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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Washington, DC, October 17, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROB SIMMONS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Most Reverend Thomas Wenski, Coadjutor Bishop of Orlando, Florida, offered the following prayer:

O God, all powerful Creator and loving father of all mankind, Maker of nature and nature's law:

You are the source of the inalienable rights which our union was formed to protect and to promote.

We ask You to look lovingly upon this Congress as its Members convene this morning to seek to provide for the common good of our people.

You know what is in the human heart and You justly judge the rectitude of our intentions.

May these representatives in their deliberations today be guided by Your wisdom.

And, may they rely on the protection of Your Divine Providence which You in Your goodness have extended over our Nation from its beginnings.

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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 618. An act to provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Western Shoshone identifiable group under Indian Claims Commission Docket Numbers 326-A-1, 326-A-3, 326-K, and for other purposes.

WELCOMING THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS WENSKI

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and high honor to have Bishop Wenski visiting with us today. The Bishop was born in West Palm Beach, Florida, and grew up in Lake Worth, my hometown, where he attended Catholic school at his home parish, Sacred Heart.

Bishop Wenski has provided for the pastoral and spiritual needs of the Haitian communities of south Florida. Through the 1980s, he conducted a circuit-riding ministry that led him to help establish Haitian-Catholic communities from Homestead in the south to Fort Pierce to the north, Immokalee to the west and Fort Lauderdale to the east.

In late 1996, he spearheaded a relief operation that delivered over 150,000 pounds of food to Caritas Cuba, the social service arm of the Catholic Church in Cuba, for distribution to people left homeless by Hurricane Lilly. This was the first time that Cubans in Miami participated in a humanitarian relief effort directed to their native land of Cuba.

In 2001, Governor Jeb Bush appointed him to the Florida Council on Homelessness.

Bishop Wenski speaks Haitian, Creole and Spanish fluently and preaches and celebrates mass regularly in both languages. He also has knowledge of Polish, the language of his immigrant father and Polish-American mother, as is my family of Polish-American descent.

Pope John Paul II appointed Bishop Wenski as coadjutor bishop of the Dioceses of Orlando on July 1, and I know the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY), among others, join me in welcoming their new bishop of Orlando. He is the only native Floridian serving as bishop in our great State of Florida, and Bishop Wenski's motto is: All things to all men, Corinthians 9:22.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute speeches per side.

AMERICA CONTINUES TO FIGHT WAR ON TERROR

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a significant day in the War on Terror with countries all over the world joining in to

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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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help the United States bring civil order to Iraq. The morning began with Japan announcing \$5 billion in aid for Iraq redevelopment. The Washington Post reported Ambassador Howard Baker, Jr., thanked our Japanese allies for being "generous." This was followed by the unanimous vote of the Security Council to approve a new resolution backed by America. The New York Times today editorialized "President Bush won a big victory yesterday at the United Nations."

Later, there was an historic meeting here at the Capitol of Speaker Ognyan Gerdjiko of Bulgaria with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the first meeting ever of speakers from Bulgaria and America. Speaker Gerdjiko pledged partnership in the War on Terror, substantiated by providing 500 Bulgarian troops currently in Iraq.

With the supplemental vote today, America is proving its determination to win the war on terror by making all efforts to complete our commitment for victory to protect the American people.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

BUREAUCRATIC INCOMPETENCE, INDIFFERENCE AND INTRAN- SIGENCE AT PENTAGON

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today the House will vote to borrow \$87 billion to continue the conflict in Iraq and build and revitalize the Iraqi economy. They say it is necessary to support the troops. It is not for dearth of funds that our troops lack ceramic body armor or armored Humvees and other essentials. There are ample, unspent funds, billions from the \$79 billion we borrowed for this war last April, but it is bureaucratic incompetence, indifference and intransigence at the Pentagon. Secretary Rumsfeld and his advisors did not order armor because they did not think that we would need it, and they could never admit they were wrong. It did not fit their scenario.

They say it is necessary for the security of the American people that we are going to borrow \$20 billion in the name of working Americans to invest and stimulate the Iraqi economy, to build their infrastructure, roads, bridges, highways, state of the art telecommunications, sewer and electric.

Well, it is not going to boost our economy here at home, and that is the security that my constituents and most Members' constituents are worried about. If we invest in the economy as the Democrats have advised, it would provide 1 million jobs for Americans.

WHY ARE WE BEING SO GENEROUS?

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of discussion about our reconstruction efforts in Iraq, and why are we doing it, why are we not lending them the money at some exorbitant interest rate? Why are we being so generous? Well, there are five real reasons.

Number one, Iraq is saddled with a \$200 billion debt already. If we give them a loan, what is going to happen is similar to what happened between France and Germany after World War I with the reparations: It will not help Iraq become independent and free and strong.

Number two, practicality. There is no ruling authority in Iraq at this point to make a loan to, and it will take a lot more time if we go that route.

Number three, we need to lead by example. As the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) just said, because of the U.S. efforts, we already have other donor nations stepping forward.

Number four, perception. There is already an anti-American, anti-Western mood amongst Arab countries in the Middle East, and by doing this, we will become free of that suspicion.

Number five, it is in our national interest to have a stable, secure, democratic country emerging in the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, this is why we are doing what we are doing. It is an important vote, and it is the right vote.

NATIONAL GUARD GETS HAND-ME- DOWN EQUIPMENT

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, under current practices today, the National Guard gets hand-me-down equipment from the regular Army. In many instances, it is never really anticipated those Guard units will go into combat. Now, because of manpower shortages, we are reaching so deeply into the Guard that we are having the Guard show up in Baghdad with old-generation Humvees without the proper equipment.

We will have an amendment later today to transfer \$300 million out of the weapons of mass destruction search by David Kay that has turned up a vial of botulism that we are now told by the experts has never been turned into a weapon, and it was sold by an American company back in the 1980s and given to the National Guard so that when they rotate into Baghdad and into other parts of Iraq, they will have modern equipment.

We cannot sacrifice the lives of these young people because we failed to pro-

vide them the equipment or we gave them old equipment 7, 8, 10 years ago and they have to take that equipment into battle. This is absolutely crucial in terms of the safety and protection of our fighting men and women who are in the Guard who now find themselves stationed in combat zones in excess of a year.

RUSHED DEBATE ON SUPPLE- MENTAL APPROPRIATION INAP- PROPRIATE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this morning we discovered that one more MP lost his life in the midst of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I heard yesterday the majority leader say "our war." This war was rendered by a resolution of this House, but not by a Constitutional vote under the Constitution that required this Congress to declare war. This war was rendered on the premise of weapons of mass destruction and the fact that the United States of America was under imminent attack. We found both of those to be fallacies and untrue.

Mr. Speaker, today we are asked to abrogate our responsibilities as Members of Congress and do a circumscribed debate on issues important to the future of this Nation. I spent time with those young women and men on R&R from Iraq. Their courage has not been diminished, but their morale has been obliterated. Eleven of them have committed suicide. They recognize they do not have the proper equipment that they need; and I respect the appropriators for doing the best they can, but this rush to judgment in this debate on this particular appropriation is not appropriate. If we are to stand with the troops, we should be debating this through the weekend, and we should talk about the quality of life and provide them the resources necessary. This is a travesty and a farce because we are not doing what we are supposed to do, in supporting in the fullest way our U.S. troops by a thoughtful deliberative process of debate.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AP- PROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DE- FENSE AND FOR THE RECON- STRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AF- GHANISTAN, 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 396 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3289.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the