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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 5, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 9:50 a.m.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord, in a culture that prefers the ease of "either-or" thinking and "absolutes" sneak into everyday conversations, we need Your stable presence, Lord, to understand our own limitations and accept the differences of others.

Unless we are versed in holding onto the mystery in everyday living, life can be boring or filled with just too many contradictions.

Sometimes when we face the end of a term, the autumn of another year, we do look beyond the surface of daily events.

Slowly in the diminishing sunlight the shadows reveal the inner meaning of what has been really happening and what we do truly relish in what has been.

The autumnal events of life can still bear fruit, yet at another time, in another place, or in another person.

The job lost can lead to a work that needs to be done.

The problem unsolved can lead to more insightful questions.

And the self once lost in a crazy routine can be found again and live forever.

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 Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DELAURO 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.

THE GLOBAL TEST IS A MISERABLE FAILURE

(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, Senator KERRY says that our Nation must pass a global test before engaging in military action to protect ourselves. I wonder who gets to administer the test.

Certainly, Mr. KERRY would ask France and Germany for their opinions. Others would probably add Great Britain, Russia, China, and Japan to that list. Most certainly the U.N. and its member states would have a say where our military goes and why.

Unfortunately, the American people would not in a global test. Mr. KERRY would probably ignore a group of Iraqi women who were here in Washington recently. They said the question is not why we removed Saddam Hussein from power, but what took us so long.

An American President is accountable not to the world in how he protects this Nation, but to the American people who rely on him to act to protect them. Other countries should not be able to have veto power over our sovereignty.

Senator KERRY's global test is a miserable failure of a policy idea.

IN NOVEMBER, AMERICANS HAVE A CHANCE TO TRADE GEORGE BUSH

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, it may surprise many of my colleagues to hear

□ 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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this, but I am now convinced George Bush should remain in Washington. Now that D.C. has a baseball team, there is finally a job in this town which George Bush is qualified for and the work is not that hard or tough.

He may not know how many troops we need in Iraq, but even he knows that you need nine baseball players on the field; and in baseball, you do not declare mission accomplished until the game's last out.

I am surprised the White House has not boasted about the Expos' move from Montreal. After all, they are finally creating some jobs here in America.

Of course, the President would have some explaining to do to his new team. He will have to break it to them that they have just moved from a nation with universal health care to a Nation where 45 million people lack coverage. Welcome to the ownership society.

He will also need to warn them that it is not just chin-high fast balls that they need to watch out for in Washington, since the Republican Congress and the NRA just erased the city's gun laws.

When head of the Texas Rangers, George Bush traded Sammy Sosa. In November Americans have a chance to trade George Bush.

HELP PROMOTE HEALTHY LIFESTYLES IN AMERICA

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I am known for running a 4-minute mile, and while today I run a 4-minute half-mile, I still make running a priority. I know that exercise is preventative medicine at best. Healthy, active lifestyles could save \$76 billion in health care costs each year. Health insurance companies clearly have an incentive to keep their beneficiaries healthy.

There are 88 million inactive adults in the United States today. Sixty-one percent of adults exceed their target weight, increasing their risks for more than 30 illnesses, most of which are preventable. Exercise is beneficial to every age group, and for those over the age of 50, strength training has been proven to reduce osteoporosis and increase bone density.

Insurance companies can do more to promote healthy living by offering incentives for those who exercise regularly and encouraging preventative health screenings.

H. Con. Res. 34 commends the health insurance companies who are already acknowledging the benefits of exercise and rewarding their active beneficiaries and encouraging others to do the same. Join me in voting for H. Con. Res. 34 today and help promote healthy lifestyles in America.

REPUBLICAN HOUSE BRIBERY

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend a former Republican Congressman accused Republican leaders here in the House of trying to bribe him in order to gain his support for legislation he did not support. This is not the first time House Republicans attempted to bribe Members of their caucus to vote a certain way, nor will it probably be the last.

This weekend on "Meet the Press," former Republican Congressman Tom Coburn said the Republican leadership offered him a bribe to vote in favor of a transportation bill.

Coburn told moderator Tim Russert that he did not want to support a Republican transportation bill because it was not paid for. So what did the Republican leadership do? I am quoting former Congressman Tom Coburn when he says, "I was then offered a bribe by the committee to vote for the bill. I could have \$15 million to spend wherever I wanted to." Coburn continues, "I don't believe that's the kind of government we want. That's what we're seeing in Congress now with some of the ethical problems that are there."

Mr. Coburn, I could not agree with you more. Unfortunately, the abuses of power have happened on the Republican Party's watch, and we will not see a change unless Democrats return to power both here in the House of Representatives and in the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The Chair reminds Members that they should direct their comments to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

PRESIDENT BUSH IS THE RIGHT LEADER IN THE WAR ON TERROR

(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, President George W. Bush has led our Nation in the global war on terror with consistent strength and courage. After thousands of innocent Americans were murdered on September 11, he understood the nature of the terrorist threat and immediately went on the offensive to protect American families.

The Democratic Presidential nominee, JOHN KERRY, has proven he has a September 10 approach. When asked what he would do about the war on terror, KERRY said America should hold summits and must pass a global test before defending the American people. This is a mixed message that will do nothing to deter terrorists.

Under President Bush's leadership, America has liberated 50 million people

from terrorist-sponsoring regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq, captured or killed hundreds of terrorists, formed a new Department of Homeland Security, initiated training of Iraqi police and military, and stopped the flow of millions of dollars in terrorist funding. President Bush has proven he is the right leader to win the war on terrorism by making courageous decisions to protect American families.

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

HEALTH CARE COSTS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, average Americans confronting the exploding cost of health care today are continuing to feel the pain, and the Republican leadership of this body who can ease that pain is doing nothing.

We know now that in the past 4 years the cost of health care for the average worker has increased three times faster than the increase in wages. More than 14 million Americans now spend more than one-quarter of their paycheck on health care. Yet House Republican leadership offers no promise of a solution.

These numbers confirm what we hear every day from workers being forced into unconscionable choices. What do we have to offer a parent who must choose between housing and health care? What solution can we promise business owners, particularly small business owners, who must tell employees that they will no longer cover their health benefits?

On one of the most fundamental crises of our time the leadership of Congress is deafly silent. The responsibility, Mr. Speaker, resides here. If the Republican leadership of this House and the President of the United States are not committed to solving this problem, one that costs Americans so much of their paycheck, what excuse can they offer working Americans?

The Republican majority and the President can choose to make health care a priority. I wonder how much longer American workers can afford to wait for leadership.

LOST PUBLIC TRUST

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the Office of the President of the United States transcends politics. Even when the person occupying the office violates the public trust, as President Nixon did, the American people lost faith in the politician but not the office. It was an extreme display of patriotism and optimism. America is on the verge of doing that again.