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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:

Lord God, Who brings us to the re-creation of a new day, by Your spirit, You breathe hope into the hearts of Your people.

Hope, Lord, is born out of promise. It brings a freshness to every work and every new day because each is a step to the unfolding of what was once only a promise into the reality of fulfillment. As long as people have hope, they are fixed on the brightness of another tomorrow.

Building on the past, people of hope seize the present moment, make the most of a variety of possibilities, and set in motion deliberate actions that will shape the future.

Today, Lord, give to the Members of Congress a consolidated vision. Marshal within them a discipline that will make them a force of trusted promise which will instill in people across this Nation, true and lasting hope, now and forever. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCGOVERN 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.

### HOUSE REPUBLICANS STILL WANT TO PROVIDE THE PRESIDENT A BLANK CHECK ON IRAQ WAR

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I was home last week, and although there was a great deal of discussion about gas prices, still the number one issue among the people of my district in Missouri is the military action in Iraq. And one of the things they are confused about is the fact that this is the most unpopular war in the history of our Republic and yet nothing seems to change. Over 70 percent of the American public is against the war, and we continue to travel down the same road over and over again.

One of the reasons I believe we have two ears and just one mouth is that we are to listen more than we speak. Therefore, it seems to me that the people of this country are speaking but we are simply not listening.

It is my hope that all blank checks and rubber stamps will be put away. And while we are waiting to discuss this, the Democrats are moving forward with our commitment to make serious changes in Iraq.

### LEADERSHIP

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on leadership.

The American people have entrusted us with a great responsibility to represent their interest in this great House. The people of the Seventh District of Tennessee work hard and represent what is good about America, and it is my honor to speak on their behalf.

In my district there are farmers, bankers, truckers, accountants. My

district is as diverse as America itself. One thing they believe in is the goodness and strength and perseverance of our country. They entrust us to do the right thing, no matter the circumstances.

They want lower taxes and believe that they, not the Federal Government, should have first right of refusal on their paycheck. They believe that if 10 percent is good enough for God, it should be good enough for the government when it comes to taxing that paycheck. And they think that government should learn to live within its means.

Most importantly, they want action, not political grandstanding. They want results, not rhetoric. They want and expect us to solve problems. They expect us to stand in the gap, stand up for them, and do our jobs.

They expect us to lead.

### DAY TWO OF THE FOOD STAMP CHALLENGE

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, yesterday I spoke on the floor of this House about the Food Stamp Challenge, an initiative where public officials live for 1 week on a food stamp budget in order to raise awareness of the Food Stamp program. Three of my esteemed colleagues, Representatives JO ANN EMERSON from Missouri, TIM RYAN from Ohio, and JAN SCHAKOWSKY from Illinois, are also taking part in the Food Stamp Challenge. We started yesterday.

It is not easy eating on \$3 a day. But it is nothing compared to the hardship faced by millions of Americans every single day. I urge my colleagues to read more about our experiences on the Food Stamp Challenge blog at [foodstampchallenge.typepad.com](http://foodstampchallenge.typepad.com).

This week my colleagues will be joining me in talking about the Food

□ 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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