



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *108th* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 150

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2004

No. 57

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Nathan D. Baxter, Rector, St. James Episcopal Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, we pause at the beginning of this House's work to acknowledge You, the author of liberty. We thank You for the spirit of freedom so deeply endowed in the heart of this Nation. We also thank You for the great work of democracy, the fruit of liberty, to which this House is dedicated.

We pray for its Members, its officers and staff. For just as we believe democracy is inspired of You, we also know its human work can be difficult and complex, especially in these times of momentous decisions for our Nation and beyond, times of war and terrorist threat, times of economic uncertainty. We need the strength of Your spirit.

So hear our prayer for those we have chosen to represent us in these times. We ask that You would grant each one an extra measure of courage to act rightly when partisan passions beckon, and give them the grace of patience in discerning answers when truth is not clear.

Finally, we pray not just for this House, but for all of us, legislators and citizens, that neither the diligent work of democracy nor the privilege of its fruits will ever long distract us from the truth of its purpose, which is liberty and justice for all. Blessed Lord, hear our prayer. 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 Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STENHOLM 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.

IRAQ OIL-FOR-FOOD PROGRAM

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, the Iraq Oil-for-Food Program was established in 1996 to ensure adequate food, medicine, and supplies were available for the Iraqi people despite U.N.-imposed sanctions. It was meant to keep food on the table of the oppressed, not money in the hands of the oppressors. We are now finding out the program was filled with corruption and the Iraqi people were not in fact the beneficiaries.

The very leader that kept them in utter poverty was using the program to line his own pockets and enrich his friends. This corruption was made possible by U.N.-member countries and senior U.N. officials.

Saddam Hussein stole \$10 billion; and, in exchange for their help, several members of the U.N. Security Council secretly received billions of barrels of Iraqi crude at cut-rate prices. These nations publicly supported the goals of the Oil-for-Food Program while privately undermining it.

For the United Nations to allow this to go on for 7 years is unconscionable. The U.N. was responsible for overseeing a program designed to provide aid to Iraqi citizens; and, instead, on the U.N.'s watch, the program strengthened the Hussein regime.

Now some are calling for increased reliance on the United Nations to determine our foreign policy? I do not think so.

U.S. FARM PROGRAMS

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

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, this week a ruling by a committee of the WTO seems to have been interpreted by too many in the press that this was the end of farm programs in the United States. Furthest from the truth.

Let me encourage everyone to be patient until the 400-something-page report is read and deciphered by the House Committee on Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture, and then let us see exactly what they have said. Do not panic.

And let me remind everyone in the United States that we are truly blessed to live in a country that has the most abundant food supply, the best quality of food, the safest food supply, at the lowest cost to our people of any other country in the world. And to those who are critical of our farm programs that feed the American people in this way, take a good hard look and realize when you sit down at the dinner table tonight it is because of the American farmer and rancher.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. MAC THORNBERRY TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH MAY 4, 2004

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication:

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 29, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H2485