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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, Your prophet Ezekiel envisioned an idealized kingdom. Just as any patriot does for his or her country. As people of faith, the Members of Congress also have ideals for the Nation. And we pray that their visionary hopes will be realized.

Perhaps it is our own longing for equal justice for all within our boundaries and our desire for homeland security along our borders that help us best to understand the prophetic action of Ezekiel setting boundaries for all the tribes of Israel.

Perhaps he teaches us that we need to set boundaries ourselves as the best way for keeping peace and assuring prosperity. Each State, each community, doing its part to make the whole Nation strong and responsible.

In the end, Ezekiel saw You, the all-holy Lord God, dwelling in the midst of it all. From this center all power would flow in and out. From this center where You dwell all else would be measured and all would be held together.

Lord God, dwell in our midst, now and forever. 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 Jersey (Mr. PASCARELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PASCARELL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic 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 without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4226. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to make certain conforming changes to provisions governing the registration of aircraft and the recordation of instruments in order to implement the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment, known as the "Cape Town Treaty".

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill and concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2249. An act to amend the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act to provide for emergency food and shelter.

S. Con. Res. 125. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising during World War II.

S. Con. Res. 130. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Supreme Court of the United States should act expeditiously to resolve the confusion and inconsistency in the Federal criminal justice system caused by its decision in *Blakely v. Washington*, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minute speeches per side.

NO AVERAGE SUIT

(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, I know the photo behind me looks like an average business suit. It is not. It is a weapon

of mass destruction. Highly classified documents were removed from the National Archives. The Justice Department is investigating Sandy Berger, having secreted away some misplaced highly classified documents that could be potentially embarrassing to the former administration.

What in heaven's name was he thinking? Why would he risk both his reputation and possible prosecution? What is there to hide in this coat?

At the very least it is gross negligence, and at the most it is a national security crisis. With his experience, no one can claim that these are the actions of a bumbling or absent-minded government employee. Sandy Berger knows better.

Since when is taking and misplacing classified documents ever an honest mistake? And we thought it was bad when the last administration was just taking the furniture.

BAD HABITS OF THE WHITE HOUSE

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, the White House read the 9/11 Commission report. They know how damaging it is going to be, so they leaked the Sandy Berger story to distract attention away from this report.

This is a bad habit of this White House. They leak a story to change the subject when they are in deep political trouble. They leaked the identity of a CIA agent whose husband criticized this administration. They leaked Dick Clarke's memo when he criticized them. And they leaked documents to discredit Paul O'Neill after he criticized them.

The timing here, unfortunately, again, is very suspicious. We need some answers here. Can we trust this Justice

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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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Department to investigate fairly and impartially who leaked this? And why is this administration trying to distract the American people again from the 9/11 Commission report, a commission that this White House did not support the creation thereof or the continuation of this commission? And most importantly, does this administration trust the American people with the truth? I think not.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to President Bush for the good news he has given all Americans.

Thanks to his efforts to combat terrorism, terrorists around the world are on the run. Thanks to his economic initiatives, more than one million new jobs have been created in the last several months. Thanks to his education legislation, America's children are doing better in school. Thanks to his Medicare reform, seniors pay less for prescription drugs. Thanks to his tax relief, every taxpayer has more to spend on their family's needs.

Yet, many of the President's opponents, frankly, hate him and the national media is biased against him. Why does the President's good news bring out the worst in others?

Well, I do not know, but I do have a hunch that most Americans will give the President their heartfelt thanks on Election Day.

ONGOING ADMINISTRATION FAILURE

(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, well, the Republicans can try and dredge up the ghosts of administrations past, but this commission report released this morning says that both the Clinton and Bush administrations are equally culpable in 9/11. What they say is there is an ongoing failure. The greatest failure is of our intelligence agencies and law enforcement agencies to share information.

They say no matter how much money you dump into the intelligence agencies, they are going to continue to fail because of the culture of keeping their own information. They say we need to establish a new way of sharing information among those agencies.

The gigantic bureaucracy of the Department of Homeland Security, written on the back of a napkin by Karl Rove at the White House, did not get there because it excluded the intelligence agencies who failed the United States of America. Nothing has been done about this ongoing failing to inte-

grate the information. They put out something called the TTIC, the Terrorist Threat Information Center. Guess what? They send low-level people there on short details and they do not share. They are like 3-year-olds about billion dollar budgets.

They have the information to make this country safe. It is time for this Congress and this administration to take the steps we need that are outlined in this report. Forget about Sandy Berger and a bunch of other B.S.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The Members are reminded to avoid profanity.

IRAQ'S RETURN TO NORMALCY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, there is still a lot to do, but as we speak the Iraqi government is making progress. Iraqi police are rounding up kidnapers. The Kurds have captured 15 foreign militants in Kirkuk, including a key leader and an al-Qaeda affiliate.

The number of Arab and other foreign fighters currently detained in Iraq continues to grow. Iraq's border police have apprehended more than 60,000 foreigners in the past 7 months, most of them Iranians trying to enter Iraq illegally, and there are plenty of signs that the residents of Baghdad are finding a sense of normalcy amidst the transition to democracy.

Five teams participated in the first Iraqi baseball tournament, including two female teams. Nightlife is returning to the banks of the Tigris River, and residents have started frequenting summer cafes.

In Mosul the military is working with Iraqis to dig wells, renew archeological digs, build a laboratory and repair a hospital elevator.

The Iraqi people are making progress despite the ongoing efforts of terrorists to drag them back to the dark ages of Saddam Hussein.

WILL THE PRESIDENT KEEP HIS COMMITMENTS?

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, every single law enforcement organization, including the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriffs Association, supports our efforts, or lack of them, our efforts to continue the ban on assault weapons. Their only purpose is to kill or maim. The President made a commitment in his campaign in 2000. He said it. I did not. He said he would continue that ban, and now he is gone back on it.

Now, Mayor Bloomberg of New York said something very interesting 2 weeks ago. You folks are going up there for your convention. They had 11 homicides 2 weekends ago. He stood in a press conference and said, there are too many weapons on the street.

I say to Mayor Bloomberg, call your President, remind him of the commitment he made in the 2000 campaign, the presidential campaign, and make sure he keeps those commitments. We do not need another Columbine. We do not need another spraying of people who are innocently lost day in and day out. What we need is keeping our commitment. Will the President?

SLOPPY SOCKS SCANDAL

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am hearing from my constituents on the Sandy Berger sloppy socks scandal. They are horrified, absolutely horrified that somebody who was trusted with our Nation's security would stoop to such a level of carelessness that now we have the situation where it appears he has stuffed it in his socks, in his pants pocket, in his jacket pocket and has taken frequent, frequent restroom breaks.

What happened with the documents?

They are offended that the former President would make this a laughing matter and talk about how he laughed about the carelessness.

Let me tell you, my constituents want some answers.

Here is an e-mail from one of my constituents. "I do not care when it was discovered or when it was released, only that it took place. I am very concerned that any government representative would minimize the action or regard it as sloppy, careless or a mistake. It is a crime."

The people want answers. They expect a full investigation.

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THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, as I got up this morning, I heard on CNN news that the Republican leadership had already decided we cannot do anything about the 9/11 report until next year.

What we come to this morning is, first, the gentleman from Florida, now the lady from Tennessee, to tell us that the problem is Sandy Berger. Hey, folks, do not pay any attention to that report, just look at Sandy Berger's picture. Come on, look at Sandy Berger's picture. Look at Sandy Berger's picture. That is what you want to do.

This is a distraction by the White House. This is a damning report, and