



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2009

No. 117

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 30, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EARL BLUMENAUER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God Almighty, You lead Your people, guide them, and help them in their every need. You respond to their faith in many ways. You may use anyone or anything to come to the aid of Your people.

At times You bring government or charitable organizations to assist Your people. At other times, family members or neighbors help as they are able. At other times, You empower a person from within with greater imagination or intuition, with more education, or the ability to change direction. Sometimes all anyone can do is to pray.

So today we pray for all those who are overwhelmed by personal or social difficulties. We pray for those drowning in debt, those threatened by firestorms or foreclosure on their homes, by illness, by depression, unemployment or lack of faith. Be faithful, Lord, to Your people, even when they are unfaithful and help those most in need. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois 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 10 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, Daniel Webster reminds us on a daily basis in a plaque, a stone engraved above the Speaker's rostrum, that in our time here in Congress we're supposed to do something that's worth being remembered, something valuable. Forty-four years ago today Medicare was signed into law. That Congress did something worthwhile. The Congress that produced Medicaid did something worthwhile. Both those Congresses were vilified, and people said both of those programs were socialism.

Well, they were wrong; they were American. They were caring programs that have helped with people in sickness and getting them healthy in an affordable manner. This Congress can do

something worthy of being remembered by passing national health care and taking care of people and extending Medicare and Medicaid to another group of Americans and making sure that we're no longer the only civilized industrialized country in the world that doesn't have health care for all of its citizens.

It's time that we act and we do what Daniel Webster charges us to, and that's to do something worthy of being remembered. Nothing is more important than health care.

PUT VIETNAM BACK ON THE CPC LIST NOW

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

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, how much longer must we tolerate Vietnam's outrageous and continuous violations of its people's religious freedom and human rights? Just over a week ago, the Vietnamese government assaulted, arrested and imprisoned dozens of Catholics in the Diocese of Vinh for erecting a temporary place of worship on Tam Toa Parish Church that was destroyed during the Vietnam War. If this is not sufficiently egregious and reprehensible to draw our attention and condemnation, I do not know what is. However, the sad reality is that this is just one of the many audacious and concerning violations perpetrated by the Vietnamese government since it was removed from the list of Countries of Particular Concern in 2006.

Arrests of religious leaders and political activists, intimidation of worshippers, and collusion in labor trafficking have become a common practice by the Vietnamese government. We cannot continue to tolerate unjust, inhumane and illegal practices. Vietnam must be put back on the CPC list, and I urge the State Department to do so expeditiously.

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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H9059