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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: The love of the Lord is perfect; it gives life to the soul. The word of the Lord can be trusted; it gives wisdom to all. The command of the Lord is clear; it gives light to the eye.

Those who love their neighbors fulfill the law, for the whole law is summed up in the command to love. So the command of the Lord is clear. Let us embrace it with our whole heart both 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 her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BOSWELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BOSWELL 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Speaker's policy with regard to special order speeches announced on February 11, 1994, as clarified and reiterated by subsequent Speakers, will continue to apply in the 110th Congress and, without objection, will be printed in the RECORD.

There was no objection.

On Tuesdays, following legislative business, the Chair may recognize Members for special-order speeches that may not extend beyond midnight. On other days of the week,

the Chair may recognize Members for special-order speeches for up to 4 hours after the conclusion of 5-minute special-order speeches. Such speeches may not extend beyond the 4-hour limit without the permission of the Chair, which may be granted only with advance consultation between the leaderships and notification to the House. However, the Chair will not recognize for any special-order speeches beyond midnight.

The Chair will first recognize Members for 5-minute special-order speeches, alternating initially and subsequently between the parties regardless of the date the order was granted by the House. The Chair will then recognize Members for longer special-order speeches. A Member recognized for a 5-minute special-order speech may not be recognized for a longer special-order speech. The 4-hour limitation will be divided between the majority and minority parties. Each party is entitled to reserve its first hour for respective leaderships or their designees. Recognition for periods longer than 5 minutes also will alternate initially and subsequently between the parties each day.

The allocation of time within each party's 2-hour period (or shorter period if prorated to end by midnight) will be determined by a list submitted to the Chair by the respective leaderships. Members may not sign up with their leadership for any special-order speeches earlier than 1 week prior to the special order. Additional guidelines may be established for such sign-ups by the respective leaderships.

Pursuant to clause 2(a) of rule V, the television cameras will not pan the Chamber, but a "crawl" indicating the conduct of morning-hour debate or that the House has completed its legislative business and is proceeding with special-order speeches will appear on the screen. The Chair may announce other adaptations during this period.

The continuation of this format for recognition by the Speaker is without prejudice to the Speaker's ultimate power of recognition under clause 2 of rule XVII should circumstances warrant.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute speeches on each side.

OPPOSITION TO INCREASING U.S. TROOP LEVELS IN IRAQ

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

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to increasing U.S. troop strength in Iraq. As one Member of Congress who voted in support of the Iraq resolution in 2002, I recognize the pretext for going to war was based on faulty, misleading intelligence. I can not reverse that vote, but I can no longer acquiesce to a failed and tragic military exercise in Iraq.

Two months ago, Generals Casey and Abizaid stated they did not support increasing U.S. troop levels in Iraq. Last month, President Bush maintained that military policy with regard to Iraq would be determined by our military leaders. However, last week President Bush ignored his top military advisors and called for a 20,000-plus increase in U.S. troops to Iraq.

I, along with others, have been pressing the administration to level with the American people on the status of the American security forces being trained and ready to defend their nation. If Iraqis are trained and ready as we are told, we should begin a planned phased withdrawal of U.S. forces; if not, the administration should tell us when they will be trained and ready.

Sending more troops to Iraq does nothing to enhance the Iraqis' training; it only places more U.S. forces into harm's way to become additional targets for the insurgency. This failed policy must be stopped.

We can support our troops in the field and oppose the escalation of U.S. forces. I urge all my colleagues to work in opposition to the President's increase in U.S. forces.

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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H673

OPPOSITION TO DEMOCRATS'
PROPOSED ENERGY BILL

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the Democrats' proposed energy bill that would only hurt hardworking Americans through raising taxes, forcing the cost of gas and home heating oil to increase, and inflicting massive job losses as a result.

In the 109th Congress, I distinctly remember the Democrats continually saying that the Republicans were outsourcing jobs. With increased taxes, many hardworking Americans in the oil industry will lose their jobs to overseas corporations, not only hurting the American worker, but also increasing our Nation's dependence on foreign oil.

We have not built a refinery in America since 1976, which further has added to our dependence on foreign oil by giving the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, massive control over us.

Madam Speaker, if we want true energy reform, we must begin to build refineries, allow for responsible exploration of energy within our own borders, and invest in energy alternatives.

Raising taxes, causing job losses and increasing fuel costs are not the answer. If we fail to act in a responsible manner, we are continuing to allow ourselves to be at the mercy of OPEC and the nations that control it.

ELECTION OF MINORITY MEMBERS
TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES
OF THE HOUSE

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 74) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 74

Resolved, That the following named members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Mr. Bonner, Mr. Garrett of New Jersey, Mr. Barrett of South Carolina, Mr. McCotter, Mr. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida, Mr. Hensarling, Mr. Daniel E. Lungren of California, Mr. Simpson, Mr. McHenry, Mr. Mack, Mr. Conaway, Mr. Campbell of California, Mr. Tiberi, Mr. Porter, Mr. Alexander, and Mr. Smith of Nebraska.

(2) COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—Mr. Manzullo, to rank after Mr. Rohrabacher.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE HILL OF OPPOSITION

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

Mr. KUCINICH. My colleagues, a few years ago I was doing some climbing of hills and mountains in Colorado, and when I had started my journey I looked up into the hills and it looked like it would take a few hours to climb to a hill. I started my climb and I finally got there, it took about a half a day. And when I got to the top of this hill, when I was first starting I thought I would just get there and I am right at the top, I am at my destination; but as I got to that top of that hill, I saw there was another hill, and I had to climb another half day.

This Congress is about to climb a hill, and that hill is opposition to the escalation. But when we climb that hill, we are only going to be halfway there because the top of the hill we've got to reach, that second hill, is called "ending the occupation." Stopping the escalation is only half the journey here, we have to end the occupation.

Similarly, people say, well, now they oppose the war. Well, opposing the war, well, that is halfway up that hill. Take that journey. But going all the way up the hill you are going to have to say, stop the funding for the war. The Kucinich plan enables us not only to stop the funding for the war, but to secure Iraq and create a whole new America and world.

"FOREIGN CRIMINALS ARE FREE"
IN THE CITY BY THE BAY?

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. When foreigners commit crimes, serve their time, they should be sent back to their native land; but some jurisdictions ignore this commonsense idea and foreigners are not deported. In fact, an audit ordered by this Congress showed that foreign citizens get arrested, go to jail, and on an average—get this—six more times they are arrested after they are released from American jails and not deported. That's right, foreigners commit a crime, go to jail, then cities let them hang around to commit more crime in the "Land of the Free."

The Federal Government has even dumped taxpayer dollars into jurisdictions to help the cost of jailing these foreign criminals. Some jurisdictions take the money but don't help with sending these outlaws back home. San Francisco took \$1 million, but, folks, it is a "City of Refuge"; in other words, give us your tired, your poor foreign criminals who steal and rob that are yearning to be free, and we will let them stay in the City by the Bay.

Foreigners who commit crime should go to jail and then be sent back across the seas where they belong.

And that's just the way it is.

SECURITY BREACH

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to a large-scale data breach that was announced just yesterday. A hacker was able to gain access to the database maintained by T.J. Maxx and others, and was able to obtain payment card information stored in the database. Millions of cardholders' records are now potentially compromised, all affecting all major payment card brands.

Mr. Speaker, the situation is under investigation and we do not know all the facts yet, but we do know that this is not the only example, it is only the latest in a long series of breaches. The largest so far was CSSI, and this affected over 40 million cardholders in America. This breach that happened yesterday, or was announced yesterday, may even be larger.

How many more breaches like this will the public tolerate before Congress acts to adopt national data security rules?

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA VS. 100
HOURS AGENDA

(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, another day, another closed rule governing consideration of legislation in the people's House. The other side likes to highlight the bipartisan support for their so-called 100 hours agenda. But almost 2½ weeks into it, Republicans have yet to be allowed a single amendment on this floor. No committee hearings, no amendments, no alternatives.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't have to be this way. In 1995, the process under the new Republican majority was far more open. Just look at the numbers. The Contract with America was comprised of 24 bills. Only three of those bills were considered under a closed rule. Democrats were allowed to offer 154 amendments to the Contract with America legislation and 48 of those amendments passed.

Mr. Speaker, the people's House should be a place where all the people have a voice, opportunity to offer amendments, alternatives, and let the best idea win. Under Democratic rule, that is not the case.

BRINGING SENSE TO THE ENERGY
DEBATE, BRINGING JOBS HOME

(Mr. WILSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker and ladies and gentlemen, I would like to talk about the commonsense energy debate that we are going to have today in regard to the bill that we are proposing. Being from the Midwest and from Ohio, I truly believe that our energy costs in Ohio are one of our most significant problems with why we haven't been able to do as much business development as we would like to.