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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
June 25, 2002.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

### TRIBUTE TO DAVID McLEAN WALTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to David McLean Walters, our former ambassador to the Vatican as he celebrates his 85th birthday.

As an ambassador, Mr. Walters served our country, but as patriarch of Miami Children's Hospital, he has impacted our Nation's future.

Ambassador Walter's vision of creating a facility that provides top pediatric care for the children of south Florida has blossomed and become a reality through his tireless efforts over the past 30 years. The tragic loss of the ambassador's granddaughter to leukemia served as his impetus for expanding a small local hospital. But what began as a humble idea has developed into one of the top children's medical facilities in the country, earning the title "Pinnacle of Pediatrics."

Today, Miami Children's Hospital diagnoses and treats thousands of suffering children, providing them with the best possible care.

Ambassador Walters' accomplishments have assured a brighter future for our children, and, indeed, our Nation.

### MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this morning once again, as I have so many times, I take to the floor to talk about the need for a Medicare prescription drug benefit, and I was hoping this week that I would be able to thank my Republican colleagues for finally bringing up some legislation that would at least make an attempt to address the prescription drug issue. I read, though, today in both Congress Daily as well as in The New York Times that there is a real possibility that there may be a delay in the House drug bill action until July.

Well, let me say once again, Mr. Speaker, how extremely disappointed I am to see that the Republicans, the Republican leadership in the House, continue to fiddle with this very impor-

tant issue. They promised that they were going to bring up a prescription drug bill before the Memorial Day recess, then they promised they were going to bring up a prescription drug bill before the July 4th recess.

Now it seems there is a real possibility they are not going to bring it up. I hope they do, even though I think they have a terrible bill that will not accomplish anything for the American people or for America's seniors. At least if we have the opportunity to have a debate on the floor, it allows us as Democrats to bring up our substitute bill, which is a real Medicare prescription drug benefit that would lower prices for seniors.

Now, it is interesting to see why the Republicans may be having trouble bringing up their bill. I have said over and over again that the problem with the Republican proposal is it is not Medicare, it does not guarantee any benefits. What it does is throw money to private insurance companies in the hope that they will provide some sort of benefit for seniors that, unfortunately, does not have any guarantee about the scope of coverage or what the premium would be or whether there would be any benefit at all, because we know the private insurance companies say they probably will not offer this coverage.

The other problem that the Republicans have is that they do not address the issue of price at all. They have language in their bill that says that the administrator of the program cannot interfere with price in any way. Well, that seems to be the problem. That is why they are having trouble bringing up their bill.

If you look in Congress Daily today, it mentions the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT), who says that he wants to push for inclusion of language allowing fewer restrictions on bringing FDA-approved drugs back into the country, known as reimportation.

□ 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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