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No. 100

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, we ask You to shepherd our comings and our goings. We hope You guard us and guide us always.

As the Representatives of the people of this great Nation, we have come to do Your will. We have been attentive to the needs of our times. We have listened to our constituents and to each other in the search of common purpose.

We are grateful to our colleagues, our personal staffs and the staff of this House for all their work and their dedication to government. We pray that You bless each of them for their efforts and reward them for their goodness by answering their prayers.

We pray for our families and the people of the districts we represent. Grant them peace, prosperity and renewed faith. May You who have begun this good work in us bring it to fulfillment, 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 his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 344, nays 55, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 443]

YEAS—344

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Armey
Baca
Bachus
Baker
Baldacci
Baldwin
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Bass
Bateman
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bliley
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehmert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior
Bono
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canady
Cannon
Capps
Cardin
Carson
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss

Clayton
Clement
Coble
Coburn
Combest
Cook
Cooksey
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crowley
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Danner
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Fowler
Frank (MA)
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallagher
Ganske
Gajdenson
Gekas
Gibbons

Gilchrest
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hill (IN)
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Horn
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inlee
Isakson
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jefferson
John
Dunn
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Klecicka
Klink
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuykendall
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Largent
Larson

Latham
LaTourette
Lazio
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Martinez
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Metcalf
Mica
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minge
Mink
Moakley
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup

Norwood
Obey
Ose
Owens
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pease
Pelosi
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pombo
Pomeroy
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Regula
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Salmon
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sanford
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schakowsky
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays

NAYS—55

Aderholt
Billbray
Borski
Brady (PA)
Capuano
Chenoweth-Hage

Clay
Clyburn
Condit
Costello
DeFazio
Dickey

Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simpson
Sisisky
Skeen
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stabenow
Stearns
Stenholm
Stump
Sununu
Sweeney
Talent
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Toomey
Towns
Traficant
Turner
Udall (CO)
Upton
Velazquez
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (PA)
Wexler
Weygand
Whitfield
Wilson
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (FL)

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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H7131

Gutierrez	McDermott	Slaughter
Gutknecht	McGovern	Strickland
Hastings (FL)	McNulty	Stupak
Hefley	Moran (KS)	Tancredo
Hill (MT)	Oberstar	Taylor (MS)
Hilleary	Olver	Thompson (CA)
Hilliard	Ortiz	Thompson (MS)
Hinchey	Peterson (MN)	Tierney
Hooley	Pickett	Udall (NM)
Jackson-Lee	Ramstad	Waters
(TX)	Rogan	Weller
Kucinich	Sabo	Wicker
LoBiondo	Schaffer	

NOT VOTING—35

Archer	Heger	Rangel
Baird	Houghton	Shaw
Barton	Hunter	Smith (WA)
Collins	Jenkins	Stark
Conyers	Johnson (CT)	Thomas
Crane	Johnson, Sam	Vento
Doyle	Jones (OH)	Watkins
Engel	McCrary	Weldon (FL)
English	McIntosh	Wise
Ewing	Nussle	Wolf
Gilman	Pitts	Young (AK)
Goodling	Porter	

1026

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYES). Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNulty) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNulty 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.

APPROPRIATIONS SCHEDULE FOR TODAY

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

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to make an announcement relative to the appropriations schedule for the day.

Mr. Speaker, at the direction of the leadership, the House and Senate appropriators and appropriations staff worked all through the night and have prepared the conference report on the legislative branch appropriations bill as well as the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill. That was filed this morning at approximately 7 a.m.

Then, after the appropriators worked all night, the Committee on Rules worked for a good portion of the night and submitted a rule. We will take that conference report up sometime today, probably after we complete the consideration of our last appropriations bill for the District of Columbia.

But the announcement I wanted to make is that the copies of the bill will be on the House Committee on Rules Web site and should be there now and also on the House Clerk's Office Web site so that Members will have an opportunity to look at the entire conference report.

In addition, a summary on printed hard copy will be available in the Ap-

propriations office so Members will have ample opportunity to look at the conference report prior to the time they are called on to vote.

1030

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished friend for yielding to me, and I have just a couple of questions. The D.C. appropriations bill, will that be brought to the floor today? Is that the gentleman's understanding? The gentleman alluded to it in his remarks.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. It is my understanding that the D.C. bill will be completed today. We are very close to completion on that bill.

Mr. BONIOR. Does the gentleman expect that bill to be brought to the floor today, the D.C. appropriation bill?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Yes.

Mr. BONIOR. All right. I thank the gentleman.

The second thing is on the Treasury Postal bill, obviously, there is a lot of concern about the bill since Members have not seen it, some Members did not participate or were not allowed to participate in the conference, as I understand it, and the question I have is, the two Cuban amendments that passed with overwhelming votes in this Chamber, are they in the bill or were they stripped from the bill?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. They are not in the conference report.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I made the announcement so Members will have opportunity to review the entire report and to find areas they like and areas they do not like, and then we will pass the conference report.

QUESTIONS REGARDING APPROPRIATIONS SCHEDULE FOR TODAY

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I just would like to make a few observations about the announcement just made by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG). I do not know how to describe the process we are going through, except that it looks to me like it was designed by Johnny Fumblefingers. We have no idea, Members have no idea of what is in this conference report. We are being—could I have some order or has all respect gone from that side of the aisle? Too many sore losers from the baseball game last night, I guess.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYES). Does the gentleman wish to be recognized to gloat for 2 minutes?

Mr. OBEY. The point I would like to make, Mr. Speaker, is simply this, we are being told that we are going to be voting on a legislative appropriations

bill today, and now we are being told that when we do that that bill will by reference also pass another appropriation bill, the Treasury Postal bill, that conference report is quaint, because the Senate has not yet even completed action on the bill which is being conferred, and in that bill, we have a variety of interesting provisions.

So far as we know, there is, for instance, apparently a road in that bill that GSA is being asked to construct in New Mexico, despite the fact GSA has never constructed a road in the history of the operation. The funds in the bill we are told are inadequate to allow the IRS to meet its modernization requirements, all of the matters relating to Cuba and the Cuban embargo, if you come from a farm district and are interested in that, I do not see the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NETHERCUTT) anywhere, but my understanding is that that has been stripped out of the bill.

So I would suggest that this is a most strange way to proceed. I do not understand why it is necessary to proceed to a conference report on a bill which has not yet even been considered by the other body, that is an incredibly irregular procedure, and I think it adds further to the image of this House as not knowing from one day to the next what it is doing.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I thank my friend for yielding to me, and when I made this announcement, I did not intend to start the debate on the conference report. I merely wanted to allow the Members to know where they could see copies of this bill, so that when we get to that debate, no one would have the excuse of, well, I did not have a chance to see the bill; that was the only purpose, not to start the debate now, but to tell Members where they can see copies of this conference report so they can vote intelligently.

Mr. OBEY. I would simply say to the gentleman, I am not criticizing his statement, I am criticizing his actions.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

I would say to the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) for whom I have, as he knows, great respect and affection, and I share that as well for the ranking member.

I want to tell him, with all due respect, I am the ranking member of the Treasury Postal bill, and I am going to have to go to the Web site because I have not seen the conference report. There was no conference. I would tell my friends, there was no conference on the Treasury Postal bill, whatever is in the Treasury Postal bill, we are learning secondhand.

This is not the way my colleagues ought to run this House and respect