The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Issa).

**DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

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


I hereby appoint the Honorable DARRELL E. Issa to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

**MORNING HOUR Debates**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2001, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, other than majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Stearns) for 5 minutes.

**PRESIDENT BUSH’S FIRST 180 DAYS**

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, we are in our busiest legislative session in July; and it is important to go back and consider all of the accomplishments we have had in the last 6 months. All of us have worked alongside with the President in tackling some very tough issues, and I think it is important that we remind everybody of the important victories that I think are a great benefit to the American people.

When thinking about the first 180 days of President Bush’s service to our Nation, there are many accomplishments across a broad spectrum, both national and international issues, that I think are clearly evident; and I wish to bring to my colleagues’ attention. From education and the environment, to health care and national security, the President has taken an active stance in promoting an agenda that has received both public and bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, let me be specific here. For example, the President’s budget, with bipartisan support, funds essential priorities, pays down a historic level of debt in this country, while, of course, simultaneously providing tax relief to every taxpayer in every tax bracket.

The President inherited a faltering economy. He signed into law the largest tax cut in 20 years. This was important because it provided a needed boost while simultaneously proposing measures to increase trade and stabilizing energy prices.

President Bush’s efforts to expand the quality of health care for all Americans has led to the largest increase in medical research funding, the development of 1,200 new community health care centers for rural and low-income Americans, as well as immediate assistance to seniors in the form of a prescription drug discount card that will reduce their bills by 10 to 15 percent or more.

While working to improve health care for American seniors, the President has also taken action to increase access for disabled Americans for better housing, transportation, greater employment opportunities, and overall access to community life. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, his appointment of a bipartisan commission to improve Social Security reveals his deep concern for working Americans and the effect Social Security will have for them long after retirement.

While working to protect the interests of American citizens at home, the President has also worked diligently in order to protect American interests throughout our global community. The $8 billion increase of defense spending that we passed will improve the quality of life for all men and women who have committed their lives to military service. President Bush’s commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the North American nations through the North American nations through the first President to give a radio address in Spanish, the President has also worked to strengthen the alliance of the North American nations through active participation in our allies.

President Bush has successfully strived to replace Washington culture of gridlock with several notable bipartisan accomplishments on very tough issues, ranging from economy to education to defense spending.

Mr. Speaker, I believe his first 180 days have revealed to us an active and committed Presidential agenda that spans both domestic and international concerns while also protecting the interests of America and expanding freedom, trade, prosperity, and hope. I wish to congratulate the President this afternoon.

**RECESS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning hour debates, pursuant to clause 12, rule 1, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o’clock and 37 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

☐ 1400

**AFTER RECESS**

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. Biggert) at 2 p.m.

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Couchlin, offered the following prayer:

Stir our spirits, O Lord, that we may be whole-hearted in all the tasks You set before us this day.

Over the weekend You have renewed us in faith and love. With others who also promoting an international awareness for environmental conservation.

These can be clearly seen in his efforts for partnership with the African nations on issues ranging from the fight against HIV/AIDS to the greater development of international trade.

Mr. Speaker, his commitment to the international treaty that will reduce the worldwide use of 12 dangerous chemicals exemplifies his concern for the global environment. The President’s foreign policy efforts also reflect a sincere commitment to strengthening the young independent democracies of Eastern Europe. Moreover, as the first President to give a radio address in Spanish, the President has also worked to strengthen the alliance of the North American nations through active participation in our allies.

President Bush has successfully strived to replace Washington culture of gridlock with several notable bipartisan accomplishments on very tough issues, ranging from economy to education to defense spending.

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see Your deeds unfolding in our history and in every act of justice and kindness we have gathered and offered You praise. With family and friends we gathered at table and You renewed us in the bonds that hold us faithful and fill us with gratitude. Bless those who have blessed us. Be close to those most in need of Your compassion and love.

Fear of You, O Lord, is the beginning of wisdom. Make us truly wise. As we begin our works of truth and justice guide us to grow in understanding, for our hearts are fixed on Your faithful promise that You will be with us now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's page, and after a comparison of the messages to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I the Journal stands approved.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE


COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chairman of Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

H.R. 2216. An act making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

There was no objection.

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for one minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, as the debate over using Federal funds to support embryonic stem cell research goes forward, I would urge my colleagues in this Chamber to consider the clear words of Pope John Paul II spoken to our President today, who said in Rome, “Experience is already showing how a tragic coarsening of consciences accompanies the assault on innocent life in the womb, leading to the accommodation and acquiescence in the face of other related evils such as euthanasia, infanticide, and, most recently, proposals for the creation for research purposes of human embryos, destined to destruction in the process.”

The Pope went on to say, “A free and virtuous society which America aspires to be must reject practices that devalue and violate human life at any stage from conception until natural death.”

May we in this Chamber, Madam Speaker, and our President heed the words of this gentle servant of God.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

MOUNT NEBO WILDERNESS
BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 451) to make certain adjustments to the boundaries of the Mount