

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

---

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, July 20, 2006, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

---

□ 1051

JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY NOURI AL-MALIKI, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Bill Sims, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Nouri Al-Maliki, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE);

The gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER);

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN);

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON); and

The gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Nouri Al-Maliki, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS);

The Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM);

The Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON);

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL);

The Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE);

The Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS);

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID); and

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Jesse Bibiano Marehalau, Ambassador of Micronesia.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The Members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 11 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m., the Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced His Excellency Nouri Al-Maliki, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, it is my great privilege and I deem it a high honor and a personal pleasure to present to you His Excellency Nouri Al-Maliki, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

---

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY NOURI AL-MALIKI, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

Prime Minister AL-MALIKI. In the Name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Your Excellency the Speaker of the House, Mr. Vice President, honorable ladies and gentlemen, Members of Congress, it is with great pleasure that I am able to take this opportunity to be the first democratically and constitutionally elected Prime Minister of Iraq to address you, the elected representatives of the American people, and I thank you for affording me this unique chance to speak at this respected assembly.

Let me begin by thanking the American people through you and on behalf of the Iraqi people for supporting our people in ousting dictatorship. Iraq will not forget those who stood with her and who continue to stand with her in times of need.

Thank you for your continued resolve in helping us fight the terrorists plaguing Iraq, which is a struggle to defend our nascent democracy and our people who aspire to liberty, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

All of those are not Western values. They are universal values for humanity. They are as much for me the pinnacle embodiment of my faith and religion and they are for all free spirits. The war on terror is a real war against those who wish to burn out the flame of freedom. We are in this vanguard for defending the values of humanity.

I know that some of you here question whether Iraq is part of the war on terror. Let me be very clear. This is a battle between true Islam, for which a person's liberty and rights constitute essential cornerstones, and terrorism which wraps itself in a fake Islamic cloak, in reality wages a war on Islam and Muslims and values and spreads hatred between humanity contrary to our Koran which says, We have created you male and female and made you tribes and families that you know each other. Surely the noblest of you in the sight of God is the best conduct. The truth is that terrorism has no religion. Our faith says that who kills an innocent has killed all mankind.

Thousands of lives were tragically lost on September 11 when these imposters of Islam reared their ugly heads. Thousands more continue to die in Iraq today at the hands of the same terrorists who show complete disregard for human life. Your loss on that day was a loss of all mankind and our loss today is a loss for all free people. Wherever humankind suffers a loss at the hands of terrorists, it is a loss for all humanity.

It is your duty and our duty to defeat this terror. Iraq is the front line in this struggle and history will prove that the sacrifices of Iraqis for freedom will not be in vain. Iraqis are your allies in the war on terror and history will record their bravery and humanity. The fate of our country and yours is tied. Should democracy be allowed to fail in Iraq and terror permitted to triumph, then the war on terror will never be won elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, we are building a new Iraq on a foundation of democracy and are erecting it through our belief in the rights of every individual, just as Saddam has destroyed it through his abuse of all those rights, so that future Iraqi generations can live in peace, prosperity and hope. Iraqis have tasted freedom, and we will defend it absolutely.

Every human possesses inalienable rights which transcend religion as it is stated in the international convention of human rights. They transcend religion, race and gender. God says in the Koran: "And surely we have honored all children of Adam." I believe these human rights are not an artifact construct reserved for the few. They are the divine entitlement for all. It is on this unwavering belief that we are determined to build our nation, a land whose people are free, whose air is liberty and where the rule of law is supreme. This is the new Iraq which is emerging from the ashes of dictatorship and, despite the carnage of extremists, a country which respects