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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Lord our God, in You there is no beginning, no end. You truly are dynamic presence, ever self-revealing, guiding all things and human events.

Show Your presence in the midst of our empowering activities and empty frustrations.

May the priorities and the work of this Congress reveal Your goodness to the Nation and make all aware of Divine Providence behind every problem and obstacle as well as every delightful gift.

For You are our life and our salvation, now and forever.

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 gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CHARTING A NEW COURSE FOR OUR NATION

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

Mr. KUCINICH. What if the BP gusher in the gulf is unstoppable? This is a challenging question which is making its way through various blogs. What if millions of barrels of oil continue to flow uncontrolled from the hole in the seabed? We should be preparing now for a worst-case scenario. We should be mobilizing our Nation now, developing new, comprehensive plans for sustainable, alternative energy, for environmental protection, for public health, for preservation of species, for security, for rebuilding our economy and repairing commerce. We should be challenging our fellow citizens and ourselves to take part in charting a new course for our Nation, towards creating an America which has unlimited energy because it has unlimited vision, unclouded by greed or partisan advantage.

DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION

(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 American people are tired of Washington politicians turning a deaf ear to their wishes and concerns. Two days ago, Congressman DAVE CAMP put forward a proposal to repeal the provisions in the government health care takeover that mandates Americans buy government-run insurance. But this popular proposal was defeated by Washington liberals by a vote of 187-230.

People in my home State of South Carolina do not want an out-of-touch Washington bureaucrat forcing them to buy government-run insurance. We support the lawsuit of Attorney Gen-

eral Henry McMaster. We must defend the Constitution. Washington bureaucrats do not know what is best for South Carolinians or their families. The government mandate is unconstitutional.

We need a constitutional alternative, and I have a solution: Siding With American Patients Act, SWAP Act, to repeal the government takeover and replace it with a patient-centered and affordable solution that expands access and continues to cover preexisting conditions.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

IRAN SANCTIONS LEGISLATION

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today once again to urge passage of a final bill to impose tough sanctions on Iran. A final bill is long overdue. The House passed the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act last year, and the Senate passed the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act in January.

Iran is not stopping its ruthless quest for nuclear weapons while Congress continues to deliberate. We simply cannot allow Iran to obtain nuclear weapons. We must act quickly and boldly to prevent that from happening. A nuclear Iran would not only pose a dire threat to Israel, a vitally important ally in the region, but to the United States as well.

We need to act, and we need to act now. I hope the conferees will complete their work quickly so that a final Iran sanctions bill can be enacted soon.

WE NEED A BUDGET

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

□ 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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