

declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m. today.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord, in the book of Joshua, the life of anyone who killed another was forfeit. Once the monarchy was established, it would be the duty of the king to see that justice was done. But until then Israel was a tribal society and it fell upon the family of the victim to set things right. No wonder, Lord, there is so much lingering hatred and bloody violence in the world of tribal communities, even to this day.

So, Lord, You spoke to Joshua and commanded him to appoint "cities of refuge" where the person who kills another inadvertently or without intent could find refuge from the dead man's next of kin. In a time when there are more refugees than in any other time in history, we pray for all of those refugees who seek justice and long for peace. Help fragile nations to be grounded in law and order. Protect peacemakers and those who enforce the law, both here and in unstable areas like Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Iraq.

Help people everywhere to bury vengeance with forgiveness, temper justice with mercy, and transform indifference with compassion.

In You, Lord, America takes refuge, now and forever. 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 South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina 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.

THE U.S.-CHILE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, over the last 6 years, the United States has lost nearly one-third of its share of Chile's import market.

Not coincidentally, the plunge occurred while other nations were implementing their own free trade agreements with Chile and getting market share there. Since the early 1990s, Chile signed free trade agreements with Canada, Mexico and the four nations of MERCOSUR. And earlier this year, implementation of the European Union-Chile's FTA led to an immediate surge in exports to Chile from European firms in direct competition with U.S. firms.

The lost Chilean sales not only cost the United States its long-time ranking as the top exporting Nation to Chile, it also cost U.S. businesses and workers thousands of higher-paying, export-related jobs.

U.S. businesses have the expertise and the resources to compete globally, if they are allowed to do so on equal terms with our competitors.

It is time to pass the U.S.-Chile free trade agreement and give our companies the opportunity they need to stay competitive in Chile.

TIME FOR U.S. TO LEAVE IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, it is time for the United States to get out of Iraq. But this administration, whose entry strategy was based on falsehood, with no exit strategy, has trapped our troops in Iraq and exposed them to greater harm. The total number of American casualties is now 232.

Here is what needs to be done diplomatically: the United Nations must be brought in. Negotiations for an exit must begin now. An exit agreement with the United Nations must involve the U.S. letting go of the contracting process; Halliburton, Brown and Root, et cetera. The U.S. must also take over the management, accounting, and distribution to the Iraqi people of the oil. Additionally, a transition from U.N. control to a self-determining governing structure by and for the Iraqi people must be planned. Finally, the administration, which unwisely ordered the bombing, must fund the reconstruction.

It was wrong to go into Iraq. It is wrong to stay in Iraq. U.S. out. U.N. in. Let us support our troops by bringing them home.

SUPPORT FREE TRADE PARTNERSHIP WITH CHILE AND SINGAPORE

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

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of a free trade partnership with

both Chile and Singapore. We should all support the model that Chile provides for economic, social, and democratic development. Chile more than doubled its GDP during the 1990s. It was the fourth fastest growing economy in the world. This extraordinary growth was fostered by low inflation, a balanced budget, clear regulatory accountability, a strong financial system, and a competitive economy. It ranks high, higher than many developed countries on international indices measuring economic success.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement is a comprehensive, leading-edge agreement that includes U.S. trade negotiating objectives and strengthens an important economic relationship with a strategic U.S. trading partner. The U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement sets many precedents, including lower barriers to trade and high-technology products and services and establishing new standards for intellectual property protection.

I urge my colleagues to support both of these critically portrayed agreements that we have negotiated that will set a positive example in both regions of the world.

REPUBLICAN ECONOMIC PLAN CAUSES SKYROCKETING DEBT FOR OUR NATION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, it has been 802 days since President Bush and the Republican Party embarked on their economic plan for our country. During that time, the national debt has increased by \$1,81,528,804,140.

According to the U.S. Department of Treasury, yesterday at 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, the Nation's outstanding debt was \$6,721,854,190,498.

Furthermore, in fiscal year 2003, interest on our national debt, or the debt tax, is \$277,768,492,816 through June 30.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1472

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1472.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION

(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, on June 4 we passed a ban on the terrible procedure called partial-birth abortion. Now, 48 days later, we have not even gone to conference to work out the differences with the other body. Why?

Despite the fact that the bill passed with bipartisan support of the majority of this Nation's elected leaders, the bill remains stalled. A couple of members in the other body are using an unusual delay tactic to prevent them from going to conference.

Filibustering judicial nominees is one thing, but blocking a bill that both Chambers have already passed overwhelmingly is just wrong. Their tactics threaten how Congress works and how our democracy functions. Even worse, every day this bill sits in no-man's land, more babies can be partially delivered and then killed.

We need to get the bill to conference, to the President to honor the commitment of both Chambers of Congress to the American people to end this terrible practice for good.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members that they should avoid characterization of Senate actions.

SUPPORT H.R. 2738, CHILE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, this week Congress has an opportunity to pass legislation to implement a free trade agreement with our partner in commerce, the nation of Chile. I might mention also Singapore, but I am going to focus on Chile.

Since 1997, when Chile adopted free trade agreements with MERCOSUR, Mexico, and Canada, U.S. companies' share of the Chilean import market has fallen by 7 percent, amounting to something like over \$1 billion. Meanwhile, the countries that have a free trade agreement with Chile gained over 9 percent of that market. There can be no question that our loss to the Chilean market is directly related to missed trade opportunities. The Chile FTA will turn this around.

If we vote to pass H.R. 2738, we ensure future American competitiveness in Chilean markets and the continued growth of our own economy, which will benefit all Americans. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support and vote "yes" on the Chilean Free Trade Agreement.

SUPPORT FREE TRADE WITH CHILE AND SINGAPORE

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, the House will vote tomorrow on a free trade agreement, not just with Chile, but also with Singapore.

Free trade agreements have transformed other countries now allied to the United States. For example, our agreement with Jordan boosted Jordanian trade from \$5 million to \$400 million. We have that opportunity with Chile, a country whose economic policy sometimes is more advanced than our own. We proposed this agreement in 1991 when I served in the State Department. It is about time.

And Singapore. Singapore has become the de facto Southeast Pacific base for the United States Navy. With trouble from North Korea to Iran, strengthening our ties to Singapore strengthens our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote "yes" on free trade with Singapore and with Chile.

REFORMS FOR HEAD START THROUGH SCHOOL READINESS ACT

(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, every child should enter school with the basic skills needed for learning. Although Head Start has provided children with satisfactory nutrition and health care, it needs reform to significantly improve in their ability to learn.

As spearheaded by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the School Readiness Act will address this problem in Head Start by increasing academic and teacher requirements, while preserving and strengthening health, nutrition, parental literacy, and family services. Additionally, we are asking for an additional \$202 million in funding for fiscal year 2004 for a total of \$6.87 billion, an amount that is double the amount in 1996.

A very important part of the School Readiness Act is a pilot program in eight States that would integrate existing State prekindergarten programs with Head Start. I am excited that South Carolina will be eligible to take part, as it will help ensure all children enter kindergarten with the academic tools necessary to succeed.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the School Readiness Act.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

TRIBUTE TO THE LAO-HMONG AND HONORING NATIONAL LAO- HMONG RECOGNITION DAY

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

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Lao-Hmong on the occasion of National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day.

The Lao-Hmong fought alongside American soldiers in Vietnam in opposition to tyranny and Communist con-

trol. The Lao-Hmong have been recognized for their dedication and bravery displayed in defense of freedom. However, they deserve more than recognition. The Lao-Hmong are worthy of our most sincere gratitude and the deepest appreciation for all they have done.

I am proud to say the first official recognition of the Lao-Hmong's courageous achievements took place in my district in Golden, Colorado, on July 22, 1995. Last year, Congress officially recognized, through legislation, July 22 of every year as a day to remember, reflect, and pay homage to the Lao-Hmong community in America.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today to speak in celebration of National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day. I commend the Lao-Hmong community for their courage and join my fellow Americans in celebrating this day with a grateful heart.

□ 1015

FRESHMAN CLASS MISSION TO STOP WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the freshman class agrees that the waste has got to stop. The President agrees, the Congress agrees. Taxpayers must manage their own money, and so should the government. We are saddled with too many costly programs that are duplicated across too many agencies.

It is our goal to provide effective government efficiency by eliminating programs that do not use our resources wisely. By using outcome-based measures and full cost accounting, this scrutiny can provide a powerful motivation for agencies to improve the efficiency of the programs that they oversee.

Virtually every committee in Congress can make this effort a priority, reviewing the areas of jurisdiction for waste, fraud and abuse. At the Committee on Government Reform, we are particularly attuned to this effort and are well into reviews of agencies and programs that simply spend and spend without any results.

I would argue that any money wasted is too much, but we are talking millions and billions of dollars. I hope my colleagues will join my fellow freshmen and me as we are going after this abuse.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time for us to prioritize and reorganize government.

BUSH STATE OF THE UNION AND URANIUM INTELLIGENCE

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today expressing a