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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, You alone are ever present. All of us, Your creatures, are ever-changing, always limited, and measured by beginning and end.

Since time itself seems to be only measured motion, it is immaterial, yet most important. All around the world, everyone in this Chamber can agree upon what time it is—here—now. Yet we can do nothing to stop its relentless movement.

Lord, help the 111th Congress to accept the time in which it is constituted. As public servants and distinguished Members, empower them to be creative and achieve all that is possible for Your people.

Do not allow them to be distracted by the inconsequential. Rather, bring them together, for time is precious and cannot be wasted. Their moment is now to make decisions that will move the future.

Lord, be with them every moment and in every motion. The consequences will be judged later, yet last forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIRES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SIRES 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.

ELECTING CERTAIN MINORITY MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 78

Resolved, That the following members are, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE—Mr. Cassidy.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—Mr. Aderholt of Alabama, to rank after Mr. Nunes of California, and Mr. Harper.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE—Mr. Scalise.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM—Mr. Schock.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY—Mr. Smith of Nebraska, to rank after Mr. Bilbray.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE—Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Cao, Mr. Schock, and Mr. Olson, all to rank after Mr. Latta.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS—Mr. Lamborn, to rank after Mr. Bilbray, and Mr. Roe of Tennessee.

Mr. PENCE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I would ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIERNEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

WERE ISRAEL'S SECURITY NEEDS INFLUENCED BY THE U.S. CALENDAR?

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Were Israel's security needs influenced by the U.S. calendar? Between the Christmas season and the inauguration, Israel's attack on Gaza killed over 1,300 Palestinians, many of them women and children, with U.S. planes, helicopters, white phosphorus and Congressional support causing over \$2 billion worth of destruction.

Now that this holiday war is over against Gaza, let our new administration and Congress work for the security and peace for both the Israelis and the Palestinians. Let us support full restoration of humanitarian aid and the reconstruction of Gaza. Let us support an end to the blockade, an enforceable cease-fire, and adherence to international law by both Israel and Hamas.

It's time to work for peace in the Middle East through the rule of law, not the rule of arms, through diplomacy, not force.

WHAT THE STIMULUS BILL DOESN'T MENTION

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

Mr. KIRK. The economy is hurting and we should act. A stimulus bill that backed improving highways and airports would blunt the recession. If you look at the stimulus bill the Appropriations Committee approved, you would find 11 appropriations totaling \$65 billion that would put 2 million Americans to work, but the bill spends hundreds of millions more. It spends more money than the entire GDP of

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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