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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ISSA).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.

February 14, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DARRELL E. ISSA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God Almighty, giver of all good gifts and authority's source of wisdom, we stand humbly before You. We ask Your forgiveness for the times we are self-centered and not attuned to the needs of others or Your holy inspirations.

Give us strength today to accomplish the work of the people in the House of freedom and civil expression. Receive our praise and thanksgiving for Your countless gifts and the opportunity to serve in government.

To You be honor and glory now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GINGREY 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.

NSA TERRORIST SURVEILLANCE

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, since it has been revealed that the NSA had a terrorist surveillance program, opponents of the administration have been quick to criticize this program.

Let us try to set the record straight on this effective tool in fighting the war on terror. One Senator has charged the NSA is eavesdropping on Americans who have no indication of wrongdoing. The Senate minority leader, who has been briefed on the program, called it domestic spying.

In fact, this program is extremely limited to international communications, in which one party is suspected of links to al Qaeda or other terrorist organizations, like calls made by 9/11 hijackers to their leaders in Afghanistan.

Are some Democrats so confused, or do they care more about attempting to gain political advantage than protecting our Nation?

Mr. Speaker, we know our enemies place operatives within our borders who blend in and wait to strike as they did on 9/11, but they are still out there. I do not care one iota about protecting the privacy of terrorists who have been sent to this country to murder innocent Americans. It is regretful that some seek political gain at the expense of our security.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

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

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today is Valentine's Day, representing our heart. I would like to extend my heart to all of the Members of the United States Congress.

The President's budget does not, in fact, reflect a warm heart, as it eliminates funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. Each month, CSFP provides over 475,000 low-income individuals with nutritious food packages; 85 percent of the recipients are seniors, all with income levels below a meager \$12,400 per year.

In Indiana, 4,979 seniors are currently enrolled in this program. Next year, they could go hungry if the program is eliminated.

The budget proposal enables participants to enroll in a food stamp program once the CSFP is eliminated. The food stamp program, while extremely important, does not offer the same benefit and convenience that CSFP does. The food packages that seniors receive from the CSFP go to veterans who are sleeping under a bridge and who are homeless.

I would ask the majority leadership of this Congress to redress those inequities in the President's budget.

Some seniors are also hesitant to participate in the food stamp program because they perceive it as a welfare program. Yet these same seniors participate in the CSFP in Indiana.

I was touched by the story of a senior who received her first CSFP box from Gleaners. She cried after discovering 12 pudding cups in her box. Her case manager explained, "Pudding is a luxury she has not been able to afford in a very long time." Let's not forget that as we craft a budget resolution, something as simple as pudding cups are a great luxury for some Americans.

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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