

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.

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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

Carolina has a great deal to offer including friendly people, a hardworking and highly skilled workforce, excellent institutions of higher education, and a beautiful landscape.

I wish Smiths Aerospace great success in all its future endeavors.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET RECONCILIATION

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Republican budget reconciliation. I believe this process has nothing to do with reconciliation. Instead, we have an ideological devastation of the future of families, children, students, the poor, and the elderly in this country.

It would look at these cuts: education, \$14 billion; nutrition, \$844 million in food stamp cuts; Medicaid, \$10 billion; veterans, not addressing the real needs of veterans in this country; foster care, \$577 million; SSI and TANF, \$8 billion; child support, \$5 billion.

These cuts that are being asked for by the Republicans in the reconciliation are a direct result of their policies, policies that are giving tax breaks to corporations, tax cuts to the very wealthy, a \$1-billion-a-day war, and a borrow-and-spend fiscal policy that the Republican Party has instituted.

The backbone of this Nation is its families. The door of opportunity has to remain open for all families. There is always room at the inn.

I urge a "no" vote on the reconciliation.

THE NINTH CIRCUIT COURT RULING ON PARENTING

(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, like millions of parents across the country, we were shocked last week by the ruling of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. This ruling denies parents their right to have a say in the content their children are taught in school. In its decision, the Ninth Circuit said, "We hold that parents have no due process or privacy right to override the determinations of public schools as to the information to which their children will be exposed while enrolled as students."

Mr. Speaker, parents, not schools and certainly not the courts, hold the primary responsibility for educating their children, especially when it comes to more sensitive subject matters like sexual, moral, or religious instruction. But the Ninth Circuit, the same court that ruled the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance to be unconstitutional, would strip parents of this fundamental role in their own children's lives.

Last week we addressed an errant court ruling on eminent domain and private property rights. Should this ruling stand, we will need to correct this wayward court yet again.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET RECONCILIATION WILL NEGLECT THE POOR TO HELP THE PRIVILEGED FEW

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, this week House Republicans will once again demonstrate why the American people no longer have confidence in them to lead this Nation.

At a time when college tuition is skyrocketing, House Republicans propose to cut over \$14 billion in student loan funding, increasing the cost for college for American families by \$5,800.

At a time that the number of families with no health insurance is growing, House Republicans propose slashing Medicaid by \$12 billion, forcing our Nation's most vulnerable to either pay more themselves or lose the health services they need.

At a time that the majority talks about values, House Republicans propose decimating Federal funding for child support enforcement, allowing deadbeat parents to avoid their responsibility.

And at a time when our national debt sets daily records, House Republicans propose to actually increase the deficit by more than \$100 billion, using these cuts to ensure tax cuts for the wealthiest.

That is what a Republican majority means for our country. Together, America can indeed do better.

THREATS POSED BY IRAN

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address Iran's growing threat to our allies in the Middle East and to America's national interests.

The Iranian president recently said Israel should be "wiped off the map." This malicious language must not be ignored, especially considering Iran's long-standing support for terrorist groups like Hezbollah, and its unlawful nuclear ambitions.

Terrorist groups supported by Iran are operating today in Gaza, the West Bank, and Iraq, undermining the region's quest for democracy and threatening the lives of innocent civilians.

Iran's radical government seeks to develop nuclear weapons. If Iran gains nuclear capabilities, millions of innocent Israelis, as well as our allies in the Middle East, will be jeopardized and our hopes for Middle East peace will be lost.

Mr. Speaker, we must not abandon Israel, leaving them to stand alone against this imminent threat. The

United States must lead, with our allies, in eliminating Iran's support for terrorist groups and requiring Iran to fulfill nuclear nonproliferation agreements.

THE REPUBLICANS' PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to quote an article that appeared last Friday in the Chicago Sun-Times by religion writer Kathleen Falsani under the headline "Bush Administration's Moral Compass Is Lost."

She wrote, "... this week, as Republican leaders try to force a monstrous \$50 billion budget cut designed allegedly to offset the mounting costs ... of hurricane-related aid through Congress, it is clear that the Bush administration's moral compass ... has been lost. The proposed budget cuts, part of the so-called 'budget reconciliation,' would have devastating effects on the poorest, most vulnerable Americans, while allowing tax relief for the rich."

She goes on to say, "Maybe Republican leaders should consider proposing an open season on the homeless or the resurrection of debtors' prisons while they're at it. Is this the kind of leadership the majority of voters that, according to the pollsters at the time, cast their ballots in 2004 based on 'moral values' had in mind? Is this what faith-based 'compassionate conservatism' looks like? Is our Nation more moral, more secure, or spiritually healthier than it was a year ago? And to address my fellow Christian voters," she said, "has the Good News been advanced in any way? No, absolutely not."

America can do better.

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AMERICA'S ECONOMY GROWING

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, it was reported that U.S. productivity grew at the fastest clip in more than a year, signaling a steady growth of the economy. Non-farm business productivity surged at a 4.1 percent annual rate. The increase exceeded economists' expectations and was almost twice that of the prior quarter.

This has caused a gauge of inflationary pressure to drop. When productivity rises smartly, employers can raise and boost wages without fueling inflation. Increasing productivity helps us compete with China so that we can export more to China.

I believe this success is due to the tax cuts enacted by President Bush. The Bush policies have caused the