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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 28, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT B. ADERHOLT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

"Oh, Lord, You have examined me and You know me through and through. You discern even my thoughts from afar."

It is our nature, Lord God of heaven and earth, to hold us in Your living presence always. It is our nature to think of You or think of others only momentarily. So fixed on ourselves. So limited are we.

Be with each of us, that we may be our very best, and prove ourselves worthy of Your love and Your grace. Be with Congress and its work and deliberations today, that this government may merit the trust of the American people and manifest the strength of the democracy to the nations of the world.

Without You, O Lord, we can do nothing. With You and in You we can establish a kingdom of peace, goodness and justice 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 his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 17, 2006.
Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 17, 2006, at 1:45 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 345.
With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, a year ago we were filled with hope that the proposed United Nations Human Rights Council would correct the deep-

ly flawed human rights mechanisms in that body. We thought that once and for all repressive regimes would be held accountable for their crimes.

However, our hopes were quickly dashed last Thursday when the latest proposal for the new Human Rights Council was made public. Rather than taking the time to do something constructive, to make things right, the international community chose consensus over substance. There was a race to the lowest common denominator. And the result? A flawed proposal which empowers dictatorships while weakening democratic countries such as the United States and Israel.

Much more work needs to be done, Mr. Speaker. We must ensure that the new council is not mere cosmetic changes, but true reform. Let us support our U.S. Ambassador, John Bolton, by rejecting this so-called reform. It is nothing but a farce.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION IGNORES THE LAW ON SECURING OUR PORTS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration should have never approved a deal to allow the United Arab Emirates to operate at least six major U.S. ports. The administration claims it went through the proper process in approving the deal, but the administration did not conduct a 45-day investigation that is legally required. It would be nice if someone over at the White House would actually read the laws passed here in Congress.

If the Bush administration had done its homework, they would have discovered that a 45-day investigation is mandatory in cases like this where the company is controlled by a foreign government and the acquisition could affect our national security.

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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