

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, September 25, 2008

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 25, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ELLEN O. TAUSCHER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord, Your Divine Providence has inspired people to seek elected office and serve the public. Still others come as volunteers or become staffers who find work in government. Most come because they wish to make a difference. The desire You place in their hearts moves them beyond self to help shape a better America and recreate the face of the Earth along the ideals and hopes of Your kingdom.

Not content to simply “go through the motions” or “settle for the status quo,” they are restless to seek for something better, something greater for the American people as a whole.

Such patriots make themselves greater by pursuing something greater than self, by listening to others. They step into the forces of contradictory causes, try to reconcile differences, find the common ground, and make unity amidst diversity a living reality day by day.

We praise You, Lord, for those who offer their minds and their hearts, as well as the work of their hands, to make government of the people work for the people. Their dedication and efforts move us as Americans to bless and thank You, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHN-

SON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas 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 Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 6370. An act to transfer excess Federal property administered by the Coast Guard to the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 928. An act to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to enhance the independence of the Inspectors General, to create a Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2840. An act to establish a liaison with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to expedite naturalization applications filed by members of the Armed Forces and to establish a deadline for processing such applications.

S. 3550. An act to designate a portion of the Rappahannock River in the Commonwealth of Virginia as the “John W. Warner Rapids”.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION DETERIORATING IN VIETNAM

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring urgent attention to the deteriorating human rights conditions in the country of Vietnam.

Most recently, Vietnamese students and bloggers have been harassed and

detained for peacefully voicing their concerns about the Vietnamese government's policies. It is becoming increasingly evident that the Government of Vietnam is not living up to its commitment to honor and to protect human rights.

This month, over 3,000 Vietnamese Catholics were harassed by Hanoi's police with tear gas, electric batons and other repressive measures while attending a peaceful Thai Ha prayer vigil. We are continuing to see more and more activists being detained and imprisoned for exercising their freedom of speech, religion and expression, rights that are guaranteed under the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights.

This week, I, along with six other Members, sent a letter to President Nguyen Minh Triet to express outrage over Vietnam's ongoing human rights violations, and to urge the Government of Vietnam to stop using violence against its own people.

I encourage my colleagues to continue addressing this serious issue and speaking out for those in Vietnam who are putting their lives in danger in the name of freedom.

TAXPAYERS DESERVE ANSWERS AND ACCOUNTABILITY ON WALL STREET BAILOUT

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, the news on this Wall Street bailout has me fuming. Taxpayers want, need, and deserve answers and accountability. The Treasury Secretary should not have the authority to spend \$700 billion with zero oversight.

Meanwhile, a provision in the bill says that banks that bought Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac preferred stock get better tax treatment than an individual who bought preferred stock. That is wrong. Why shouldn't banks be held responsible for their mistakes?

I am not sure this is the best way to fix the problem. We need to discuss serious alternatives before we ask Americans to shoulder billions in additional debt.

Hundreds of my constituents have called outraged at this Wall Street rescue. They want to know when we are going to bail them out.

I am outraged too. Taxpayers deserve better from America.

☐ 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.