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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BAIRD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 6, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRIAN BAIRD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Dr. Stephen L. Swisher, Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, in this moment may we encounter a fresh experience with You.

Give us peace in the uncertainty of this election season and renewed strength as we remember those who sent us here. We know in our hearts that without Your guidance we can do nothing, but with You we can do all things.

Let us not be afraid of the problems that challenge us but instead be grateful that You have called us to make a difference at this time in history.

I pray Your blessings of health, happiness, and protection upon each Member of the United States House of Representatives, their families, and staff members as well.

In times of frustration, may we know that You are with us and ready to help, if we will ask.

May we be emboldened by the thought that as individuals we represent various cities, counties, and States, but together we stand for the greatest Nation ever created.

In Jesus' name. 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 Florida (Mr. MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MILLER of Florida 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.

CITY OF SHAME: BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Berkeley, California, has fallen off the deep end, and it wasn't caused by an earthquake either.

The city council passed a resolution telling the local United States Marine Corps recruiting station that it was "not welcome in the city, and if recruiters choose to stay, they do so as uninvited and unwelcome intruders."

Mayor Tom Bates said, "The Marines don't belong here, they shouldn't have come here, and they should leave."

Shame on Mayor Bates. He has flip-pantly and pompously denounced those noble few—the proud—the chosen—the Marines that represent everything that is good and right about America. These defenders of democracy deserve better than Berkeley's arrogant disapproval.

These deplorable anti-Marine city council members must still have a sixties peacenik, hippie mentality that

world peace can occur by sitting around smoking dope and banging on the tambourine.

Berkeley should lose all Federal funding for their smug denouncement of the Marine Corps. Patriotic Americans should not subsidize cities that tell the Marines to "get out of town."

And as for the Marines, we'll take them all in Texas. We'll have a parade, fly the flag, and sing the Marine Hymn. So Semper Fi.

And that's just the way it is.

MEDICARE ENTITLEMENT REFORM

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, during this election season, political candidates will address every issue in the room except for the 800-pound gorilla. Medicare is rapidly growing in our Federal budget.

Just last week, Medicare trustees again reminded Congress that Medicare is projected to draw more than 45 percent of its funding from the general government revenue, as opposed to the Medicare trust fund.

If Congress doesn't start to make some changes, the program will face over \$34 trillion in unfunded obligations over the next 75 years, which is nearly seven times the size of outstanding public debt today. This rapid growth in Medicare expenditures is fiscally unsustainable.

Mr. Speaker, both liberal and conservative policy analysts, along with the GAO, have been warning Congress of the much-needed entitlement reform. Who else must weigh in on the issue before Congress will start addressing comprehensive Medicare reform?

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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