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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, at 12:30 p.m.

House of Representatives

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 2007

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

May the Lord bless the Members of Congress as they finalize work in this Chamber, return to their districts, and attend to family members and responsibilities.

Grant them, and all vacationing Americans, safe travel, health and summer delights. May peace reign in their hearts and in their homes, and may true friends be there to welcome them.

May these days of recess be a time of renewal and reflection, so that they return to Congress with new energy, creativity, and a spirit of civility that will bring forth their best instincts for intelligent discourse and human exchange that will model behavior for the Republic and show the world the shape democracy takes when you have government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

Because of its unique position in human history today, God bless America now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHIFF). 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.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SARBANES 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HUMMER FOR HYBRID

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, for years I've been fighting to eliminate a perverse provision in the tax code that actually provided an incentive, a tax break for purchasing the largest, most expensive gas guzzlers, luxury cars weighing over 6,000 pounds. This perverse incentive, hence, the nickname, the "Hummer Loophole," has resisted action for change and has retained its position.

This year, we have, in fact, taken action, not just to close the Hummer Loophole, but to extend benefits to lighter, more fuel-efficient cars and vans for business, while we use some of the savings to create a tax benefit for plug-in hybrids.

Trading Hummers for hybrids. Another important reason to vote for the renewable energy and conservation tax package coming forward today to help us meet the most serious environmental, economic and national security challenges, help us fight global warming, and promote energy efficiency.

CONGRATULATING REPUBLICANS FOR ACTING TO PROTECT AMERICANS

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate congressional Republicans for acting to protect Americans.

Last week we passed, and yesterday the President signed, legislation protecting Americans who in good faith

□ 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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