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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Dean George Werner, Trinity Cathedral, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we meet in a challenging moment of Your history. We cannot control all that may endanger us, but we can choose our behavior and the example we set as leaders.

Facing overwhelming challenges, the signers of our Declaration of Independence pledged ''their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor.'' In Romans, Paul, too, encourages us to ''outdo one another in showing honor.''

Please send Your Holy Spirit among us, strengthening our vision and courage to do right, especially when no one is watching. Not for just this great House, but for all levels of government; for all corporations, institutions and organizations; for financial, industrial, commercial, academic, military, including our religious and altruistic communities, which sadly have not been immune from dishonor; that our beloved country may continue to be a beacon of light to a troubled world, and that government for, by, and of the people shall not perish from the face of this Earth.

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 Florida (Mr. KLEIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida 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.

HONORING THE VERY REVEREND GEORGE L.W. WERNER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Congressman ALTMIRE, is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, it's my great honor to welcome the Very Reverend George L.W. Werner, who today serves as the guest chaplain for the United States House of Representatives.

As the dean emeritus of the historic Trinity Cathedral in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Dean George Werner has earned a special place in the hearts of Western Pennsylvania and especially the Episcopal Church. A well-known volunteer and leader in the community, Dean Werner is involved in countless community and civic organizations, including the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh, the St. Margaret's Foundation, and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, just to name a few.

And it's altogether fitting that by opening up today's House session in prayer, Dean Werner is the first person to stand at that center podium where President Obama stood last night to talk about the need for health care reform, because Dean Werner has literally made a career out of advocating for fairness for all of our citizens and helping those less fortunate.

It's my distinct honor and privilege to welcome to the House today my good friend, Dean George Werner.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

IF IT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS

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

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, last night the American people and many in this Chamber listened intently as President Obama made the case for major reform of our health care system. But I must admit I was dismayed, like a growing number of Americans, over the fact of what the President said—and what the Democratic leadership in Congress has already done in the form of H.R. 3200—simply doesn't add up.

We all remember the old saying that if it's too good to be true, it probably is. Last night, the President promised a plan that would insure more people, provide better coverage, and would cost less money. However, missing from that equation is one basic question: How are we really going to pay for all of this? Sadly, that's the $900 billion question.

And when the President said that he won't sign a bill into law that adds one dime to the deficit, what he failed to say is this: You, the American people, are going to pay for these changes with more taxes and with cuts to popular programs like Medicare.

Republicans want to take this President at his word, but it would help if the details and the numbers added up with the rhetoric.

MIKE McCARVILLE

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

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 30th anniversary

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