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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 27, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY BONILLA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Lawrence Hargrave, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Rochester, New York, offered the following prayer:

God, we thank You for this new day before us, the gift of the days past, and the grace that has brought us thus far. We in this place are blessed beyond measure. We who have been created in Your image have the charge to love You and love our neighbors. You have given us the ability to end hunger, eradicate disease, eliminate poverty, and emulate peace.

God, we pray for the will to do so. Help us to remember the least, the lost, and the left out. Please give us the courage to stand for justice for all. God, please let our love for one another be our witness to who You are. God, let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. You have told us to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God." Let us begin again with You today. 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. WELDON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WELDON 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.

RECOGNIZING AND WELCOMING THE REVEREND LAWRENCE HARGRAVE

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize and welcome Reverend Lawrence Hargrave, one of my constituents but, moreover, a friend and a mentor to be the guest chaplain in the House of Representatives today.

I am extremely proud of Reverend Hargrave, not only for his heartfelt prayer service this morning, but for his continued commitment to the Rochester community.

Lawrence Hargrave completed his degree in sociology from SUNY Buffalo in 1969. Remarkably, after working for almost 30 years in the private sector, he answered the call for service and completed a Master's of Divinity from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. Reverend Hargrave is currently the acting dean of Black Church Studies at the school and is the associate minister at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Rochester.

As a dedicated community servant, Reverend Hargrave is committed to

interfaith discussion and dialogue. Specifically, he serves on the Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry Board of Directors and is a member of the Commissions on Christian-Muslim and Christian-Jewish Relations.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I thank Reverend Hargrave for being here with us this morning, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Reverend Hargrave for his years of faithful service to the people of New York and to his God.

URGING SUPPORT FOR THE EMPLOYER VERIFICATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am rising this morning to talk about a piece of legislation that I have recently introduced. It is H.R. 3262; and it is called EVAA, the Employer Verification Accountability Act.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things we are hearing in our district that is such a problem is illegal immigration, the impact that illegal immigration has on jobs, on the economy, on our district. And this is one of those pieces of legislation that is designed to help us have another tool to fight illegal immigration.

Very simply, what it does is this: The 1986 Immigration Enforcement Act puts in place fines for employers who knowingly and willingly hire illegal immigrants to work in their businesses. This act would prohibit them from negotiating those fines down and require them to pay the \$10,000 fine per violation.

I would like to commend this legislation to the body and invite the Members to join me cosponsoring H.R. 3262.

□ 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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CAFTA: A RAW DEAL FOR AMERICA

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because CAFTA is a raw deal for America, and opposition to this agreement is so strong that the pushers of CAFTA are resorting to lies, deceptions, and backdoor deals.

We all know that CAFTA means exporting American jobs because of access to cheap labor markets with almost nonexistent environmental and labor standards.

All week long we have heard from the supporters of this badly negotiated trade agreement that they have the votes they need to pass it. But I do not want anybody to be fooled and buy this lie. The truth is that the overwhelming majority of House Members have already indicated that they oppose this bill because it is a bad deal for American workers.

They will not even tell us when CAFTA will come to the floor for a vote. Instead, we come to see CAFTA come deceptively to the floor in the middle of the night when they think the American public is not watching.

I urge my colleagues to vote their conscience, to not accept backdoor deals, to stand their ground. Vote for what they already know is best for the people of their district. Vote to send CAFTA back to the drawing board.

SALUTING NASA ON A SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF SPACE SHUTTLE "DISCOVERY"

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the men and women of NASA and the contractor community for a successful launch of the Space Shuttle *Discovery* following a 2½ year hiatus in the operations of our space shuttle program.

Yesterday morning I had the pleasure of witnessing the launch at the Banana Creek viewing site along with First Lady Laura Bush, and it was truly a beautiful sight to see our space shuttle flying again.

As shuttle commander Eileen Collins and the crew of *Discovery* work to complete their mission, we here in the House of Representatives, and I am sure every American can join me in this, wish them Godspeed and a safe return to planet Earth.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG REIMPORTATION

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, the stars have aligned. Senator FRIST has

agreed to a vote on drug reimportation. That is how we recognize health care reform and Health Care Week and make a dent in skyrocketing health care costs. Now we are getting somewhere.

I should not have to remind Members of this body that in the last Congress here in the House we passed reimportation with a bipartisan majority. It is time now for an up-or-down vote in this House. In the very week we are debating health care reform, only 1 week, I might add, what is conspicuously absent? The one item which actually would help control costs of drugs and pharmaceutical products, the reimportation, providing Americans with a 50 percent reduction in the price of their prescription drugs.

Springfield, Massachusetts saved \$6 million in the first year they began importing prescription drugs. But we cannot have any of that here in the people's House. No. We get to vote on protecting drug companies like Merck, who make Vioxx, from any public redress for misleading the public. George Orwell would appreciate that.

Americans can no longer afford double-digit increases in prescription drugs. Mr. Speaker, it is time we give them a break and a vote on reimportation of pharmaceutical products. That is the right way to make progress on controlling health care costs.

IN SUPPORT OF THE ENERGY CONFERENCE REPORT

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to report that sometime this morning we are going to file the energy conference report. This is a piece of legislation that both parties can take pride in. A majority of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Democrats have signed the conference report, including the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), distinguished ranking minority member. All of the Republicans have signed it in the Senate. Thirteen of the 14 Senate conferees have signed it.

This bill is going to transform our Nation's energy economy. It is going to breathe new life into clean coal technology, nuclear technology, renewable technology, and the ethanol industry. It is going to create tens of thousands of jobs for the American economy. It is going to lessen dependence on foreign sources of energy.

Regardless of what part of the country or what part of the economy each American is in, this energy bill will be a good deal for all Americans; and I would urge a "yes" vote when it comes to the floor sometime tomorrow afternoon.

IN OPPOSITION TO CAFTA

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I take my 1 minute today to discuss CAFTA because there will be little meaningful debate on the most important trade bill of this Congress. CAFTA is important less because of what is in it than what is not and because what it has come to represent.

I come from a trade-oriented community, and I believe in honest trade. I personally asked President Bush to insist upon bipartisan trade legislation that would command at least 250 votes in this Chamber. This is possible if we are fair to workers at home and abroad and more sensitive to the environment.

Instead, CAFTA has been crafted to be the lowest common denominator calculated to pass. By pandering to special interests, it reminds one of the old television show "Let's Make a Deal."

This is a lost opportunity. I will no longer support suboptimal trade agreements and await the day when we put principle and people before raw political calculation, pretending that it is trade policy.

A THREAT TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, 20 States including my home State of Georgia are experiencing a medical liability crisis. Hospitals are shutting their doors, doctors are leaving the profession, and patients are the ones left out in the cold.

OB-GYN doctors and some surgeons are paying hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in insurance premiums. One-third of the OB doctors in my State no longer deliver babies because delivering a baby is defined as a "high-risk procedure." Other specialists no longer cover emergency procedures.

One tragic story I am reminded of is a man who came to the emergency room after a fall with a subdural hematoma, or "bleeding on the brain." What is required to treat this is a relatively simple procedure performed by a neurosurgeon to relieve pressure on the brain. Instead of being saved, he died; and he died because there were no neurosurgeons at the hospital due to frivolous lawsuits and skyrocketing insurance rates.

Mr. Speaker, court rooms are interfering with our operating rooms and are threatening health care quality and raising the cost of health care for all Americans.

The HEALTH Act puts patients first and will protect our health care system for us and for our children and for our grandchildren. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5. Vote for the HEALTH Act.