



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

No. 154

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. SOLIS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 26, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HILDA L. SOLIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Lord God, You always guide and protect us. Each day gives us new opportunities to move and act by Your holy inspiration. We seek Your wisdom on the decisions which need to be made this day on behalf of the Nation.

Let the work of Congress today spring forth from our responsibilities to the Constitution of the United States of America and through Your divine providence prove successful and reach fulfillment. This we pray, calling upon Your holy name with all humility and truth. 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 Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. YARMUTH 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

PLAYING MONOPOLY WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, we will work our way through our current financial crisis, but we must not forget how we got to this point. Essentially, George Bush's friends have been playing Monopoly with America.

I am sure everyone has played Monopoly; it is all about taking money that is given to you and making more money. The players roll the dice, then buy up hotels and railroads and, yes, houses, largely on credit, so they can take money from other players. The problem with Monopoly, as it is with our economy over the past couple decades, is that the players never have to worry about people or the communities in which they live.

Madam Speaker, we have allowed our economy to evolve in such a way that the missions of many of our largest corporations are no longer in alignment with the goals and dreams of our citizens or in the best interests of our society. Like Monopoly, their only goal is to make and end up with the most money.

Madam Speaker, we must use the people's power to prevent George Bush's friends from continuing to roll

the dice and play Monopoly with America. Then we will have an economy and country that works for everyone.

OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

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

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Members of this body on their support for the continuing resolution which we approved earlier this week, as it removed the provision that had prohibited oil and gas leasing in vast areas of the Outer Continental Shelf. This action is indeed historic. I know, because I am one of the few Members of this body who was here when the moratorium was first placed on the Interior appropriations bill. This history is instructive and one that needs to be recorded.

The story began in 1969 with a 3 million gallon oil spill off of Santa Barbara. Until recently, a lesser known consequence of this event was the congressional moratorium that forbid exploration of the OCS.

The late 1970s were a time of oil shortages, lines at the pump, and even gasoline rationing. In 1978, President Carter boldly declared our energy situation to be the moral equivalent of war. Congress rose to that challenge by passing the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, declaring it to be the policy of the United States that, and I quote: "The OCS is a vital national resource held by the Federal Government for the public, which should be made available for expeditious and orderly development . . ."

Had we done that, we would have oil today. The ink was barely dry on these words before Congress began derailing its own policy, and by 1981 with the long lines at the pumps gone, Congress placed the first moratorium, which applied to only 736,000 acres in one area. Since then, the amount of

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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