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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend John I. Caples, Jr., Jesus Name Apostolic Church, Waukegan, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

Our Father, we thank You for the blessings and the prosperity of our country. You have told us, as parents tell their children, to make wise choices; however, when you don't know what to do, seek guidance. Your Word says that if My people will humble themselves and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways that You would heal their land.

Teach us the value of unity, because "a house divided cannot stand." Teach us the value of oneness, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are one. Teach us that the well-being of the country as a whole is more important than any portion alone.

You have told us that when the righteous are in control, the people rejoice. We invoke You to guide our leaders as You did King Solomon. Give them wisdom to govern so great a people and so great a Nation. These things we ask in Jesus' name. 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 South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina 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.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND JOHN I. CAPLES, JR.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I am very honored to have welcomed Pastor John I. Caples of Jesus Name Apostolic Church to open the House today.

I first really got to know Pastor Caples after the murder of Jarreau Patterson and David Mackins, just 16 years old. It was Pastor Caples that brought together the families of the murdered with the families of the murderers that ended a cycle of violence in my community.

He helped restart an athletic program. And with assistance from the wider community, he built a basketball court in just 8 weeks to relieve some of the tensions of the community. He then started the Family First Center, first in a basement, now three stories tall, reaching out to help at-risk youth turn away from violence and gangs, but especially despair, saving one heart at a time.

Pastor Caples tells us that the government can't do it all, but it can change one heart of one child at a time and make the most difference. He is one of the men I admire most whose ministry saves lives. He changes hearts. And most importantly, he returns the soul to a community that is in need of a very big heart with hope.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATING NATHALIE MCCRATE, CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION WINNER

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nathalie McCrate on winning the Congressional Art Competition for Florida's 22nd Congressional District. Nathalie is a tenth grader at Jupiter High School, and her winning art work titled "The Brink" puts viewers on the edge of a forest looking out at urban sprawl. The contrast between the natural and the man-made is sharp in Nathalie's work, and she has a great future ahead as an artist.

Madam Speaker, as you know, the Congressional Art Competition is in its 27th year. This tradition brings together the work of young artists from all over the United States to hang in the United States Capitol. And I'm proud that Nathalie's will be among them.

I congratulate Nathalie, her parents and teachers, and all of our students for all that she has accomplished.

SOARING GAS PRICES

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, this quote from Daniel Webster appears above the Speaker's rostrum right up at the top of the Chamber. And it says this: "Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests and see whether we also in our day and generation may not perform something worthy to be remembered."

As families struggle with soaring gas prices, our Nation's energy solutions, I think, lie on Webster's words. House Republicans have offered a plan to

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lower gas prices by developing the resources of our land in an environmentally safe way. This is an approach that is supported by some 60 percent of the American people in a recent Gallup poll. But the majority won't listen.

Instead, they let gas prices surge even higher by refusing to schedule a plan to break America's dependence on foreign sources of energy. Mr. Speaker, I think American consumers deserve better. It is time to develop the resources of our land and bring down gas prices on behalf of American families and small businesses. And that, as Webster said, would be "worthy to be remembered."

THE SECRET RESOURCES OF INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL, CREATIVITY, AND INNOVATION

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased my friend, Mr. BOEHNER, made reference to the idea of "promoting our resources," a quote from Daniel Webster.

What is the single resource that America has, the only resource that America has that can really bring down the price of fuel and break our addiction to Middle Eastern oil? There is one secret resource that we can promote. And that is the resource of intellectual capital, creativity, and innovation. We know that just poking more holes in the ground cannot solve this problem. We have got 25 percent of the world's oil. We have 3 percent of the oil in our land.

What can solve this problem is innovation, innovation like the A123 Battery Company in Boston that is going to allow us to drive electric cars, Phoenix Motorcars, Inc., that is going to have an electric car that will get 100 miles just on an electrical charge, the Sapphire Energy Company that has developed a gasoline from algae-based sources. We need to develop the resource of intellectual capital.

The optimists on this side of the aisle are doing that. The pessimists on this side of the aisle want to remain addicted to gasoline. That is a path that is doomed to failure. Let's be optimists and solve this problem.

WHERE IS THE MAJORITY'S ENERGY PLAN?

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, what is the deal? Lately when I've been in South Carolina, I have been talking to a lot of frustrated folks. And they are frustrated because they are watching their hard-earned paychecks burn up in their gas tanks. And I'm frustrated because I know there is no energy plan to help these families.

Two years ago the Democrats said they would introduce a commonsense plan to help the energy crisis. And today, when the Americans need it most, when they're paying \$4 a gallon for gas, there is no energy plan. Yet I stand here today week after week, as I am doing, asking my friends on the Democrat side, "Where is the plan?" I have only seen plan 1, and that has been drafted by the Republican party.

Are my Democrat colleagues not hearing the pleas of the American public about high gas prices? Do they not travel to their respective districts and talk to their citizens? Have they not heard the public's frustration? Or do they choose to ignore them?

As Members of Congress, it is our duty to solve the problem. And it is just not good enough to tell them, "We have no plan."

THE NEW GI BILL

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, in the coming days, the House will once again consider the new GI Bill which restores the promise of a 4-year college scholarship for Iraq and Afghan veterans, similar to the educational benefits available after World War II. The original GI Bill of 1944 allowed millions of families to achieve the American Dream and set the economy on the right course after a draining war.

After World War II, for every dollar spent on the GI Bill, \$7 was returned to the economy. The new GI Bill will spark yet another American economic recovery, one that is needed during this time of economic uncertainty with skyrocketing gas prices and food prices and devastating job losses.

But even more importantly, it will fulfill our promise to our military personnel that if they serve their country in war, they will receive a quality education at home. The current benefit simply does not live up to that promise. Mr. Speaker, while President Bush and his Republican allies remain strong advocates for continuing the war in Iraq, it is important that they join us in keeping this important promise to our Nation's troops.

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BRING DOWN GAS PRICES BY INCREASING SUPPLY

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, one day we will end our dependence on foreign oil and empower our economy with alternative sources of energy. But until that day comes, we have to do everything in our power to strengthen our economy by making energy more affordable by increasing domestic American production. Roughly 70 percent of

what we pay at the pumps comes from the price of oil in the global market, which is driven by relationships between supply and demand.

To lower gas prices, we have to use American energy resources. Right now, the U.S. produces 41 percent of the petroleum we use. We can do much better than that. Just by opening up a small portion of Alaska for oil production, we can recover 15 years of Saudi Arabian crude oil. By streamlining rules for energy exploration off the Outer Continental Shelf, we can access roughly 115 billion barrels of oil, enough oil to power 60 million cars for 60 years.

With gas prices over \$4 a gallon, this Congress must act. We have to increase supply. Doing anything else would be irresponsible.

AIRLINE REORGANIZATION THREATENING MEMPHIS BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this morning's Memphis Commercial Appeal had distressing news for our city. Delta Airlines had canceled part of its contract with Pinnacle Airlines, an airline that had 1,000 jobs in our community. The stock price fell 25 percent, and the newspaper reported that stockholders are concerned about the continued existence of the business.

If the merger takes place and Delta and Northwest merge, it is entirely possible that Delta will cancel the remaining portion of Pinnacle's business with Northwest AirlinK, where they serve many customers through Northwest Airlines. That would be devastating to the Memphis economy and possibly cost us thousands of jobs.

I am very concerned, and plan to call Delta Airlines to find out why this contract was cancelled, what possibly could happen, how this merger would affect those 1,000 people, and if possibly re-regulation of the airlines is in order to make sure that abrupt changes in contracts that might cause irreparable harm and immediate damage can't take place if they threaten an industry and an employer in my district such as Pinnacle Airlines.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the future of this large business in my community, and plan to look into it for the benefit of the employers and my overall business community.

TAKING NEEDED ACTION ON ENERGY

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has placed a significant burden on American families. Now they are having to decide whether to buy food or gasoline. The price of both has increased significantly in the past 6 months.