am impressed by the dignity and the determination that the Kashmiri Pandits have maintained despite their horrible conditions, and I am touched by the deep concern that the Kashmiri Americans feel for their brothers and sisters living in Kashmir in the refugee centers set up in India to accommodate the Pandits driven from their homes in the Kashmir Valley.

Mr. Speaker, in the great international debates that we have, it is sometimes all too easy to overlook the so-called small problem of one persecuted ethnic group, but I hope that the United States and India, as the world’s two largest democracies, will show determination to finally address this humanitarian catastrophe in an effective and humane way.

RECESS
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule 1, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. Accordingly at 9 o’clock and 21 minutes a.m., the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Thornberry) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER
The Reverend Ken L. Day, Level Cross United Methodist Church, Randleman, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Most Holy Lord God, You have created and designed us for intimate fellowship with You, one another, and all Your creation. We acknowledge that You are the giver of all good and perfect gifts we are endowed with for this fellowship to be realized. We also acknowledge that You continually present us with opportunities to exercise these gifts and abilities. These representatives, staffs, and aides have assembled here today to freely exercise these gifts and abilities in service to You and our country.

We confess that we have not always exercised these gifts and abilities faithfully. We have occasionally allowed selfish desires and personal agendas to cloud our visions and influence our actions. Forgive us, Lord, when we fail to esteem others higher than ourselves. And in forgiving us, allow us continued esteem others higher than ourselves.

So, Preacher, it is good to have you with us here today. Your family is in the gallery. I know your parishioners are watching today.

SAFEGUARDING SECRETS

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

Mr. Foley. Mr. Speaker, my mother makes a great carrot cake. For generations the recipe has been a guarded secret. In fact, the recipe to our family’s carrot cake is probably more secure than this country’s nuclear secrets. However, based on the lack of concern from the Vice President, you would not think our national security was a major issue. The Vice President has had no problem taking credit for discovering Love Canal, inspiring the novel “Love Story,” inventing the Internet, and just last week he took credit for the strength of our economy. But when this administration has repeated security lapses, putting our citizens at risk, he is nowhere to be found. The Vice President and the other side of the aisle have spent most of their time and energy on this floor worried about political attacks when instead we should be concerned about defending this Nation from nuclear attacks.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

Mr. Lampson asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.

Mr. Lampson. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue in my efforts to bring to light the problem of international child abduction. Every day possible I have come to the House floor to deliver a 1-minute on the issue and including in that 1-minute the story of an individual child. Today I will tell you about Benjamin Eric Roche.

Benjamin was abducted when he was 3 years old by his mother Suzanne Riley and taken to Germany. Ms. Riley had physical custody of Benjamin at that time, but both she and his father, Mr. Ken Roche, shared joint custody.

Under the Hague Convention, a German court ordered Benjamin to be returned to the United States in August of 1993.

Mr. Roche had not heard from his ex-wife or his son until February 1, 2000, when Ms. Riley initiated contact with him. However, since that contact, Mr. Roche has once again not heard from her or his son.

Mr. Speaker, there are 10,000 other children who are in the same shoes as Benjamin. They have been kidnapped across international borders. We must continue to work to make sure that they are returned. We must bring our children home.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG CHOICES

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

Mr. Gibbons. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House for 1 minute on the issue of prescription drug choices. The House bipartisan prescription drug plan will provide a voluntary, affordable and accessible Medicare drug benefit plan to all our Nation’s seniors. The House bipartisan prescription drug plan will solve this very serious problem currently facing our Nation’s seniors. With this plan, senior citizens will no longer have to choose between food, shelter and medication. Instead, the only choice they will have to make is which prescription plan best meets their individual needs.

I urge my colleagues to support the House bipartisan prescription drug plan. It is the fair thing to do, but, more importantly, it is the right thing to do.

OIL COMPANIES REPORT RECORD PROFITS IN WAKE OF RISING GASOLINE PRICES

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

Mr. Kucinich. Mr. Speaker, oil companies reported record profits during a time of rising gasoline prices. This is a sad story because it is the story of those who are paying the price for our dependence on foreign oil. We are paying the price for our lack of energy independence.

We have an opportunity to make a change. We must provide America with clean, renewable energy sources. We must reduce our dependence on foreign oil. We must invest in American jobs in the clean energy industry. We must invest in a new energy future for America.

These are the stories we have been waiting a long time to tell. This is the story of our energy future. This is the story of our America. This is the story of our strength.

I urge my colleagues to support the House bipartisan prescription drug plan. It is the fair thing to do, but, more importantly, it is the right thing to do.