

South Dakota can once again have their voice in this great Chamber.

I would also like to thank our Secretary of State in South Dakota, Chris Nelson, who certified the election with great speed so that the interest of our State could be represented in this distinguished body. I would also like to say a grateful thank you to the staff of former Congressman Bill Janklow, who have continued to serve these past several months and have been true to the welcoming spirit of South Dakota.

There are too many to thank for this great honor: my grandparents, especially my Grampa Ralph Stiles, who is here with me today, who gave me his unconditional love and support; my parents, the strongest people I know who taught me to reach across disagreements and work for a common good; and the people of South Dakota, to whom I pledge that I will do everything I can to represent them honorably and to always do what is best for our entire State.

And lastly, while the months and years ahead are filled with great possibilities, the unsettling truth is that my standing here today was born from a tragedy. The opportunity for me to represent my State would not have happened if not for the heartache suffered by many. That reminder will be with me always.

But from great sorrow can come new beginnings for my State at this time in our Nation's history, for all of us as a people. I am humbled by this moment and by the trust and responsibility that South Dakota has placed in me. I will do my best, and I will always remember why I am here.

In the language of the Lakota people, "pilamaya," thank you, and may God bless this great House of the people.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(c) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH), the whole number of the House is adjusted to 435.

□ 1045

WELCOMING RABBI JOUI HESSEL, WASHINGTON HEBREW CONGREGATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is a real pleasure to welcome a special guest to our House from Miami, Florida, who shared her message of prayer and inspiration with us today, Rabbi Joui Hessel. We are happy to have the Rabbi and her wonderful family, who reside in my congressional district in Miami, Florida, with us here today.

Rabbi Hessel was ordained from the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute

of Religion in New York in 2001. While in Rabbinical School in New York, she served several congregations and also served as the Education Intern at Leo Bacck Temple in Los Angeles, California.

Rabbi Hessel is currently serving at the Washington Hebrew Congregation right here in Washington, D.C., as associate Rabbi. She has been in that capacity since June of 2001 and is active in many programs, including youth activities and adult education. The Rabbi is currently working on an educational article for a book on Parenting Young Adult Children.

Thank you, Rabbi Joui Hessel, for your spiritual leadership and for your prayers and for having such wonderful parents, who are my constituents.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1721. An act to amend the Indian Land Consolidation Act to improve provisions relating to probate of trust and restricted land, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Chair will entertain 10 1-minute speeches per side.

NEW PRESCRIPTION DRUG CARD REDUCES COSTS FOR SENIORS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, effective June 1, each senior on Medicare who would like one could get a Medicare prescription drug discount card. This card will be good for about a 20 percent discount in most local pharmacies.

What the senior could do is dial 1-800-Medicare or go to WWW.MEDICARE.GOV and find out which of the local drugstores has the best deal on Lipitor or Glucophage or whatever he or she uses on a regular basis, and then, if it works, if it is a good idea, invest anywhere from \$20 to \$30, in that neighborhood, and choose which card is the best and start enjoying a 20 percent discount.

This is a program that precedes the 2006 voluntary program which was signed by President Bush, passed by this House and the Senate and endorsed by the AARP to give seniors on Medicare a prescription drug benefit.

It is a voluntary program, it reduces drug costs by about 50 percent, and it is something that we did not have in Medicare as an option before. It is a very good program, and I invite seniors to call 1-800 Medicare and take a look at it.

OPPOSING OUTSOURCING OF JOBS

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, my constituents write each week telling me about jobs that are being outsourced, asking me what is Congress doing about it. They are amazed and they are outraged that our President can support this policy, when over 1 million Californians are out of work.

I understand their concerns, especially when the Bush administration recently awarded a massive \$10 billion government contract to Accenture, a company incorporated in Bermuda, when two American-based companies actually bid for the contract. They also know that the President used outsourced workers in India to make phone calls for his Presidential campaign. All of this, Mr. Speaker, when 8.4 million people are out of work nationwide.

Outsourcing is bad economic policy, and I urge the House leadership to address this issue immediately.

TRANSITION TO IRAQI SELF-GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, to the new prime minister of Iraq, Dr. Ayad Allawi, let me say you are most welcome, sir. Dr. Allawi, in addition to being selected as the new prime minister for the country of Iraq, provided a very vociferous "thank you" to President Bush and the United States of America for ridding his country of the scourge of Saddam Hussein.

We have now seen two significant events this year, the standing up of the new Iraqi constitution, a constitution that respects majority rule but also respects the rights of the minority; a constitution that contains a robust bill of rights and the protection and the involvement of women in government. There is a clear goal understood by all who are involved in that process, to see the Iraqi people free and in charge of Iraq for the first time in generations.

America's task in Iraq is not only to defeat an enemy. It is to give strength to a friend, a free, representative government that serves the people and fights on their behalf. The sooner this goal is achieved, the sooner our job will be done.

The Iraqi interim government takes power on 30 June. It will serve for only 7 months until a new government is chosen through democratic elections to be held as soon as possible, but no later than the end of January, 2005.

AMERICANS DESIRE CHANGE OF DIRECTION

(Ms. LOFGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, that old question remains relevant: Are you better off today than you were 4 years ago?

Under this Republican Congress and the Bush administration, there is no doubt that people in Silicone Valley are not better off. At home, one in three households has had a layoff since Bush took office. In January, 2001, the unemployment rate in San Jose was 1.6 percent. In April of this year, it was 6.2 percent.

Across the country, the average length of unemployment is the highest in 20 years. The overall job picture is the worst in nearly 40 years.

The truth is, House Republicans do not have a real plan. Instead, they are launching a public relations offensive ironically titled Hire Our Workers, HOW.

Yes, Americans want to know "how" Republicans can explain the loss of 2.2 million American jobs. "How" can Republicans think today's sham job training bill will help the 443,000 Californians who were laid off just last month?

Democrats have a proven track record of creating 22 million jobs in the nineties. Now Americans want a change in direction, not more votes on the same tired, gimmick proposals.

IBM WORKING TOWARD LIFELONG LEARNING

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, lifelong learning is very important to the competitiveness of this country. I would like to highlight what IBM, a company with a very strong presence in my district, is doing for lifelong learning.

When I visited IBM's Austin site recently, I learned about several programs that IBM has which promote science and math for children. The company's Young Explorer is an interactive apparatus that young children have to access many of the schools in districts around the country. It targets kids up to age 8. By making science and math fun, IBM hopes that these children will decide to go into areas of science and math.

IBM also runs the Excite Science Camp For Girls at 38 U.S. sites during the summer months. Such camps give seventh and eighth grade girls the opportunity to meet with IBM female engineers, design and build their own Web sites, and hopefully come to realize that engineering is a viable career option for them.

IBM has collaborative relationships with many colleges and universities. The company and students share resources and work together on research and development endeavors. The company also goes into the community and offers computer training.

IBM has the right idea. We need to create initiatives for U.S. employees to build new skills in today's global economy. If we do not, U.S. workers will get left behind.

EX-FELON VOTING RIGHTS BILL

(Ms. CARSON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that we have celebrated for veterans during the Memorial Day weekend in a very proper and respectful way.

Last evening, I introduced legislation that would correct an inequity for our veterans. Many would be surprised to learn that veterans who have served honorably in the United States military who have been discharged honorably, who subsequently, because of posttraumatic stress disorder, find themselves within the walls of prisons on a felony conviction, when they are released after they have served their time, Mr. Speaker, many of them in certain States are denied the right to vote.

Disenfranchisement of those who jeopardized their lives in our defense of democratic ideas is an offense to the conscience of our Nation. Denying veterans who committed a crime and served their sentences the right to vote is unconscionable.

This bill would give liberty and justice for all people, Mr. Speaker, especially for our veterans. I would encourage every Member of the House who respects and loves and honors the veterans of this Nation to sign on as a sponsor of this legislation.

PUTTING PROFIT BEFORE PATRIOTISM MUST END

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, time and again companies like Accenture have abused loopholes in the Tax Code to shirk their duties to the United States. They incorporate on paper in countries like Bermuda for the express purpose of avoiding U.S. taxes. There is no justification in today's world for this shameful practice, none.

Accenture also outsources jobs. Now we learn that the Department of Homeland Security has given Accenture a record \$10 billion contract, I assume with the blessing of this majority, which has done everything in its power to allow this practice to continue, including watering down a provision that I authored to prohibit these companies from contracting with the Department of Homeland Security. I remind my colleagues that this House passed that provision by a vote of 318 to 110, with the other body following suit.

So when I hear some actually defend this practice, I think, tell that to the

families of those men and women who have given their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. Tell them that their loved ones gave their lives defending the right of multinational corporations to cheat the American taxpayer, because that is what they are doing.

The time for putting profit before patriotism has passed. That is what these folks are doing. Rewarding companies who have abandoned our country with government contracts, as this administration is continuing to do, is not only unpatriotic, it is immoral. It should end.

SENIORS OF AMERICA DESERVE BETTER PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the seniors of America deserve better. This Republican House and Republican Senate, as well as the President, have passed a Medicare bill at 3 in the morning that is a sham on seniors.

Our seniors need and want lower prescription prices. This bill did nothing to lower prices. Medicare negotiates for lower prices for the bulk of the 40 million Americans who need assistance. This bill does not allow our seniors to go to Canada, where medicines cost two-thirds less than what they are in America.

Finally, there is the discount card that is not a discount. Seniors, if you have a discount from a pension plan from yourself or your husband, it is going to be better than this one. Use it.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sham on our seniors. Our seniors deserve more. They built our country. Let us do better. Help them get their medicines. They need them to survive.

RECOUPING MONEY STOLEN BY ENRON

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, it is high time for the Bush administration to take action to recoup the hundreds of millions of dollars that the Enron energy trading racket stole from people in the State of Washington.

We have now heard the tapes, the smoking guns, where energy traders talk about "jamming" grandmothers in Washington State, saying "burn, baby, burn," during the brownouts, just laughing at the fact that they got away with hundreds of millions of dollars of theft.

We are calling on the administration to stop protecting the Enron energy trading racket. We will offer on the floor of the House next week an amendment to compel the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to get off the dime and get our money back from Enron.