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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Reverend Herbert Brooks, Jr., St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Joliet, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

Our Heavenly Father and Creator, we acknowledge Your presence and power on this day.

Today, Lord, we ask for Your blessings upon this House of government and remind us of Your Words, "the government shall be upon His shoulder." We humbly ask, Lord, to guide them, direct them, rest Your spirit upon their shoulders during this decision-making time.

We ask, Lord, You endow them with the ability to make the right decisions that is pleasing to our Lord and to all mankind. Keep every Representative of this great country strong, a sound mind and a willing heart to continue to serve. Protect those that are protecting us, Lord, as we ask You to be our heavenly Protector.

Bless the staff, as well as the families of this House of Representatives. Fill us all with Your brotherly love, Your "one accord spirit," and Your peace. We pray all this in Your precious name. 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 Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CLEAVER 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.

WELCOMING REV. HERBERT BROOKS, JR.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. HALVORSON) is recognized for 1 minute. There was no objection.

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great pride to introduce Pastor Herb Brooks, who kindly delivered this morning's opening prayer. Herb Brooks is not just the pastor at St. John Baptist Church in Joliet, Illinois. He is a husband to wife Gwen, and a proud father and grandfather.

He serves as a member of the Will County Board, where he represents his constituents with passion, integrity, and intelligence. And he has been an outspoken advocate for civil rights and the need for better health care in our community. It is all of these reasons why he is considered a true leader in our district, and why I have invited him here today to continue this great tradition.

Pastor Brooks embodies the spirit and pride that defines our community, and I could not think of anyone better to represent our district during the opening prayer. I thank him for being here, and I am so proud to introduce him.

□ 1010

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further 1-minutes on each side of the aisle.

THE STATE OF THE HOUSE TODAY

(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 came to the floor today to talk about Social Security, but having spent most of last evening watching the news on a variety of stations and reading several newspapers this morning, I decided I just wanted to speak about what I am seeing.

This body has gone from "states craft" to demagoguery and witchcraft. The Hill has become a sick setting for everything wrong and ugly about politics. We're not about a way to fix. We're about pure nasty politics. We can be partisan without being poisonous.

And when I look back at our young pages, young Americans who are gifted, I cannot help but wonder whether we are teaching them through our actions to become peace sowers or bomb throwers. We make the choice.

We can be partisan without being poisonous, and on this day, July 21, 2010, we are poisonous.

AMERICA COMPETES FOR JOBS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the United States competes on a global level for businesses and jobs, and when international investors look at our Nation, they have some concerns about the future.

Our country has the second highest corporate income tax rate in the industrialized world; and come January 1, we will see the largest tax increase in our Nation's history as the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts, all taxes, snap back to the old higher levels. There's uncertainty with on-again/off-again tax cuts and increases.

Starting today, our financial regulatory agencies will write hundreds of new rules governing investment. And

□ 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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