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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SODREL).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

November 8, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL E. SODREL 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 4, 2005, 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 not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

CITIZEN PRIVACY

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the Sunday Washington Post had an extraordinary story as a result of investigative journalism. The FBI has issued 30,000 national security letters. Now, we will have to back up for a moment to understand what that means. Four years ago, this Congress was stampeded under the anthrax attack and 9/11 into passing a bill it had not read, the U.S.A. PATRIOT Act, which contained

many unconstitutional and dubious provisions, many bad ideas from past attorneys general, rejected by previous Congresses, passed in a hysterical time for the Congress.

Now it is about to be reauthorized, and, in fact, strengthened in many ways. This is one of the most disturbing aspects of that legislation. These national security letters used to be fairly rare. They used to issue about 300 a year. They are now issuing 30,000 a year, a 100-fold increase. This is an extraordinary intrusion into the personal lives of many Americans who are not accused of or even suspected of crimes.

As the Post reports, they are issued by FBI field supervisors, local law enforcement FBI agents, not from the national office, no judicial review, no review by the Justice Department, no review by the United States Congress, totally at the discretion of local field supervisors. In fact, the Bush Administration has defeated legislation and a lawsuit to require a public accounting, and they have offered no example, not one, 30,000 a year, and they do not have one example of a national security letter impeding a terrorist attack or actually apprehending a terrorist.

Well, they did apprehend a guy in Portland, Oregon and they did use national security letters. Unfortunately, he was innocent. They were wrong.

As far as we know, it has been used once to apprehend someone and now the government is at risk of paying substantial damages for that false arrest. We do not know of any successful uses. The Bush Administration is defending this. Now they are going to deposit all the information acquired in these massive sweeps of all citizens' credit card records, phone calls, e-mails, everything that relates to who they talk to, who they see, where they go, what they buy, and they are going to put it into government data banks.

But don't worry. Don't worry. They are going to share those private

records only with, they say, other Federal agencies, State, local, tribal governments, and appropriate private sector entities. Americans who have had their most intimate lives swept up because of a letter written by a local field supervisor, by the FBI, are now going to have all of that data placed into a data bank, which will be restricted to Federal, State, local, tribal governments and appropriate private sector entities. Maybe your next-door neighbor, too, if they are really nosey.

This is an extraordinary, unwarranted intrusion into the lives of Americans. They cannot even properly analyze and use the data they have. They had the threads of the terrorist attack between the CIA, the FBI and others, they knew a number of these people were in the country illegally, but they could not be bothered to go out and apprehend them or monitor them.

Now they are just gathering up data wholesale on the American people. They are going to share it with other Federal agencies, put it in a private data bank, share it with other forms of government, share it with Native American tribes, for some reason, and appropriate private sector entities. Who are the appropriate private sector entities? Those who could make money off it? I don't know. This is an unbelievable intrusion into personal lives.

If you get one of these letters, and you are in a position to give away someone else's data, if you administer a database for your company or for a credit card company or for a library or a bookstore and you get one of these letters, the new PATRIOT Act is going to say if you tell anybody that you got one of these letters, and you provided indiscriminately massive amounts of data on innocent Americans, you would be a felon if you had told anybody that you had gotten such a letter and you had violated their privacy in that way.

Then, of course, again, the data will be then taken, put into a database, and

□ 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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shared widely with other governments and appropriate private sector entities. It is unbelievable what this administration is doing to shred our privacy and constitutional rights.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10:00 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Griffin Lotson, Sams Memorial Church of God in Christ, Darien, GA, offered the following prayer:

Our Father and Lord, we thank You for all Your blessings as we pray today for our Nation and our leaders in America. Today we pray for Your protection for every man and woman serving in our Armed Forces. We pray for strength for their families. May they know the peace of God that passes all understanding.

God, You guide all creation with loving care and establish an order that governs all of us. God help us to trust in Your faithful love and deepen our love for one another, especially for those most in need. We pray for our schools, teachers and students, for their spiritual and educational success.

Give us knowledge to know that it is You who are the source of our unity and peace. It is You who unites us all. This we ask in the Lord's name. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. McNULTY 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND GRIFFIN LOTSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia

(Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a friend of mine and a fellow Georgian who had the great honor of giving our opening prayer today. The Reverend Griffin Lotson is a man of great character and has served as our Guest Chaplain.

Reverend Lotson has been a pastor of Sams Memorial Church of God in Christ in Crescent, Georgia, for 18 years. During that time he has also served as executive director of Sams Memorial Community Economic Development, a nonprofit organization dedicated to affording low-income citizens the opportunity to realize the American dream of purchasing a home.

Reverend Lotson and Sams Memorial have been able to partner with the Federal, State and local governments to develop a multimillion-dollar housing development in Georgia. Through his hard work, families who never imagined they would be able to afford a home for their children are now achieving that dream.

His success has earned him many awards. Reverend Lotson was voted 2005 Citizen of the Year by the Rotary Club of McIntosh County and was a national award winner of the 2005 Rural Leader of America, just to name a few.

Reverend Lotson has been blessed in his personal life as well as in his ministry. He and his beautiful wife of 28 years, Carolyn, have three children, all of whom have bravely served this country as members of the Navy and the United States Air Force.

Mr. Speaker, through his hard work and dedication, and through the gospel of Jesus Christ, Griffin Lotson has earned the respect and admiration of the members of his church, his community and his State. It is an honor to have him with us today.

SAM BUNDY SCHOOL—THANK GOD FOR KIDS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, when the howling winds and incessant rains of Hurricane Katrina came barreling ashore on the southeast Texas coast, the small coastal town of Sabine Pass was almost completely destroyed by destruction and devastation. School Superintendent Walt Fenn immediately worried about the 300 students who attended K-12 school, Sabine Pass School.

Thousands of miles away, however, elementary school kids at Sam Bundy School in Farmville, North Carolina, heard about the devastation in Texas. They too experienced a similar destruction in Hurricane Floyd in 1999. These kids wanted the students in Sabine Pass to know everything will be okay.

The children at Sam Bundy School raised over \$2,500 for the school kids in

Texas, school kids they had never met in a place they had never seen. There was no red tape, no Federal bureaucracy, just a bunch of kids in a small town in North Carolina that wanted to help some other kids in Texas.

The students at Sam Bundy School are wonderful examples of Americanism and volunteerism. Now they have a whole crew of new pen-pals in southeast Texas that will forever be grateful. These Sam Bundy students remind me of the song "Thank God for Kids," another example of children being our greatest natural resource. That's just the way it is.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, this week this House will consider a budget bill that contains changes in the farm bill that will adversely affect and impact the environment, the poor and the hungry, and the pocketbooks of farm families. While farmers are struggling with high prices for gas, propane, natural gas and fertilizer, the Republican budget breaks the promise of the farm bill.

While working families are confronting higher fuel prices, the Republican bill severely cuts food stamps, forcing families to choose between food and heat for their homes. I strongly support tough budget discipline to rein in the budget deficit, but this bill does the very opposite.

Regardless of whether they cut \$39 billion or \$50 billion, it is not enough to offset the \$70 billion in lost revenue from their tax bill. At the end of the day, the Republican reconciliation bill will only worsen the deficit and leave our children with a higher debt. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bad bill.

SMITHS AEROSPACE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Smiths Aerospace to the Fifth Congressional District of North Carolina. After looking at more than 50 potential sites, the company recently announced it will open a \$44 million facility in Ashe County.

The new facility is expected to hire 100 employees immediately and employ 305 workers within 5 years. As a major supplier to Boeing and Airbus, Smiths Aerospace will provide equipment for civilian and military aircraft and build many engine components as turbines for jets. The company expects to have the plant running by mid-November and has its first shipments planned for February of next year.

I would like to commend Smiths Aerospace for choosing to do business in the Fifth District. Northwest North