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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "We place our trust in the word of the Lord. All our hope is in Your Holy Name."

Eternal God and Father of us all, February weather would deceive us and have us think spring is yet a long way off. Yet even as the snows penetrate the depths of the earth, Your laws nurture new life. Winter's weight breaks off what seems unfruitful branches; and rushing streams wash away all that is rootless.

Invigorate the House of Representatives; that restorative justice may inspire new confidence in this Nation; and the work of Congress may produce a fruitful land.

May the daily work of Your people silence a cynical world with blossoms of truth. And early growth release the scent of eternal life in the seasons of our lifeline and 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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

DEMOCRATS CANNOT HAVE IT BOTH WAYS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the NSA terrorist surveillance program. It seems that on this issue the Democrats want to have their cake and eat it, too. They want to say they are tough on national security while at the same time demonizing anything that President Bush does to protect our country.

On the one hand, we have the junior Senator from Massachusetts calling the program "illegal." Other Democrats have deemed this a "domestic spying program." And when this program came to light, leading Democrats acted outraged as if they did not know about it. But now these same Democrats are admitting that in fact they were briefed on the program all along and are arguing that they actually support the NSA program. So which is it?

Mr. Speaker, Democrats must decide. They cannot have it both ways. The American people deserve to know where the Democratic Party stands on this issue. If they disagree with the terrorist surveillance program, then they need to say so and offer up a real alternative. But let me remind them: criticism, demagoguery and demonizing are not alternatives.

MEDICARE PART D DISASTROUS PROGRAM

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the Medicare part D plan is getting some rave reviews. You might be surprised to hear a Democrat say that; but, yes, it is: Rave reviews from the CEOs of pharmaceutical companies, insurance companies and a few political hacks downtown appointed by President Bush.

But from seniors, there is incredible confusion; and if they find their way

through this myriad of confusing plans and find one that provides the drugs they need, they find now there is a new barrier. These are the most restrictive insurance products in history in terms of prior approval for needed drugs.

One company has 39 different forms, which its CEO denied until he was shown them. Then he said, Oh, yes, that is right, I guess we do. They require doctors to conduct all sorts of tests for drugs that seniors have been taking for years to prove that they really need them. And even then if you get a plan that lets you through and does give you your drugs, they can change that benefit on a weekly basis, but seniors cannot change plans on a weekly basis.

And then there is the doughnut hole. I had my first constituent call about the doughnut hole. She has exhausted her benefits. She is on Social Security disability, and she has to pay \$2,850 out of pocket for drugs to stay alive. She does not have \$2,850.

PRAISING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF USAID IN IRAQ

(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, since 2003, the United States Agency for International Development has supported efforts to revitalize Iraq's economy, improve education, develop a vibrant civil society, and assist Iraqis in the development of their new democracy which protects American families by denying terrorists training camps.

Thanks to USAID, 10 sewage treatment plants in Iraq have been refurbished; 97 percent of Iraqi children

□ 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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H277