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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Commander Maurice S. Kaprow, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Naval Reserve, Norfolk, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, today as we gather in this historic and august chamber, we pause to thank You for the many blessings You have bestowed upon our Nation, our constituents, and ourselves. Thank You for making us the strongest, most democratic and compassionate Nation in this wonderful, yet troubled world.

As we meet here in the safety of this House of Representatives, let us remember the many members of our Armed Forces, especially those serving far from home in the midst of danger, at the tip of the spear, bringing the hope of democracy where tyranny once ruled, and the specter of peace to those who for years covered in terror and lived in tumult.

We pray for the safe return of those deployed to the four corners of the Earth, sailors and Marines, soldiers, airmen, and Coast Guardsmen. Guard their families and give them strength to endure until their service members return to their homes to welcoming arms and the warm embrace of those they love.

Grant us all life and peace, courage and wisdom, as we act today and every day in the best interests of the citizens of these United States, while being ever mindful of those throughout the world community. And let us, say, 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 Colorado (Mrs. MUSGRAVE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MUSGRAVE 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.

### INVESTIGATION NEEDED OF OIL FOR FOOD PROGRAM

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, 7 years ago the United Nations established an Oil for Food program intended for humanitarian relief. Oil was sold to finance the purchase of food, medicine and other relief necessities for the Iraqi people.

The General Accounting Office estimates that more than \$10 billion was stolen from the Oil For Food program. Money that was to help the Iraqi people went to pay off politicians and executives, build a \$20 million Olympic sport facility for Uday Hussein, and spent over \$50 million for promotion for the Husseins' propaganda. They may have even financed weapons that are now being used against our troops.

Oil for Food was the largest UN program in the world at one time. The Iraqi people are owed an explanation for the exploitation of their resources. And if the United Nations is to be treated credibly, they must assist in the investigation of where this money went to; \$10 billion stolen from the Iraqi people. The U.N. needs to come clean on this issue and share with the people where these dollars went.

### EDUCATION IN AMERICA

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

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, as the proud son of public school educators and a father of two children attending public school, I am concerned about the state of education in America.

Education is one of America's most fundamental building blocks. A solid education system is what drives our Nation's prosperity and paves the way to a brighter future for our great country. Yet, our President, for the third year in a row, wants to cut funding for our public education system. Though the President promised to support our teachers, he tried to cut teacher quality programs by \$268 million in the 2004 budget.

Our President has repeatedly slashed funding for the Pell grants, which allows thousands of deserving students the opportunity to go to college. And his proposed budget for 2005 slashes funding for the No Child Left Behind program which the President has repeatedly identified as one of his top priorities by \$8 billion.

Our children deserve a real education system that provides them with a solid, quality education.

### WIRELESS PHONES AND 911 CALLS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, not long ago, all 911 calls were local calls made on wireline phones. Today, it is estimated that nearly 130 million wireless phones are in use, generating an average of 150,000 calls to 911 each day. However, few people realize that most wireless 911 calls do not go to the nearest public safety answering point, do

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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