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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Monsignor James C. Kidder, Pastor, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, El Dorado, California, offered the following prayer:

O God, our loving Creator, our experience of Your fidelity in our lives can often be overshadowed by our fears of the future. We know the uncertainty of our plans and the difficulties we face in our aspirations. We need hope. Not false hopes that are unstable, but the hope of faith that can support and give courage. Your fidelity, Lord, is unchanging. You do not retreat. You do not know deception. Your fidelity is our hope.

Help us to be mirrors of Your fidelity, for the first, the last, and the greatest gift we have to offer others is our life. Help us to exist for those who entrust their well-being to us. A complete gift as great as this does require Your fidelity to us.

On this first day of April which could be filled with pranks, illusion, and humor, we thank You for the ability to laugh, which is a gift from You to release the tensions pent-up within and to open our eyes to envision Your truth all the more. We thank You, too, for the gift of a smile, a wonder that we can freely share to brighten the days of others. May we go forth today to share that gift generously. 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 New York (Mr. ISRAEL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ISRAEL 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

S. 275. An act to amend the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996, and to establish the United States Boxing Administration.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. There will be ten 1-minute on each side.

THE OIL FOR FOOD SCANDAL

(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, the United Nations has a terrible track record on appeasing dictators. The growing scandal surrounding the Iraqi Oil for Food program is a good example.

While the Iraqi people suffered from shortages of food and medicines, Saddam Hussein looted billions of dollars in U.N. aid to fund his military and buy friends around the world.

Manufacturers and trade brokers in Europe, Russia, China, and the Arab world benefited from billions Saddam Hussein funneled to them, all courtesy of the U.N. Oil for Food program. Those who profited from Saddam's generosity have become propaganda mouthpieces for his corrupt regime.

As Saddam's friends criticized how sanctions made the Iraqi people suffer, they pocketed billions of aid intended for the people they claimed to care

about. No wonder they were against liberating the Iraqi people. They were profiting off of their suffering.

These coconspirators with Saddam Hussein should be exposed. Their selfishness and deceit have cost Iraqi lives.

WHITE HOUSE THREATENS VETO OF TRANSPORTATION BILL

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, 2.8 million jobs lost, 1.1 million long-term unemployed with expired benefits, 24 months into a jobless recovery spurred by record deficits and trickle-down tax cuts. But finally, today, hope is on the horizon.

Mr. Speaker, a \$275 billion highway bill, it should be more, is pending. It would create real jobs to meet real needs, put Americans to work; and, yet, the White House is threatening a veto. April fool, or is it fools at the White House?

COURT OF APPEALS CONSIDERS PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION

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

Mr. Speaker, currently, the Court of Appeals is working on the partial-birth abortion ban which we passed in this House twice during the past year and the President signed into law in December.

Mr. Speaker, it has been over 25 years since I first learned of the procedure of newborn circumcision, not something we normally think of in this House, but, Mr. Speaker, it would be unthinkable today to perform that procedure without some type of anesthesia, because we all know that a newborn feels pain.

But we are asked to discount the possibility of fetal pain perception when

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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