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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, with the ancient scripture, You advise the Members of Congress today. Wisdom from the book of Sirach may address personal values as well as national economics.

“Good and evil, life and death, poverty and wealth are all from the Lord.

“Wisdom and understanding, the knowledge of human affairs, the depths of love, and the path of virtue all come from the Lord.

“Error and vacuous darkness were formed in the sinner from the day of birth; and evil grows as the evildoer ages.

“But the Lord’s gift remains with the just; blessing brings continual success.

“Someone may become rich through a miser’s life, and this is all he has as off-counted reward.”

When he says, “I can rest now; I need only feast on my possessions,” he does not know how long it will be till he dies and leaves everything to others.

My child, hold fast to your duty; busy yourself with it. Grow in age and wisdom, doing your task. Admire not how sinners live, but trust in the Lord and wait for His light. 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 gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KAPTUR led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minutes on each side of the aisle.

THE HUMANITARIAN DISASTER IN GAZA

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

Mr. KUCINICH. The attack on the U.N. headquarters in Gaza is further proof that a post legal era in world affairs has taken shape where law and moral principles are irrelevant—where might makes right, where retribution and vengeance, even against innocent children, fails to shake us from moral lethargy or political paralysis. Collected punishment is a proportionate use of force. Using U.S. planes, helicopters and ammunitions to attack a wounded, starved and thirsty population of mostly children trapped in a box called “Gaza” has become acceptable, perhaps because we’ve already accepted the deaths of over 1 million innocent civilians in Iraq in a war based on lies.

There is a way out. We must ask those who were given our armaments for defense to stop the aggression and the blockade and the occupation and reconnect with the high sentiments that rallied their own suffering, wounded people of a nation generations ago.

When we recognize the humanitarian disaster in Gaza, when we come to grips with the reality of suffering on both sides, we may yet find a way to save ourselves.

“BANK ROBBERY?”

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, oh, how things have changed. Time was, when you borrowed money from a bank, the bank wanted to know what the money was going to be used for, and you were required to fill out a bunch of forms to receive that money.

Now the big banks have shown up, wanting \$350 billion from the taxpayer. They won’t tell us what they will use the money for, and they haven’t filled out any paperwork to justify receiving more taxpayer money. You see, they don’t want the same standards they require on borrowers to be applied to them when they want money.

It used to be the bad guys robbed the banks. Now it appears that the banks are the bad guys by putting a financial gun to the people, saying, “Give us the loot or you’re all going to die economically.”

It’s like bank robbery in reverse. It seems like the big banking boys’ gang is robbing the people. We call all of this nonsense a bailout, but bailouts have not helped stimulate the economy. Why don’t we just say, “No”? No more money to special interest groups. No more taxpayer money will be spent without accountability. No more spending money we don’t have. We cannot spend, borrow and tax our way out of this economic calamity.

And that’s just the way it is.

THE SECOND ROUND OF THE BAILOUT MISTAKE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the second half of the Wall Street bailout is being jammed at this House today—again, with a cursory review by the committees that should be meeting

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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