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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 15, 2007.

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

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAPP) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Eternal and Almighty God, before You all events of life and calendar pages flip over quickly. The human search for stability in an ever-changing world and the traffic of today's crossroads drives each of us to find new depth within ourselves as we join the motion of another week.

The story of a tsunami comes to mind. Easily we view the destructive consequences on the surface of things around us and question their eruptive origins.

Lord, show us how to detect the beginnings of violence, war, hatred, disruption, and fear. As a leader in the community of peoples, Congress needs to raise the deepest questions.

Enable Members and the people they represent to assess the true cost of the country's lifestyle and the ramifications of our silence on the most important issues.

If it is truly "in God we trust," then all else is called into question and cannot be the measurement of progress or the final goal. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida 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.

SCHIP

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

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, what kind of Nation are we when 47 million Americans go to bed every night without adequate health care coverage? And what kind of Nation will we become when we turn our backs on those who need us the most, our Nation's children, on whose future we all depend?

The SCHIP bill, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, will provide access to necessary medical services to 11 million of our children who are most in need. We cannot, we shall not, we must not turn our backs on our Nation's children.

I urge my colleagues who have yet to consider voting up or down on this measure to think this thing all the way through. Whose side are you on? Are you on the side of our children, who need you the most? Or are you on the side of special interests? We Democrats are on the side of children. Please reconsider what kind of Nation we will be when we turn our backs on our children.

DEFICIT CONTINUES TO DECLINE

(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. Madam Speaker, the Department of Treasury and Office of Management and Budget have announced that today's budget deficit is \$85 billion less than last year. That marks a \$250 billion decline over the last 3 years and brings us even closer to balancing the budget.

□ 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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