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No. 95

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 10, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Larry D. Ferguson, Senior Pastor, Christ Church, Plymouth, Indiana, offered the following prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, Creator of the Universe, we come to You on behalf of this Nation and more particularly on behalf of the United States House of Representatives.

Lord, we come here for several reasons.

You said in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto Me and I will answer you."

We are calling unto You now, Lord.

You said in Your great book of wisdom, Proverbs, Chapter 3, Verses 5 and 6, "Lean not on your own understanding, acknowledge Me in all of your ways, and I will direct your paths."

Lord, we are acknowledging You right now.

Father, You said in Matthew, 7:7, "Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you."

Lord, we are asking, seeking and knocking right now.

Father, You are our Jehovah Jireh, our Provider, and we are looking unto You. We recognize that You have all

wisdom, all power, and all understanding.

So, Father, as this House argues and debates important issues, when the vote is taken and the dust settles, we pray that the consensus will be Your will. We seek for Your will to be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven.

We pray, Lord, that when decisions have been made, that there will be a mutual respect and camaraderie between those that have taken different positions on each issue. And, Lord, after this day is completed, that somehow, You will be glorified and we and this Nation will be blessed.

In the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the One that died on the Cross and rose again that we might have victory over sin and death. 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 Indiana (Mr. BUYER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BUYER 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 THE REVEREND LARRY D. FERGUSON, SENIOR PASTOR, CHRIST CHURCH, PLYMOUTH, INDIANA

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

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, the opening prayer for today's House session has been given to us by Pastor Larry Ferguson. Pastor Ferguson ministers at Christ Church in Plymouth, of Marshall County, Indiana, where he has been a Senior Pastor for 6 years with his wife Kathy, and the Pastor's son Darin, and his wife Kathy, who is also in the United States Air Force and is present in the gallery today.

Pastor Ferguson preached his first sermon as a freshman in high school and later completed 4 years of training for the ministry at Cincinnati Bible Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio. Since that time, he has been involved in providing spiritual nourishment to many. Whether it is in providing leadership as a principal to a Christian school, giving guidance to Christian churches who are struggling, or nurturing the health of marriages and families, Pastor Ferguson has been following the Biblical admonition to "heal the broken-hearted."

Pastor Ferguson has also used his talents to proclaim the Gospel through song and over the airwaves in Christian radio ministry.

For 35 years, Pastor Ferguson has been ministering, and he has touched more lives than he may ever know. I am thankful for his prayer today, and in his prayer I agree that in this House, we do quest for the greater understanding.

ALLOW HOUSE TO VOTE OPPOSING HOLDING OLYMPICS IN CHINA

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as probably one of the most bipartisan Members of this body, I call on the Republican leadership to allow this House to vote on whether the Olympics should be held in the Communist dictatorship of China.

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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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Three months ago, with an overwhelming bipartisan vote, the House Committee on International Relations expressed itself against China holding the Olympics by approving H. Con. Res. 73. I am asking the Speaker and the majority leader no longer to bottle up our legislation and to allow the representatives of the American people to speak their minds on this issue.

Religion is persecuted, political freedom does not exist, media freedom does not exist, our airplane is forced down, our servicemen and women are held in captivity for 11 days; yet this body is not allowed to vote on whether the Olympics should be held in Beijing.

Mr. Speaker, allow us a vote.

TIME FOR GOVERNOR DAVIS TO TAKE A STAND

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the real cause of the rolling blackouts and out-of-control energy prices in California. Governor Davis and his big government cronies caused California's energy crisis through their backward and politically motivated approach to energy. Bowing to pressure from radical environmentalists and advice from his pollsters, Governor Davis increased regulation of the energy industry, thus prohibiting increased energy production and limiting modernization of infrastructure. The Davis approach is the wrong approach.

Now, in order to save his political future, Governor Davis has put political advisors on the government payroll. Not only do Californians have to pay outrageous prices to cool their homes, but they now have to pay for consultants to tell Governor Davis how to minimize the political damage caused by his mishandling of California's energy needs. Even California's Democrat State comptroller has said that she will not pay for Davis's political expenses with the taxpayers' dime.

Throughout this crisis, Gray Davis has been seeking political remedies instead of looking for positive solutions to solve the real-life problems of his citizens. All the while, California families are suffering. It is time for the Governor to take a stand and do what is right for California, instead of what is right for his career.

CORRUPTION AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, FBI Agent Hanssen pleaded guilty to spying for Russia. Now, think about it: First he said, the devil made me do it; now he says he just wants to make amends. Spare me.

The truth is Janet Reno sold the farm to China, FBI agents are spying for Russia, nuclear military secrets are disappearing faster than Viagra at Niagara, and nobody is doing anything about it. Nothing.

Beam me up.

Wake up, Congress, and smell the espionage.

I yield back the massive corruption at the Justice Department that goes without meaningful oversight.

AMERICANS DESERVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS, NOT BLACKOUTS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the United States of America has the strongest economy in this world, and to maintain America's prosperity, America must have energy.

Over the past few months, California, an undisputed driving force in our Nation's economy, has had to endure rolling blackouts during the past several months. And now, the fastest growing city in the United States, Las Vegas, Nevada, has also witnessed rolling blackouts due to energy shortages.

Blackouts cannot and should not be tolerated.

It is time to implement real solutions to reverse the energy shortage. Through conservation methods and through expansion and development of our natural energy resource base, we can provide abundant and less costly energy. But to do this we need to implement a national energy policy that includes greater production of diverse energy supplies and an equal reliance on bold conservation measures.

This balanced energy policy will ensure that when Americans flick on that light switch, that their lights always go on, and blackouts will be a thing of the past.

SIGN DISCHARGE PETITION NO. 2

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, here we are, a year after the electricity crisis hit California and the West. The crisis and suffering continues. And where is the President? Not one item in his energy plan addresses the crisis in the West. And where is FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission? They seem more intent on protecting the industry than the consumers who pay their bills. And where is this Congress? A year after the crisis, we have not yet had a debate on this House floor on resolving the issues in California and the West.

The bill that is coming up through the Committee on Commerce does nothing to address this crisis in California. The only way to get a fair discussion on the House floor is to sign

Discharge Petition No. 2. That allows and puts in order any bill that really addresses the issues in the West and electricity.

It is time to put cost-based rates on the price of electricity and refund the criminal overcharges since last year.

Mr. Speaker, let us have a debate on this House floor. Sign Discharge Petition No. 2.

PRESIDENT SHOWS STRONG COMMITMENT TO NASA

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the House Committee on Science, I am a strong supporter of NASA and our international space station. So is President Bush, but you would not know so if you listened to some of the rumors going around Houston and our Johnson Space Center.

But here are the facts. Only last year NASA told us on the Committee on Science that they would need \$14.4 billion for the coming year. Even after they raised the request recently, the President's budget meets that request at \$14.5 billion; meets NASA's request. The President also increases funding for the space station, for the launch initiative, and keeps a sustained level of six space shuttle flights.

Understandably, at budget time you are going to have some partisan spin, but, seriously, how can you criticize the President when he gives NASA what it asked for, at a level nearly \$1 billion higher than where it has languished for 4 of the last 5 years?

The fact is, for space supporters in Congress, we have never started a budget year so strongly, and our congressional appropriators are trying to do more. Unfortunately, only in Washington are budget increases spun as budget cuts.

SUPPORT BIPARTISAN PATIENT PROTECTION ACT OF 2001

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, now that we are back from the Independence Day recess and the celebrations, the passage of the Patients' Bill of Rights, the one introduced by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD), must be at the top of our agenda.

This bill, the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001, is the only one which comprehensively reforms the current managed care system to better meet the needs of those who elected us.

During the break misinformation and scare tactics continued. It is important that the American public know the