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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WHITFIELD) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God of heaven and earth, You love all You have created. Fill this Chamber of the House of Representatives with Your presence and love.

Guide the Members and their staffs to live and work in a manner worthy of their calling.

Let all atone for mistakes of the past and rectify the governing of Your people.

It is Your Divine Providence, O Lord, which has brought us together at this time; to accomplish great deeds in the name of this country we choose to love and serve, 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. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON 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.

REMEMBERING THE HISTORIC LIFE OF ALTHEA GIBSON

(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, an American hero, Althea Gibson, died Sunday at the age of 76. Gibson was a champion tennis player, the first black athlete to compete in the U.S. Open, in 1950, and at Wimbledon, in 1951. She went on to win major tournaments, including the Wimbledon and U.S. Opens in 1957 and 1958, the French Open, and three doubles titles at Wimbledon. In golf, she was the first African-American woman on the LPGA tour.

Althea Gibson was born in South Carolina, raised in Harlem, New York, and went on to become an outstanding professional tennis and golf player. She carried herself with grace and dignity and is a role model for millions of young Americans learning to break down racial barriers.

Althea Gibson's tremendous character and talent allowed her to make great progress for civil rights while playing tennis and golf, much in the same way Jackie Robinson did in baseball. She will always be remembered and is greatly missed.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

LACK OF A GOOD HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a nurse by professional training, I have spent much of my public career working to ensure that the Nation's health care system is affordable and provides the best possible services for all Americans. While Americans still have a world class health care system, there are those whose lives have been threatened by a focus on profits over healing.

Mr. Speaker, nearly a quarter of the residents in Texas, my home State, lack health coverage. That is a larger percentage than any other State. The situation has been getting worse, according to a U.S. Census Bureau report to be released today. The survey shows 24.7 percent of the State's residents had no insurance during the 2-year period ending last December. Texas also had the Nation's highest proportion of uninsured in 2000 and 2001.

I support a plan that would expand Medicare coverage for prescription medications. However, there must be some cost containment agreement with manufacturers and a streamlining of the Federal administrative structure to reduce costs to beneficiaries. Mr. Speaker, now is the time for all Americans to have access to quality health care and meaningful patient protection. Our citizens deserve and expect nothing less.

NEW IRAQ

(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, a recent poll showed that two out of three residents in Baghdad believe that they are better off today than they were under Saddam Hussein. Less than 15 percent would rather live under repression. We are starting to hear more and more stories of Iraqis pointing us in the right direction in Iraq. A tip from an Iraqi led to a discovery of a priceless mask, thousands of years old. Another tip led to a buried cache of weapons. We do not hear much about these successes in the media, but Iraqi public opinion is with us.

This week, Congress will begin consideration of the Iraq supplemental. As we move forward, we should encourage Iraqis to step forward and take control of their own country. But we should

not, as some in this body suggest, turn over full control of that country before democracy has taken root, before we can ensure that a new Iraq will not become a haven for terrorists and Saddam's murderous followers. Iraq's future and our safety hang in the balance.

CALL FOR A PARTNERSHIP IN REBUILDING IRAQ

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Operation Iraqi Freedom has been a historic success, a military victory of astonishing proportions in its decisiveness as well as its compassion on the civilian population. In the next 2 weeks, the President of the United States has come to Congress to ask for some \$87 billion to continue the work, and well we should. Extending every dollar to make sure our troops have the resources they need to get the job done and come home safe should be Congress' top priority. But with regard to the investment in civil society, the reconstruction dollars, some \$20.3 billion, I rise respectfully, Mr. Speaker, to say that we should ask the people of Iraq and their future generations to partner with us, to structure reconstruction dollars as a loan, and give the Iraqi people the opportunity to invest along with us in their own peace and stability and democracy as full partners in their future.

NO MORE DOLLARS FOR IRAQI FREEDOM

(Ms. WATERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I had not come to the floor prepared to say anything; except when I heard my colleagues from the other side of the aisle talking about the success of Iraqi Freedom, I just have to remind the Congress of the United States that we have been asked for \$87 billion to continue this war that was a preemptive strike that most of us, or many of us, did not agree with.

The fact of the matter is we are finding out every day that we have been misled, that we have been told stories that are not true. They have still not found the weapons of mass destruction, and now we are asked not only to support our soldiers, but we are now asked to rebuild Iraq. Most of us are certainly in support of our soldiers, and we are very upset that they have not had the equipment and the supplies and other kinds of things good planning would have caused any army to have. But most of us are not satisfied with the fact that we are asked to rebuild Iraq when, in fact, this administration told us that they were going to get the money from the oil wells, the oil wells that they secured when they first went