

really knows. It does appear to be a different disease in felines than you would expect the avian flu to be in humans if it were to mutate to a human form.

We have a lot of work to do as far as bolstering our vaccine manufacturing capability within our shores, within our borders. It needs to happen in this country. We need some liability relief to allow that to happen quickly, but we also need to protect and indemnify our first responders.

Those 800 people that came to the Reunion Arena parking lot from the Dallas County Medical Society for Katrina victims may have an entirely different view on the situation if they are being called to come attend a large number of casualties from a disease that might well be an infectious disease that they could catch. They will need to have the availability of anti-virals. We will need to have the availability of vaccines. But if those vaccines are relatively new and untested, we need to have the ability to indemnify those first responders or their families if the first responders are harmed by the vaccines.

□ 2345

The disease knows no boundaries. It does not respect any Governmental jurisdiction. If it does arrive on the upper part of the North American Continent it will spread through the lower parts to the United States.

Can anyone guess how quickly? Suffice it to say that the conditions are a little bit different here than in Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Containment policies that have been somewhat sporadic would likely be much more effective over here on this continent.

But that is not to say that we could not face a very serious problem. It would be economically disruptive if nothing else if large numbers of the poultry population had to be taken off line. But a very serious potential human tragedy if the virus changes in its ability to infect not just bird populations but humans as well.

But in summary, Madam Speaker, we have got a lot of work ahead of us as far as health care is concerned over the balance of this year. I know that the leadership takes this responsibility very seriously. Certainly I want to make certain that the leadership and indeed every Member of Congress knows that those of us who have a background in health care stand ready and willing to help in this regard.

The concept of affordability of health care is one that I just cannot stress enough, because if we do not attend to the affordability of health care we may end up with a default position that none of us really cares for.

And with that, Madam Speaker, I yield back.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOX). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 0000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLE of Oklahoma) at midnight.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4975, LOBBYING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2006

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-441) on the resolution (H. Res. 783) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4975) Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and Thursday, April 27, on account of attending to important personal and business matters.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 5 p.m.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a family emergency.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. RYAN of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MCKINNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MACK) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today and April 27.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, April 27 and May 2 and 3.

Mr. MACK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BRADY of Texas, for 5 minutes, April 27.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, for 5 minutes, April 27.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 592. An act to amend the Irrigation Project Contract Extension Act of 1998 to extend certain contracts between the Bureau of Reclamation and certain irrigation water contractors in the States of Wyoming and Nebraska.

S.J. Res. 28. Approving the location of the commemorative work in the District of Columbia honoring former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until today, April 27, 2006, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6980. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Acreage Reports and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (RIN: 0560-AC20) received March 29, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6981. A letter from the Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the U.S. Agency for International Development, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

6982. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request for FY 2006 budget amendments for the Army Corp of Engineers; (H. Doc. No. 109-99); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

6983. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 06-20, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Thailand for defense articles and services; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6984. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Glen W. Moorhead III, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6985. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Colby M. Broadwater III, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.