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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

When all is said and done, O God, we are aware and appreciative of all Your gifts to us and to all people. We have been blessed in ways that have been greater than our deserving. Your grace has touched our lives with love and compassion and mercy. O gracious God, from whom all blessings flow, we ask Your benediction on us and those about us that in all things Your hand will sustain us and Your mercy will be without end. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

Mr. SOLOMON 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 39. An act to reauthorize the African Elephant Conservation Act.

H. Con. Res. 298. concurrent resolution expressing deepest condolences to the State

and people of Florida for the losses suffered as a result of the wild land fires occurring in June and July 1998, expressing support to the State and people of Florida as they overcome the effects of the fires, and commending the heroic efforts of firefighters from across the Nation in battling the fires.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain one-minutes after legislative business.

PATIENT PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 509 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 509

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4250) to provide new patient protections under group health plans. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by Representative Hastert of Illinois and a Member opposed to the bill; (2) the further amendment printed in the Congressional Record and numbered 2 pursuant to clause 6 of rule XXIII, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order or demand for division of the question, shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I am going to depart from normal custom and

yield the first minute of this to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) for a matter of colleague comity.

(Mr. LAZIO of New York asked and was given permission to speak out of order.)

HONORING THE HONORABLE ROB PORTMAN

Mr. LAZIO of New York. I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) for their courtesy.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my pal and colleague, the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. ROB PORTMAN. He is one of the most accomplished people in this Congress. He stood up for America's taxpayers and was the driving force behind the landmark IRS reform bill signed into law this week. He authored the National Underground Railroad Act signed into law this week. By preserving underground railroad sites, America celebrates the journey of slaves from bondage to freedom.

The gentleman from Ohio is the congressional leader in the war against drugs. His Drug-Free Communities Act, signed into law, will give us peace of mind when our children are away from home. His pro-business mandates legislation is the law of this House and his pro-environment tropical rain forest legislation should be signed into law next week.

In an era when bipartisanship is essential for legislative success, Rob Portman is the even-headed leader we need. He is balanced and principled, substantive, competent, intelligent. He is a man of integrity, of modesty and of great character.

The gentleman from Ohio, Mr. ROB PORTMAN, gets the job done for families in Cincinnati, in Ohio, and throughout America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would like to announce that the rules do not allow Members to wear badges when they are addressing the

□ 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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