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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

Reverend William Byrne, St. Peter's Catholic Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Gracious and loving God, thank You for the blessings You have bestowed upon this Nation. Most especially, we thank You for the rights which You alone grant to all men and women, in particular, the gift of life and the right to pursue happiness.

Bless the men and women of this country who work to ensure that all men and women may enjoy these rights. Watch over those who protect our Nation, both military and civilian, at home and abroad.

Guard and protect those who have been devastated by storms and tornados this past week. Keep them safe and assist those who are working for relief. Comfort those who mourn, and welcome those who have died.

Bless these Representatives. May all they do begin with Your inspiration and find completion in Your love.

We ask this in Your holy name. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California 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

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

### TEXAS WILDFIRES AND PAKISTAN

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, wildfires have raged in Texas because of a long drought this year. The town of Possum Kingdom, Texas, population 5,500, has burned up. This is one of the many photographs showing the raging fires throughout the State.

Statewide, two firefighters have been killed; 400 homes have been destroyed. The 9,000 fires have covered over 2,200,000 acres—this is the size of Rhode Island and Connecticut put together—and the costs of the devastating destruction are enormous.

The Governor has asked FEMA for a Federal disaster declaration because of the extensive fires, but the Governor has been turned down by the White House—no more additional help for Texas.

Too bad Texas isn't a foreign country like Pakistan. The Federal Government has shelled out over \$500 million for disaster aid to Pakistan citizens for the flooding in their country.

When Washington considers aid, if any, for disaster relief, it should at least consider Americans in Texas just as important as Pakistanis, but that doesn't appear to be the case. Meanwhile, the fires continue to burn in Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

### REIN IN THE SPECULATION

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. American families and small businesses are being crushed by \$4 a gallon gas at the pump.

Now, the Republicans tell us, oh, it's plain old supply and demand; drill here now and fast in the future and that will solve the problem.

Well, actually supply is up—U.S. crude inventories are 12.6 million barrels over the 5-year average—and demand is down. So what's really going on?

Well, it's Big Oil and it's Wall Street. Goldman Sachs—no one less than Goldman Sachs—said that the culprit for inflating oil prices \$20 higher than what supply and demand dictate is excess speculation. Now, we wouldn't want to rein in the speculators because that's Wall Street and they're very generous to Republicans. And we wouldn't want to take on Big Oil, who's manipulating the market prices, because they contribute big-time to Republicans.

So let's just play pretend. Let's pretend we're doing something for consumers while hiding the culprits in plain sight. Speculation on Wall Street. They traded 189,000 contracts—that's 189 million barrels—by computer in 1 day last week, driving up the price for all Americans. Useless speculation.

Rein in the speculation. And take on Big Oil.

### CONGRATULATIONS, CANADA

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week's historic election in Canada brought to power a conservative majority for Parliament. By winning a full majority of the 167 conservative seats, Prime Minister Stephen

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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