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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Thomas A. Kuhn, Church of the Incarnation, Centerville, Ohio, offered the following prayer:

Father in heaven, we are amazed at the many blessings You have given to us as a people. You love us so much that we are moved to call ourselves "One Nation under God."

We know, however, that we are blessed so that we can be a reflection of Your love in this world. You made us a mighty Nation. May we always be gentle enough to lift up the fallen and ready always to protect those who are unable to defend themselves.

You made us a bountiful Nation. May we always share those blessings with the hungry, the homeless, those unable to care for themselves.

You gave all your children true freedom. May we always work to ensure that none of our brothers or sisters is enslaved by bigotry or prejudice.

We pray in a special way for those of your children who daily must face the terrors of war. Help those refugees of war that they may soon return to their homes in peace.

Much of what we are as a Nation has been entrusted to the Members of the People's House, the House of Representatives. Give them the vision and strength to work for the good of all people. 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 Texas (Mr. GREEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GREEN 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.

THE PASSING OF HIS EMINENCE, JOHN CARDINAL O'CONNOR

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret that I rise to honor an outstanding American, one who I was especially pleased and honored to call a friend.

His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor's accomplishments as a priest, as a chaplain, as a humanitarian made him one of the most respected Americans of our time.

In my congressional district in New York, Cardinal O'Connor was always on hand for school graduations, for cornerstone dedications, for religious services with his message of hope. He was known for promoting racial and religious harmony and for advocating the best education possible for the children, regardless of race, religion or financial status.

We must not forget that Cardinal O'Connor welcomed AIDS patients into the Catholic hospitals of New York back at a time when other institutions of medicine were turning them away. He ministered to the sick, to the disabled, and was a great friend of the poor.

All Americans join in expressing condolences to the residents of the New York Archdiocese, to Cardinal O'Connor's family and friends, and to all who were touched by this remarkable individual.

THE PASSING OF JOHN CARDINAL O'CONNOR

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I too rise with a heavy heart this morning to express my profound sorrow at the passing of John Cardinal O'Connor.

As the leader of the largest archdiocese in the Nation, Cardinal O'Connor was an active participant in the debate about the role of the church and the role of society in helping those who could not help themselves.

The Cardinal embodied the biblical passage of the Good Samaritan. In both his words and actions, Cardinal O'Connor demonstrated his devotion to the teachings of Christ and the spirit and principles of that passage.

He not only used his pulpit to teach the words of Christ, but also the true meaning of those words.

The Cardinal has stated recently that he would like his epitaph to simply say that he was "a good priest." What an understatement. He certainly was.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless him as he returns to the comforting arms of God for eternal salvation and peace.

CARDINAL O'CONNOR: EARTH'S LOSS, HEAVEN'S GAIN

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Cardinal O'Connor of New York, a man after God's own heart and one of the greatest and most consistent moral and spiritual leaders of the 20th century, has passed away.

Cardinal O'Connor loved unconditionally and gave generously, expecting nothing in return. He proclaimed and demonstrated by his words, works, and actions the indescribable blessings of the gospel.

□ 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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Cardinal O'Connor was a good and holy priest who radiated Christ and the healing power of God to believers and nonbelievers alike.

Over the years, there were some who mocked and rejected Cardinal O'Connor's clear Christian teaching on the sanctity of all human life and the duty of all men and women of goodwill, especially politicians, to protect the vulnerable from the violence of abortion. Yet he always treated the opponents of his message with respect and dignity.

Mr. Speaker, in the 25th chapter of Matthew's Gospel Jesus spoke of the last judgment and those, like Cardinal O'Connor, who would be blessed in eternity. Jesus said, "For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I was naked and you clothed me; I was in prison and you came to me." And then the righteous will answer him, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and take you in, or naked and clothe you? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?" And the Lord will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to the least of my brethren, you did it to Me."

Mr. Speaker, Cardinal O'Connor devoted his life and inspired countless others to do the same to help the "least," the disenfranchised, and the unwanted seeing Christ himself in the lives that nobody else cared about or wanted. Earth's loss of Cardinal O'Connor is heaven's gain.

THE PROBLEM OF SPAM E-MAIL

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, all of us share in the loss of Cardinal O'Connor, even though we are not from New York.

Mr. Speaker, last evening, the House of Representatives was spammed. Spam is unsolicited e-mail that can be sent in such a large volume that it disables the recipient's network. I am sure my colleagues have read recent news reports of companies like e-Bay and Amazon.com having their networks taken down by coordinated e-mail attacks.

This is a growing problem that Congress needs to quickly address. I have introduced H.R. 3113, along with the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON), that will provide consumers and businesses protection against these types of attacks.

Mr. Speaker, many of the messages the House received last night simply were titled "I love you." And I know that all of us in the House and our staff enjoy looking at our computers in the morning and seeing "I love you." Apart from the interesting title, there is nothing friendly in this message. If we

opened this e-mail, our computer would be infected by a virus that we would then have to spend considerable time and effort removing from our network.

The Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade and Consumer Protection of the Committee on Commerce has held a markup on anti-spam legislation, and it passed the subcommittee by voice vote. I hope this incident will bring a quick full-committee mark-up.

Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleagues not to open any messages, even though they say "I love you." This may be the second time our House has been spammed, but I feel fairly certain that it will not be the last. Let us pass H.R. 3113.

FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW AND CUBA

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the Mason Dixon Line is the southern border of my district. For decades in the 19th century, the citizen of my district helped slaves escape to freedom aboard the Underground Railroad, and every person who did so, committed a Federal crime.

In 1793, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Law, and any person who helped a slave escape was fined and jailed.

Mr. Speaker, Cuba is a slave state. It is not a Communist theme park. The people who live there have no freedoms. Parents have no rights. Children are the property of the government.

More than a decade after the fall of the Berlin Wall which brought elements of freedom to the rest of the Communist bloc, only the likes of North Korea and Cuba persist in persecuting their people, espousing revolution, and exporting terrorism.

In America we believe in freedom. Every war we have ever fought was fought for freedom, and no one knows the price or value of freedom better than ex-slaves, and no one can describe what a slave state is like better than ex-slaves, not tourists.

If Juan Miguel Gonzalez was not being guarded by dozens of Cuban officials and police, if his parents were not under house arrest and his 6-year-old son were not being held, he would probably say the same.

As the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), the Republican Conference chairman, said, "If you and your child were enslaved, and there was only one ticket left on the Underground Railroad . . . wouldn't you want your child to have it?"

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 434, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. ROYCE submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 434) to authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 106-606)

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 434), to authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Trade and Development Act of 2000".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

TITLE I—EXTENSION OF CERTAIN TRADE BENEFITS TO SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA Subtitle A—Trade Policy for Sub-Saharan Africa

Sec. 101. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 102. Findings.

Sec. 103. Statement of policy.

Sec. 104. Eligibility requirements.

Sec. 105. United States-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum.

Sec. 106. Reporting requirement.

Sec. 107. Sub-Saharan Africa defined.

Subtitle B—Trade Benefits

Sec. 111. Eligibility for certain benefits.

Sec. 112. Treatment of certain textiles and apparel.

Sec. 113. Protections against transshipment.

Sec. 114. Termination.

Sec. 115. Clerical amendments.

Sec. 116. Free trade agreements with sub-Saharan African countries.

Sec. 117. Assistant United States Trade Representative for African Affairs.

Subtitle C—Economic Development Related Issues

Sec. 121. Sense of Congress regarding comprehensive debt relief for the world's poorest countries.

Sec. 122. Executive branch initiatives.

Sec. 123. Overseas Private Investment Corporation initiatives.

Sec. 124. Export-Import Bank initiatives.

Sec. 125. Expansion of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service in sub-Saharan Africa.

Sec. 126. Donation of air traffic control equipment to eligible sub-Saharan African countries.

Sec. 127. Additional authorities and increased flexibility to provide assistance under the Development Fund for Africa.

Sec. 128. Assistance from United States private sector to prevent and reduce HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.

Sec. 129. Sense of the Congress relating to HIV/AIDS crisis in sub-Saharan Africa.

Sec. 130. Study on improving African agricultural practices.

Sec. 131. Sense of the Congress regarding efforts to combat desertification in Africa and other countries.

TITLE II—TRADE BENEFITS FOR CARIBBEAN BASIN

Subtitle A—Trade Policy for Caribbean Basin Countries

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Findings and policy.

Sec. 203. Definitions.

Subtitle B—Trade Benefits for Caribbean Basin Countries

Sec. 211. Temporary provisions to provide additional trade benefits to certain beneficiary countries.