

the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty.”

Madison wrote: “The genius of republican liberty seems to demand, on one side, not only that all powers should be derived from the people, but that those entrusted with it should be kept in dependence by the people by a short duration of their appointments; and that even during this short period the trust should be placed not in a few but in a number of hands. Stability, on the contrary, requires that the hands in which the power is lodged shall continue for a length of time the same. A frequent change of men will result from a frequent return of electors, and the frequent change of measures from a frequent change of men. Whilst energy in government requires not only a certain duration of power, but the execution of it by a single hand.”

He knew what we take for granted today, one, that liberty is an essential ingredient for stability and prosperity; and, two, that if government does not see its foremost task is to preserve liberty for the people it serves, then it will soon fail.

In discussing the preamble we should pause to take note of the fact that our Constitution was the result, not of monarchical fiat or one man’s scheme to craft a new government, but of a Constitutional Convention, a body overflowing with competing philosophies and conflicting viewpoints. But these founders found common ground in our Constitution. Madison was in awe of this reality. “The real wonder,” he wrote, “is that so many difficulties should have been surmounted and surmounted with a unanimity almost as unprecedented as it must have been unexpected. It is impossible for any man of candor to reflect on this circumstance without partaking of the astonishment. It is impossible for the man of pious reflection not to perceive in it a finger of that almighty hand which had been so frequently and signally extended to our relief in the critical stages of the revolution.”

Madison notes that the Convention’s end product, our Nation’s Constitution, would not have been possible under the normal conditions that prevail in most political bodies. It makes me wonder if such an achievement could ever be possible in today’s fractious climate. But Madison chalks this achievement up to two dynamics. He writes: “The first is that the Convention must have enjoyed in a very singular degree an exemption from the pestilential influence of party animosities, the diseases most incident to deliberative bodies and most apt to contaminate their proceedings. The second conclusion is that all the deputations composing the conventions were either satisfactorily accommodated by the final act or were induced to accede to it by deep conviction of the necessity of sacrificing private opinions and partial interest to the public good and by despair of seeing this necessity diminished by delays or by new experiments.”

His observations on the crafting of this great document which establishes our framework for government and secures the blessings of liberties to ourselves and our posterity should serve to remind us of how careful we must be to adhere to the boundaries it creates for the Federal Government. His insight into the process behind the framing of our Constitution might also remind the Members of this body of our duty to serve the people and to maintain, as Madison said, “a deep conviction of the necessity of sacrificing private opinions and partial interests to the public good.”

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

MR. PENCE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for March 19 through March 21 on account of family medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SARBANES, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CONAWAY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, for 5 minutes, today and March 21 and 22.

Mr. CONAWAY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 21, 2007, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

896. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s initial report on the threat posed by improvised explosive devices, as required by Section 1402 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

897. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting on behalf of the Secretary of State and the U.S. Representative to the IAEA, a report detailing assistance to Iran from the International Atomic Energy Agency during calendar year 2006, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2021 note Public Law 107-228 section 1344(a); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

898. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Technical Corrections to the Export Administration Regulations and to the Defense Priorities and Allocations System (DPAS) Regulation [Docket No. 061212330-6330-01] (RIN: 0694-AD88) received February 28, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

899. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department’s final rule — North Korea: Imposition of New Foreign Policy Controls [Docket No. 070111012-7017-01] (RIN: 0694-AD97) received February 28, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

900. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2007-13, Waiving Prohibition on United States Military Assistance with Respect to Chad; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

901. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendment of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Policy with respect to Libya and Venezuela — received February 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

902. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 and the FREEDOM Support Act, pursuant to Public Law 103-160, section 1203(d) of Title XII Public Law 102-511, section 502; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

903. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, Weather Takeoff Minimums; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30523 Amdt. No. 3194] received March 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

904. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30522 ; Amdt. No. 3193] received March 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

905. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Societe de Motorisations Aeronautiques (SMA) SR305-230 and SR305-230-1 Reciprocating Engines [Docket No. FAA-2006-26102; Directorate Identifier 2006-NE-36-AD; Amendment 39-14820; AD 2006-23-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

906. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries GmbH Model DA 40 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-26165; Directorate Identifier 2006-