the culture of corruption, only to have information come out raising questions about failures to pay proper taxes under the income tax laws that may have been written by such person.

There's incredulity that the FBI might find cold hard cash secreted in a freezer 3 years ago, causing people to wonder why nothing has happened.

There's amazement from those who have bothered to notice that last year a vote could be lost by the Democratic majority, fair and square, then the rules be changed to allow a different outcome.

There's astonishment among those who have bothered to notice that the

majority leadership could continue to advertise on-line that this would be the most open Congress in history, with complete use of the committee process, and each bill being subjected to full amendment opportunities and across-the-board input, yet, we continue to have the most closed and dictatorial Congress in memory.

While people in America were being overwhelmed by killer gasoline prices and home energy costs, the United States Congress took 5 weeks off. When over 100 Members of Congress played by the rules and signed up in a timely manner to speak for 5 minutes on the last day of our session in July, before the 5-week recess, the majority party used that majority, yet again, to cram down an abrupt adjournment on us to prevent our speaking with the microphones on. Yet, we spoke with the microphones off anyway.

When points of order have been raised regarding rules violations or alleged ethical malfeasance, the majority has used their power to table legitimate objections to prevent the violations from being corrected and from even being called violations. They've even gone so far as to have the transcript of the proceedings in this Chamber changed to cover up the inappropriate behavior and rulings from the day before, but the video certainly revealed the truth.

I simply could not and still struggle to understand how this body could go so far off course. When we find that our Nation has been brought to the brink of financial failure, there was fear with wailing and gnashing of teeth.

But we find that in 2002 and 2003, when the Bush administration was pushing for and demanding reforms of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac just to try to avoid this type financial disaster that they foresaw, the efforts at reform were blocked by people against whom allegations have now arisen in the Senate who were reported to have gotten sweetheart deals from the financial industry. The foresight of such potential problem is to the Bush Administration's credit. But the failure to continue to beat the drum, warning that something was amiss does fall at the feet of the administration and Members on both sides of Congress.

There's one word that can prevent the destruction of our little experiment in democracy, as some of our forefathers referred to it, that could also prevent the destruction of a family, of a company, of a society or of a government or a Nation, and that word is accountability.

When Adam and Eve were convinced there was no accountability, they fell from grace.

When the only man mentioned in the Bible who was said to have a heart after God's own actually had no earthly accountability, King David himself committed atrocious wrongs.

When people are convinced that there is no accountability for sexual relations outside marriage, and there turns

out to be consequences of a pregnancy, some think it would be punishment to allow a child to be born alive.

When the highest officers in a company think they can raid the retirement funds of their longstanding employees and be mega-wealthy, with no one to whom to account, they raid whatever is in the company as if it were their own.

Some corporate leaders allow workers to come into this country illegally, just so the owners can pocket a little more profit, despite the fact that it diminishes the society and Nation from following the rule of law and for being a Nation of laws.

And though these same people can't see it coming, history makes very clear that such violations of the rules of law will destroy a Nation and society. It makes this Nation appear, at times, to be a corrupt Third World Nation where the law just does not mean much.

When a society believes that if it feels good, do it, and there is no accountability, society ceases and an animal kingdom full of the basest instincts of animals takes over.

When Members of Congress think that they're too big and important to ever be accountable, they display hubris or arrogance and engage in tawdry financial dealing with the taxpayers' money. When people in government begin to feel that there is no accountability for them, they will allow massive overspending that the country cannot afford. They will create monuments to themselves with other people's money. They will allow the vast national wealth to be sent to other countries that do not like us very much, just so the energy does not have to be produced in the backyard of the selfish.

In 1995, the House and Senate both passed a bill that would bring about drilling in what Jimmy Carter, as President, designated for drilling, because there is no wildlife there. It's a perfect place for drilling. And that is in the coastal area where there are billions of barrels of oil. But President Clinton vetoed the bill.

In the last Congress, we passed a bill to provide for drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf, but the Democrats blocked it from getting the required 60 votes to allow cloture in the Senate, so there was no vote up or down on the bill itself in the Senate, and it died there; while our country was dying.

Here our country is in a terribly difficult time with these extremely high energy rates, and our Democratic leadership still supports sending \$700 billion a year to nations, many of whom do not like us. If that \$700 billion sends familiar, it's because it's also the amount that Secretary Paulson says that we need at this time to save the mortgage and financial system.

Congressman JOE BARTON proposed that, in this time of financial crisis, why not open up ANWR out of necessity? Why not open up the Outer Continental Shelf and use the billions of dollars that will come from that to help

mitigate the expense of financial crisis here?

What a great idea. But the majority leadership does not see that this Nation will have an accountable judgment day where we will be accountable for what we did not do to use the blessings that we have here in this Nation of tremendous amounts of energy.

So what will it take to get people here to see that you cannot spend unabatedly, and you cannot send money overseas with reckless abandon without an accountability, a judgment day coming?

There will indeed be a high price to pay. As Chuck Colson once said, you cannot have the morals of Woodstock and not have the current problems. If you do have people whose world view is that if it feels good you should just do it then, as Chuck Colson says, you're going to have Columblines.

When the message of a majority of those serving in Congress is that we will only follow the rules when it is convenient, then the message to the world is that we will not be bound by the rule of law, as we will change it whenever we want to suit us as we please.

□ 2300

When our Nation's children see the adults sending such a clear message by their conduct, and the rules don't apply to us if we don't want them to, according to the majority, then you can expect the Nation's children to soon follow suit. That leads us to Enrons among the adults, the Fannie Mae fiascoes among the adults. And from our children, you begin to see wayward kids thinking maybe it will feel good to shoot people, so let's see.

Well, if there's a higher power, there's a reason for accountability. If there is no higher power, then there is no reason to worry about our accountability. You can get away with all you want in this life with no adverse consequences at all. For those who think there is no ultimate accountability, no ultimate judgment of the universe, I would point you to the discussion C.S. Lewis had in his book "Mere Christianity."

He had said that when he was an atheist, he used to love to tweak Christians by saying, "Why don't you just admit that there cannot be a just God over the universe when there is so much injustice in the world?" And no matter what the Christian would say, he would come back and say, "Yes, yes, yes. That's all well and good. But wouldn't it be easier just to admit there cannot be a just God over the universe when there is so much injustice in this world?"

Eventually, it hit him like a ton of bricks. How could he say—and who was he to say—that there was injustice unless there is some absolute, unwavering outside source of right and wrong? If there were not such a universal source of right and wrong that is written on the hearts of people, then how could

anyone ever know or say that there was injustice in the world? You couldn't know.

Once you come to grips with the fact that there is a universal source of right or wrong in the world, then you have to come to grips with the fact that there must be a good God that made it so, and there will be accountability some day. Therefore, no one will ultimately be above the law.

Now, not everyone sees everything exactly the same, of course. C.S. Lewis noted that that just because some can sing closer to the notes printed on a page doesn't mean the music doesn't exist. It just means some do a better job of hitting closer to what the exact and appropriate note is.

There is right and wrong in the world, and most people innately know that. But they rationalize—and we find it all across the House and in Congress—people rationalize that it is more fun to say there is no God, perhaps no Creator so they don't have to feel guilty or consider that some day someone will judge them.

So long as we recognize, as our founders did, that there is a Creator who has endowed us with unalienable rights, then we should recognize that we have a duty to protect those rights for the sake of ourselves and those that follow. Perhaps that is why there is such an effort underway to sterilize and remove God or any reference to Him from all public buildings and documents these days.

If we keep mentioning God, as the founders of this Nation did constantly, then it reminds us that we will some day be accountable even if we get away with things today.

People do not like to feel guilty so they want to strike God out of everything. For example, as our society progressed to the point that we were too smart, too elusive to be accountable to God, we had our first national memorial in 2003 open that does not anywhere in it mention the word "God." First memorial to do that. That was the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial. In all of those acres at the expansive memorial, there is no mention of God, Creator, Providence, Holy Trinity, Holy Spirit, Lord, all of these different names that were in our founding documents. They're still found throughout our documents, if anyone cares to look.

Nor is there any mention of the Latin words that are found in our official great seal that's on the back of every dollar bill. If you don't believe it, pull it out and look. Those Latin words are "Annuit Coeptis," meaning He, God, has smiled on our undertaking.

Those words are also found around the Capitol and in the Senate Chamber and in the congressional prayer chapel.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was a leader of this Nation who believed strongly in accountability and that there was a God before whom that would happen.

On June 6, 1944, D-day, President Roosevelt went on national radio and did an amazing thing as President: he

led the Nation in prayer. And I would like to just read that for you at this time.

And for those that may look in, Mr. Speaker, they will be able to know from the poster, this is President Franklin D. Roosevelt's prayer during his radio broadcast to the Nation on June 6. Here is that prayer as I read it verbatim as President Franklin Roosevelt gave it.

And understand, as President Roosevelt prayed this prayer, our soldiers were dying fighting valiantly during D-day trying to save the world and make it safer for democracy. This was his prayer:

"My fellow Americans:

"Last night when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew at this moment that troops of the United States and our allies were crossing the Channel in another and greater operation. It has come to pass with success thus far. And so in this poignant hour, I ask you to join me in prayer."

President Roosevelt went on, "Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our Nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

"Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness to their faith.

"They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. For the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Successes may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

"They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest—until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violences of war.

"For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and goodwill among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, but their return to the haven of home.

"Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them. Thy heroic servants, into Thy Kingdom.

"And for us at home—fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters, and brothers of brave men overseas, whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them—help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves for renewed faith in Thee in this time of great sacrifice.

"Many people have urged that I call the Nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people vote themselves into a continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

“Give us strength, too—strength in our daily tasks to redouble the contributions we make in the physical and the material support of our Armed Forces.

“And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons, wherever they may be.

“And, O Lord, give us faith. Give us faith in Thee; faith in our sons; faith in each other; faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment—let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.

“With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogances. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace—a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

“Thy will be done, Almighty God.

“Amen.”

That was a prayer of our President, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Now, in the 1950s, senator majority leader Lyndon Johnson was sick of having churches harp on him over alleged immortality, so he fixed them. He added a provision to the charitable institution laws that governed churches that says in fact you could not maintain your charitable tax-free status if you got involved in politics. That dramatically changed the Nation that had been known from our beginning.

There again, majority leader Johnson's efforts were an attempt to prevent judgment for what was alleged as improper conduct. No one enjoys accountability. But to have a free Nation, a just Nation, a prosperous Nation, and a blessed Nation, there must be accountability.

Then in 1962, an unaccountable Supreme Court that begins every single session with a prayer that God will save that honorable court, they changed nearly 200 years of precedence by ruling there could be no prayer in schools.

As mentioned in 2003, the first national memorial opened as the FDR Memorial that never mentioned God. In 2004, the second memorial in United States history opened that did not mention God anywhere either. That was the World War II Memorial.

Understand, these are both beautiful memorials. They're just Godless, yet their subjects were certainly not.

Amazingly, the park service had quotes from Eisenhower and Roosevelt in the World War II Memorial that had to be cut right at the right place so their quotes would not mention “God” or “Almighty God” as those two gentlemen and great leaders did.

I have a Bible here. My aunt says my uncle, my late uncle, got when he entered World War II. On the front, it

says—it has got a metal cover—“May the Lord be with you.” He said he was issued this as he went into the Army.

Right inside the fly leaf there's a message. It says, “The White House, Washington. As Commander in Chief, I take pleasure in commending the reading of the Bible to all who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States. Throughout the centuries, men of many faiths and diverse origins have found in the sacred books words of wisdom, counsel, and inspiration. It is a fountain of strength. And now as always, an aid in attaining the highest aspirations of the human soul.”

Signed Franklin D. Roosevelt.

They used to issue these to people going into the service.

Let me read to you the speech that was given on the floor of the United States Senate by Senator ROBERT BYRD on June 27, 1962, which is the day or two after the Supreme Court ruled there would be no public prayer in school.

I'm reading it as Senator BYRD's speech appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

And Mr. Speaker, I've got a chart here that says it's Senator ROBERT BYRD's speech on the Senate floor, June 27, 1962.

And this is what he said. Senator BYRD, 1962:

“In as much as our greatest leaders have shown no doubt about God's proper place in the American birthright, can we, in our day, dare do less?”

“In no other place in the United States are there so many, and such varied official evidences of deep and abiding faith on God in the part of Government as there are in Washington.

“Every session in the House and Senate begins with prayer. Each House has its own chaplain.

“The Eighty-Third Congress set aside a small room in the Capitol, just off the rotunda for the private prayer meditation of Congress. The room is always open when Congress is in session, but it is not open to the public. The room's focal point is a stained glass window showing George Washington kneeling in prayer. Behind him is etched these words from Psalm 16:1 ‘Preserve me, O God, for in Thee do I put my trust.’

“Inside the rotunda is a picture of the Pilgrims about to embark from Holland on the sister ship of the Mayflower, the Speedwell. The ship's revered Chaplain Brewster, who later joined the Mayflower, has open on his lap the Bible. Very clear are the words, ‘The New Testament according to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.’”

□ 2315

On the sail is the motto of the Pilgrims, “In God We Trust, God With Us.”

The phrase, “In God We Trust,” appears opposite the President of the Senate, who is the Vice President of the United States. The same phrase, in large words inscribed in the marble,

backdrops the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Above the head of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court are the Ten Commandments, with the great American eagle protecting them. Moses is included among the great lawgivers in Herman A. MacNeil's marble structure group on the east front. The crier who opens each session closes with the words, “God save the United States and this honorable Court.”

Engraved on the metal on the top of the Washington Monument are the words: “Praise be to God.” Actually, parenthetically, the words are *Laos Deo*, Latin, meaning “Praise be to God,” and actually, again parenthetically, that was put on the east side of the top of the Washington Monument for a purpose. Because those, so many decades, years ago, wanted it such that when the sun touched the Nation's capital, Washington, D.C., the first thing that the sun would touch would be the Latin words, *Laos Deo*, “Praise be to God.” Interesting.

Lining the walls of the stairwell are such Biblical phrases as “Search the Scriptures,” “Holiness to the Lord,” “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Numerous quotations from scripture can be found within the Library of Congress' walls. One reminds each American of his responsibility to his Maker: “What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and love mercy and walk humbly with thy God,” Micah 6:8.

Another in the lawmaker's library preserves the Psalmist's acknowledgment that all nature reflects the order and beauty of the Creator, “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork,” Psalm 19:1. And still another reference, “The light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not,” John 1:5.

Millions have stood at the Lincoln Memorial and gazed up at the statue of the great Abraham Lincoln. The sculptor who chiseled the features of Lincoln in granite all but seems to make Lincoln speak his own words inscribed into the walls.

He said, “That this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

At the opposite end, on the north wall, his Second Inaugural Address alludes to “God,” the “Bible,” “providence,” “the Almighty,” and “divine attributes.”

It then continues: As was said 3000 years ago, so it still must be said, “The judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.”

On the south banks of Washington's Tidal Basin, Thomas Jefferson still speaks: “God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a Nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country

when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever.”

These words of Jefferson are a forceful and explicit warning that to remove God from this country will destroy it.

Those are the words of Senator ROBERT BYRD back in 1962.

We have a visitor's center, the Capitol Visitor's Center, CVC for short. It cost over \$621 million. It is slated to open December 2 of this year. So far, it had been completely sterilized of any mention of God in any form. It was not until over 100 Members of Congress sent a letter and followed up repeatedly with more concern that we finally got a concession this past week that “In God We Trust” would be put above the mock-up of the Speaker's rostrum area there in the visitor's center, because what had been there before was a fraud and a deception and attempted to represent that there was no “In God We Trust” above our Speaker's head.

There will also be accountability someday for this majority leadership playing so fast and loose with the rules. When rules and laws don't matter, then we lose this blessed country that was founded as a Nation of laws, because people are not perfect. People need rules. We need accountability. That means that the majority leadership, if they play by the rules, they're going to lose a vote every now and then, and that's okay. Don't break the rules just to keep from losing a vote. The rule itself is too important to do that. It also means that the Speaker and other leadership of the majority must abide by the rules as promised, and the promises are actually still on the Speaker's Web site but have not been followed as expected.

Let me just read you from the Speaker's own Web site. This is from the Speaker's Web site, as I pulled them off today.

“Every person in America has a right to have his or her voice heard.” It would have been nice if that had been remembered the last day of our session on August 1 before there was a 5-week vacation. We didn't get to have the microphones on so we could be heard.

But it continues: “No Member of Congress should be silenced on the floor”—it would have been nice if somebody had noticed that—as has been the practice of Republican leadership in the United States House of Representatives.” A little slap there. Any-one smell hypocrisy?

It goes on and says: “Respectful of both the wishes of the founders, and the expectations of the American people, we offer the following principles for restoring democracy in the ‘People's House,’ guaranteeing that the voices of all the people are heard.”

That just makes me sick to read those words and to think about what's happened in the last year and a half.

Then it goes on. It says: “Bipartisan administration of the House. Our goal is to restore accountability, honesty and openness at all levels of government. To do so, we will create and en-

force rules that demand the highest ethics from every public servant, sever unethical ties between lawmakers and lobbyists, and establish clear standards that prevent the trading of official business for gifts. Honest leadership”—on the speaker's Web site it said—“is not a partisan goal. It is the key to a stronger union.” I agree.

But it goes on to say: “We must all work together to put the progress of all Americans ahead of the special interests of the few.” I certainly agree with that, too.

It goes on and says: “With honest leadership and open government, America's leaders can once again focus on the urgent needs of the American people.”

How about energy? American people need energy. They need cheaper energy. We need to get off the addiction to foreign oil. They're not addressing that. We took off on a 5-week vacation when the people needed us most.

The Web site goes on and says—this is the Speaker's Web site—“bills should be developed following full hearings and open subcommittee and committee markups, with appropriate referrals to other committees. Members should have at least 24 hours to examine a bill prior to consideration at the subcommittee level.”

Boy, that would have been nice last week when we got slapped with an energy bill that didn't go through subcommittee, didn't go through committee, had not one single Republican getting to have any input in that energy bill last week, and it was posted, as I recall, at 9:45 the night before we had to vote on it. It would be nice if these things on the Speaker's Web site were followed.

“Bills should generally come to the floor under a procedure that allows open, full, and fair debate consisting of a full amendment process that grants the minority the right to offer its alternatives, including a substitute.”

How long has it been on a bill of any substance that the minority was given an opportunity to have amendments? Closed rules over and over and over and over.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will be recognized for the remainder of his hour, 24 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. The Web site goes on to say: “Members should have at least 24 hours to examine bill and conference report text prior to floor consideration.”

Oh, that's another thing. We don't even have conference reports anymore, because if we had a conference, then there would be Republicans from the House that would be required to get to have input, and that's not going to happen. So the conference reports instead became Democrats getting together, working out in the Senate and the House—though, I think they may have let some Republicans in the Senate throw in a line or two—but nobody from the House. Not fair, not open.

And it says that it “must be reported before 10 p.m. for a bill to be considered

the following day.” They found a way to completely avoid the conference process so that rule doesn't even matter anymore.

Now, the promises on the Speaker's Web site are so far from what's been happening in this, the most closed-door Congress in history. All I can say is that because of the vast abuses, at some point the majority will change again. Maybe not this year. At some point it will, because the American people begin to notice eventually, and some eventually will be shocked by the broken promises that were never fulfilled.

You can only fool the American people for so long before they figure it out. There may even be consequences for people across the aisle, apparently only for show, being on an energy alternative bill and then having two dozen of those people—it was their bill, and they voted against it, having already acknowledged that was the best bill. Maybe there will be consequences for doing that.

Accountability and fairness also mean that if people are going to use electric or fossil fuel-produced energy they should not try to prevent people who are not as wealthy as they are from being able to have the same opportunities to purchase that fuel on less income, that they would have to allow more to be produced to do that.

It means if you're going to use energy, then allow us to get it in America so it produces American jobs, increases America's gross national product, creates a better standard of living for more Americans. It will stop funding Nations that allow their assets to slip into the hands of those who want to destroy us. You cannot keep sending money abroad and not have a day of accountability when it will come back to haunt and truly hurt us badly.

It's time to quit sending \$700 billion a year out of this country for energy that we have. Sure, let's produce the renewables. We have got to go to those for our future. And alternative energy sources would be terrific.

Some of us have come up with innovative things that will allow us to go way into the future with cheap energy, but right now, as my farmers tell me, we can't find a Prius tractor. When electricity was lost for days because of this Hurricane Ike that came through my district, as people pointed out to me, there are no hybrid generators. They run on fossil fuel.

Accountability to strengthen the Nation means that children have to have rules, and that when a man and a woman voluntarily have sexual relations, they have made their choice, and they will be accountable and bear the consequence of igniting a life in this world.

Accountability means that if you're a CEO of a company and you run a corporation into the ground, you should not receive millions of dollars in severance and a thank you for your greedy destruction. Instead, you should have to pay.

So, tonight, I want to close with a motion and a supporting speech made by Benjamin Franklin.

□ 2330

Let me set the stage here.

The American Revolution, you remember the Declaration of Independence, 1776. And then the war went on for 7 years. We got to 1783. The revolution was won. There was a Treaty of Paris, 1783. I did not know until I came to Congress, as a historian, history degree I've got, I didn't know until I saw an original copy in the State Department of the Treaty of Paris of 1783—this was a critical document because this was getting Great Britain to acknowledge in writing that the United States was a country that was and should be free and they would have to recognize that. So they wanted it in the name that even Great Britain would be afraid to break and breach.

I was shocked. It starts with big, bold letters at the top of the Treaty of Paris that forced Great Britain to recognize us; in these big, bold words it says, "In the name of the most Holy and undivided Trinity."

Then we had the Articles of Confederation in this country, but they were too loosely woven. There were a number of problems, no common currency; there were problems and haggling between the States. And by 1787, it was very clear that if the Nation was to survive, it was going to have to have a new constitution.

So they went to George Washington and said, we need you to come back to preside. And he said, I did my part as God led me to do and you appointed me to do; I did my part. And they said, You don't understand; the 13 colonies will only come back together if you are willing to preside because they know you, they know your heart, they know you're not in it for yourself; you proved that the day you surrendered all power, as had never been done in the history of the world, surrendered all power and went home; won the revolution, commander of the military. You know, when you do that, historically, you could be called Czar, King, Caesar, whatever you want to be called. George Washington didn't do any of that.

When King George, III heard that Washington might resign after the revolution and just go home, he knew history, he said that would never happen. He said, in his exact words, "If Washington were to do that, he would be the greatest man alive." He probably was.

So then we come to have the Constitutional Convention, with George Washington presiding. They went on for nearly 5 weeks with no success. At that point, Benjamin Franklin was recognized by the President of the Constitutional Convention, George Washington. And Benjamin Franklin rose to his feet and this is what he said—his exact words as recorded by James Madison with help from some of the others there. Benjamin Franklin:

"Mr. President, the small progress we have made after four or five weeks close attendance and continual reasonings with each other—our different sentiments on almost every question, several of the last producing as many noes as ayes, is, methinks, a melancholy proof of the imperfection of the human understanding. We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom, since we have been running about in search of it. We have gone back to ancient history for models of government and examined the different forms of those Republics which having been formed with the seeds of their own dissolution now no longer exist. And we have viewed modern states all around Europe, but find none of their constitutions suitable to our circumstances.

In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of Lights to illuminate understanding? In the beginning contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for the Divine protection. Our prayers, sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered.

"All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our favor. To that kind of Providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need His assistance?"

"I have lived, sir, a long time. And the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, sir, in the Sacred writing that, "except the Lord build the House, they labour in vain that build it." Firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel.

"We shall be divided by our little partial local interest, our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and by word down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter, from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing governments by human wisdom and leave it to chance, war and conquest.

"I, therefore, beg leave to move that henceforth prayers employing the assistance of heaven and its blessing on our deliberations be held in the Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate at that service."

According to the record, Mr. SHERMAN seconded the motion.

Mr. Speaker, that was George Washington's recognition of Benjamin Franklin, and the words I read are verbatim from Benjamin Franklin.

We've begun every day here in this House, here in session with the prayer, just as Franklin moved and requested. There is a higher power; there has to be accountability. Decisions in this body must be made in deference to the Father of Lights, as Benjamin Franklin called Him, and doing so with prayer, and as Franklin prayed, that God will illuminate our understanding.

We are in a perilous time, and it is time for responsibility and accountability, or otherwise, we lose this precious country.

It is time now for the majority leadership to stop playing so fast and loose with the rules and with enforcement of the rules. It is time that, after 2 years in the majority, that promises of opportunity to amend bad Democratic bills be fulfilled. It is time that rules apply to CEOs, to speakers, to committee chairmen, to leaders, and the leaders start leading by example.

George Washington said, back during the revolution, these words: "A people unused to restraint must be led, they will not be drove." He led from the front. When I was in the Army, they taught you to lead from the back. Not Washington, he led from the front. He said, "A people unused to restraint must be led, they will not be drove."

As someone pointed out previously, we have the only National Anthem whose first verse ends with a question: Oh say does that star-spangled banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave? The answer as to whether that banner will yet wave depends on whether this Congress begins to acknowledge some accountability and do the right and the wise thing, not the convenient, not the political thing, do the legal, ethical and moral thing, not the Woodstock thing.

May we get back to following God's directives so that this does not cease to be the land of the free and the home of the brave. May we get back to those things that cause God to pour out his richest blessings.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 0008

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCGOVERN) at 12 o'clock and 8 minutes a.m.