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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 14, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM COLE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2657. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendments to the bill (H.R. 2657) "An Act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BOND, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BYRD, and Ms. MIKULSKI, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The messages also announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2559. An act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year end-

ing September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2559) "An Act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BROWNBAC, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. BYRD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 886. An act to ratify otherwise legal appointments and promotions in the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that failed to be submitted to the Senate for its advice and consent as required by law, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-170, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, announces the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel: Thomas P. Golden of Tennessee, vice Vincent Randazzo, resigned.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to

exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) for 5 minutes.

PAY UP ACT WILL HELP HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS RECOUP SOME OF THEIR LOSSES

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I represent a district that borders Mexico. In fact, I have the entire California-Mexico border in my district of South San Diego. I want today to address a problem that affects all border districts, that is, emergency healthcare for undocumented immigrants.

In my district, hospitals, ambulance services and other health care providers are suffering huge losses every year due to the uncompensated care given to undocumented immigrants.

When Congress passed the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act, it required hospitals and other health care providers to give emergency care to anyone who comes through the emergency room doors, regardless of their ability to pay or their immigration status. I think this is a proper policy, and it is the only humane thing to do. We cannot leave people who need emergency care just out in the cold. However, since it is the Federal Government that instituted this law, then the Federal Government should cover the expenses of the medical care. What we have now is what is called an unfunded mandate. We mandate it, but we do not fund it.

Here is what happens in a border district such as mine, and constituents who are in emergency rooms and paramedics come to me all the time with this kind of situation. A border patrolman in the normal course of his or her duties will come across a person who is trying to enter the country illegally,

□ 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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