United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2009 No. 86

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 10, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JESSE L. JACKSON, Jr. 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:

God Almighty, send forth Your spirit to guide the Members of the House of Representatives today and every day of this 111th Congress. By Your power, manifest the strength of this democracy.

So direct the course of this body that policies and decisions made here may proclaim Your goodness to all the people. Not in words only but with every action freely accepted, may this Nation show the world that it is an agent of reconciliation and peace for all and give You glory, both now and forever. 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 Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas 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 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BRINGING AN END TO THE WARS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction, had no intention or capability of attacking the United States, and had nothing to do with al Qaeda's role in 9/11. Each and every statement made by the previous administration in support of going to war turned out to be false. Yet here we are, a new administration and the same old war and expansion of the war in Afghanistan. We cannot afford these wars spiritually. They are wars of aggression, and they're based on lies. We cannot afford these wars financially. They add trillions to our national debt and destroy our domestic agenda. We cannot afford the human cost of these wars, the loss of lives of our beloved troops and the deaths of innocent civilians in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

So why do we do this? Why do we keep funding wars when they're so obviously against truth and justice and when they undermine our military? These are matters of heart and conscience which must be explored. Our ability to bring an end to these wars will be the real test of our power.

THE INEFFECTIVE BIG GOVERNMENT STIMULUS

(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. Mr. Speaker, the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics has admitted there is no way to actually substantiate the number of jobs saved in this economy. Yet the White House continues to rely on this talking point to divert attention away from job losses. They should put this political rhetoric to bed and work with Republicans on proven bipartisan solutions to encourage job creation and economic growth.

House Republicans have long advocated that we keep more money in the economy by not taking it out in the first place. Presidents Kennedy and Reagan understood this. They supported relief for American families and small businesses as the engine of job creation and general prosperity. We should learn a lesson from history.

I am confident our economy will recover, but it will do so because of the hard work and perseverance of Americans. Conversely, filtering billions of borrowed dollars through a bureaucratic maze will be, as we have seen, slow and inefficient.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

THE NEW WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, following September 11, our Armed Forces made tremendous strides in Afghanistan, but our resources were diverted to fight the war in Iraq. The circumstances now present in Afghanistan and the region are markedly different than those that characterized

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