



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 150

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2004

No. 93

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend John M. O'Neill, Pastor, Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Vienna, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

God our Father, praise and honor and glory and power forever. Praised be Your Holy Spirit.

Lord God, we come before You this day. Open our hearts and minds to Your words and Divine Will today and every day. Help us to learn Your desires for our lives. Encourage us, through the assistance of those here present, our representatives, to always follow Your lead and to avoid straying from Your compassionate love.

Guide us in our deliberations during this session of Congress and counsel us always to be Your faithful children.

We especially pray, Lord, that You guide the leaders of our Nation and extend Your loving protection to our men and women serving in our Armed Forces around the world, particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq. Grant us the peace which is the fruit of justice and charity, and may Your peace reign in our land and throughout the world. 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. BURGESS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURGESS 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.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST CHAPLAIN, FATHER JOHN M. O'NEILL

(Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Father John O'Neill for joining us as guest chaplain and offering this morning's prayer.

Father O'Neill is the outgoing pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic church in Vienna, Virginia, where he has served for the past 12 years. Father O'Neill received his undergraduate degree and master's degree in psychology from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He completed his theological studies at de Sales School of Theology in Washington, D.C., and was ordained in June of 1973. Father O'Neill served as a guidance director/teacher at Bishop Ireton High School for 10 years and then served as the academic dean and teacher at Paul VI High School in Fairfax, Virginia, for 2 years.

Under his guidance as associate pastor and pastor, Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church enriched the spiritual lives of its parishioners and the community around it.

Father O'Neill's contributions both in northern Virginia and throughout the Commonwealth have made him an invaluable spiritual leader for my constituents. As he moves on to his sabbatical in Rome, he will be dearly missed by all of us.

We thank him for offering today's prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will receive 10 1-minute speeches on each side.

DO NOT IGNORE WESTERN SAHARA

(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 King of Morocco is in Washington to tout the newly signed U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement. I am a free trader, but I have serious reservations about this plan.

Morocco today illegally occupies a country in West Africa known as Western Sahara. The King's government has promised people of Western Sahara, the Sahrawi, a vote to determine their own future. It has not happened, and it keeps delaying.

A decade after that promise, powerful friends help the Moroccan Government postpone this vote and consolidate control over the occupied territory. The Sahrawis are a peaceful, pro-Western and prodemocracy people. Despite living under an illegitimate colonial power, they have established a deep-rooted culture of democracy capable of supporting a viable state. They elect their own leaders, many of them women, provide education and equal rights to all of their citizens, men and women.

The only stability a sovereign democratic Western Sahara disrupts is a status quo defined by tyranny. We should keep that in mind when we vote on the trade agreement on the House floor.

TOBACCO FARMERS NEED THE PRESIDENT'S HELP

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to call on the President to get off the sidelines and support the tobacco buyout once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, across the country families are feeling the economic squeeze of higher prices for gasoline, food, and college, record job losses, and an uncertain future. In my State of North Carolina and in other rural areas, tobacco

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farm families are hurting because of the implosion of the Depression-era quota system. Farmers desperately need a tobacco buyout, which this House has passed, but the President continues to fail to support our farm families.

Yesterday the President flew to Raleigh to raise money for his campaign. Although he collected \$25,000 per plate in campaign funds, he failed yet again to stand up for our tobacco farmers and support the buyout.

Let me state clearly: JOHN KERRY supports the tobacco buyout and rural America. JOHN EDWARDS supports the tobacco buyout and rural America. Democrats and Republicans alike in this House and the other body are working together to get it done.

We need leadership for a change from the President of the United States for our small towns and rural communities.

THE EDWARDS AND KERRY LIBERAL AGENDA IS OUT OF TOUCH WITH AMERICA

(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, on Tuesday the most liberal Member of the Senate chose the fourth most liberal Member of the Senate to become his running mate for Presidency of the United States.

It is important for Americans to know the truth about JOHN EDWARDS' liberal voting record that is out of touch with the mainstream values of America. JOHN EDWARDS voted twice against President Bush's tax relief that has lifted the economy and helped create 1.5 million new jobs since August. JOHN EDWARDS voted twice against the new prescription drug benefit added to Medicare that will help seniors live longer at reduced cost. JOHN EDWARDS has voted against banning partial birth abortions. JOHN EDWARDS has said he is against the Defense of Marriage Act. JOHN EDWARDS has voted to cut billions from our military. JOHN EDWARDS has also voted six times against President Bush's plan for the new Department of Homeland Security.

JOHN EDWARDS is the same as JOHN KERRY, a liberal Senator that does not represent the mainstream values of America.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

THE BUSH-CHENEY ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, some people like to make experience the issue for the Vice President of the United States of America.

Let me ask how much experience does it take to wave the banner "Mis-

sion Accomplished" and watch another 700 Americans lose their lives and not change their policy? How much experience does it take to watch 44 million Americans without health insurance and have no policy for universal care? How much experience does it take to watch college costs rise by 26 percent and not pass or have any legislation to alleviate the financial pain for middle-class families when it comes to afford college education for their children? How much experience does it take to watch \$200 billion worth of retirement savings evaporate and not have a plan for retirement security? How much experience does it take to see household bankruptcies rise by over a third in this country and not have a plan to deal with household bankruptcy? How much experience does it take to watch health care costs rise by a third and not have a plan to deal with the uncontrollable health care inflation in this country?

I am not sure we can take this much experience from the Bush-Cheney administration for another 4 years.

THE TOYOTA PRIUS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, Congress has been unable to pass an energy bill, an energy policy, that would allow us some measure of independence from foreign oil imports in this country. But a couple of weeks ago just before our break, we were treated to the exhibition of several cars that embrace the hybrid technology, the gas/electric technology, here on Capitol Hill. Many of us did not have the chance to get over and look at those.

But I just wanted to call attention to the 2004 Motor Trend Car of the Year, the Toyota Prius, and if I could quote from their article, that the Prius brilliantly, more than any other car, is a feature-packed and user-friendly gas/electric hybrid capable of delivering an astonishing 60 miles to the gallon in city driving. They go on to say that the all-new 2004 Prius is an altogether more compelling car than any other, that it is the first hybrid that any enthusiast could not only enjoy, but it provides a tantalizing preview of what the future of extreme fuel efficiency, ultralow emissions, and stirring performance where they will happily co-exist in one package.

Mr. Speaker, this was truly a bipartisan technology. I understand that on the other side even the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) owns a Toyota.

ENRON

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, finally, finally Enron chief executive Kenneth Lay, or "Ken Boy" as the President af-

fectionately called him, has been indicted and done the perp walk. He masterminded Enron, a corporation that built billions from millions in the Western United States while his employees gloated about sticking it to Grandma Milly. Every Oregonian is paying 40 percent more for their electricity because of manipulation of the market by Enron.

Now the President does not return Ken Boy's calls anymore despite his past generosity, but the President should do more. The President should return the \$139,500 Ken Lay personally contributed to him, the \$602,625 that Enron gave to President Bush. This is money stolen from Grandma Milly and other Western consumers, and the President should give it to a low-income energy assistance fund. It is tainted money. Let us put this chapter behind us, but let us have restitution, Mr. President.

SUPPORT AMENDMENT TO REDIRECT \$20 MILLION FROM UNITED NATIONS

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, there is going to be a short time for debate this afternoon. I am introducing an amendment today to take \$20 million from the U.N. and redirect it to come up to what the President requested for NIST, for research in technology and science.

And I would just suggest to my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that after the fall of Iraq, information has come to light about the United Nations' Oil for Food program and some of the apparent corruption. Now there is an unwillingness of several countries, including the United Nations itself, to not release the kind of information that is going to help us solve this scandal. The U.N., according to the Wall Street Journal, has kept hundreds of millions of dollars of Oil for Food money that should have gone to the Iraqi people. Now the United States taxpayers are paying that.

I hope my colleagues will support my amendment today.

A NEW PRESIDENTIAL TICKET FOR A NEW AMERICA

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, 3½ years ago when the Bush administration took over, our country had a \$236 billion surplus. We also had created in the Clinton administration 22 million new jobs. Today we are in deficit. The deficit will be higher than it ever has been in the history of our country, nearly \$500 billion. Today we are losing jobs to outsourcing. And what do the President's advisers say? Outsourcing is good.

President Bush was in Michigan yesterday. Did he talk about our economy,