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

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 JOHNN COOKSEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Tommy Nelson, Pastor, Denton Bible Church, Denton, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Our Father, You have made us as You have made all things. You have established the nations and their boundaries. You have ordained their leaders, their authority and the absolutes by which they rule. To You, who are the foundation of justice, of love and equality, we ask Your sovereign mercy.

Grant these men and women, whom You have vested, the wisdom to perceive Your pleasure, the skill to implement it, the courage to stand by the right, and the consistency and the integrity of life to merit the trust of this Nation, who has looked unto them. Encourage them and surround their families and marriages with Your blessing and help and truth.

Have mercy on this Nation through them, to walk in Thy way and know Thy peace.

In Thy Holy and Merciful Name we pray. 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.

Mr. MCNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. Wu 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1. An act to close the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility, and choice, so that no child is left behind. H.R. 2236. An act making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 1) “An Act to close the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility, and choice, so that no child is left behind”, requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. GREGG, Mr. FRIST, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BOND, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. ALLARD, and Mr. ENNSON, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2216) “An Act making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes”, requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. BYRD, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. COCHRAN, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND TOMMY NELSON, PASTOR, DENTON BIBLE CHURCH, DENTON, TEXAS

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMIEY), the majority leader, and my colleague the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), it is my privilege to welcome as our guest chaplain today Tom Nelson, the Senior Pastor of Denton Bible Church in Denton, Texas.

Tom was born and raised in Waco and grew up in a family of four boys. He attended what is now the University of North Texas in Denton, where he played quarterback for the football team and earned his degree in 1973. From there, he attended Dallas Seminary.

In addition, Tom has served as a national speaker for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Campus Crusade for Christ, and Navigators. He is the author of two books and three video series. His taped messages have been heard throughout the world. Tom and his wife Teresa have two sons, Benjamin and John Clark.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to welcome Tom Nelson to the Congress of the United States. I would like to thank him for his leadership in the community of Denton and express my appreciation for his leading the House today in prayer.

SUPPORT FLETCHER-PETERSON BALANCED PATIENTS’ BILL OF RIGHTS

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, today I rise to express my strong support for a meaningful and responsible Patients’ Bill of Rights recently introduced by my colleagues and friends, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER)