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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, guide and protector of Your people, grant us unflinching respect for Your holy name and for Your holy presence in the people we meet today.

Consecrate the work of this Congress. Raise up statesmen here and abroad who will recognize Your holy will in the waves of history and the will of the people whom they serve.

May the peace and prosperity of this Nation be secured, while our attention is expanded and genuine concern for others is deepened by sincerity.

Your bountiful resources of the Earth are plentiful enough, Lord, and can even be multiplied by the ingenuity and cooperative labor of people working together.

For Your many gifts, we give You praise, honor and thanksgiving 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California 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.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER. State your inquiry.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have noticed at least one occasion when a Member announced he was opposed to a measure when he sought to offer a motion to recommit but then voted "yes" on passage of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, is that regular order?

The SPEAKER. As Members are aware, the first element of priority in recognition for a motion to recommit is whether the Member seeking recognition is opposed to the main measure. This criterion is not a matter of record at that point. Instead, it depends on the statement of the Member seeking recognition. Under the practice of the House exemplified in Cannon's Precedents, volume 8, section 2770, the Chair accepts without question an assertion by a Member of the House that he is opposed to the measure in its current form.

The Chair is cognizant of the possibility that a very close question can engender a genuine change of heart during the collegial discussions that occur during proceedings in recommitment and passage. But it is hard to believe that such genuine changes of heart might occur on regular bases. So the Chair must ask all Members to reflect on how important it is that the Chair be able to rely on the statement of a Member in judging whether he qualifies over another who is truly opposed to offer a particular motion.

The instance recorded in the Deschler-Brown Precedents, volume 12, chapter 29, section 23.49, is instructive. As articulated in an apology by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations in 1979, "the honorable, if not technical, duty of a Member offering a motion to recommit is to vote against the bill on final passage." The Chair asks each Member to give thoughtful consideration to this sentiment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize up to 10 Members on each side for 1-minute speeches.

GITMO

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

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our military. It has been 4 years since terrorists killed more than 3,000 innocent people and it seems that Democrats still do not understand who the enemy is.

They have turned their rhetoric to the American soldiers who guard the prison at Guantanamo Bay which houses some of the world's most wanted and is vital to the war on terror. Their efforts have provided some very valuable intelligence, intelligence that will save countless lives and keep our country secure. Yet some would rather use it as a political tool than honor those who serve there.

I hope our troops cannot hear them.

What is more, they would rather focus this Congress on investigating our own troops than on investigating enemy combatants, would-be terrorists, and threats to our homeland. You would think that the party of Truman and FDR would reserve comparisons to Nazis, the Holocaust and Pol Pot for al Qaeda, Saddam's ethnic cleansing, or Osama bin Laden.

But no. Those are the words they use to describe our troops in the field, our military command, and our soldiers at Guantanamo.

I hope our men and women in uniform cannot hear them.

RESTORE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the

□ 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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House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to urge the House to restore full funding for public broadcasting. The Republican House appropriators' unwise decision to cut funding totaling 45 percent is offensive to the millions of Americans who rely on PBS for news and information. Parents depend on PBS to provide their children with wholesome programming that is educational and free of charge. But not only children benefit from PBS. Their programs and services also educate adults and engage people in the sciences, history and arts; and inform viewers and listeners of local and world events. As a result, PBS programming helps Americans engage as literate citizens of their respective communities.

The Republican Party who preaches about family values and morality is turning its back on millions of Americans who seek decent, wholesome programming free from the smut and violence that has infested the airwaves. Only the GOP would assassinate Big Bird, Elmo and Barney with one vicious swipe of their mean-spirited, budget-cutting sword.

It is time that my friends on the other side of the aisle match their values rhetoric with their actions and restore full funding for our families by giving PBS the Federal moneys it justly deserves.

CONCERNING THE ROLE OF GUANTANAMO BAY PRISON

(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, the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay is of strategic importance in winning the global war against terrorism. Guantanamo provides the United States with a secure interrogation center to gain essential intelligence information from terrorists. Illegal enemy combatants held at Guantanamo Bay include terrorist trainers, bombmakers, would-be suicide bombers and terrorist financiers. Through the detainees held at this facility, we have learned about the detonation system used in roadside bombs in Iraq by the insurgency, bombs that have killed our troops and innocent Iraqi citizens. Detainees include 20 of Osama bin Laden's personal bodyguards as well as one of the architects of the September 11 attacks and suspected 20th hijacker in the attack on our country on September 11.

GITMO is designed to save the lives of our citizens and our service men and women from future acts of terror. Let us continue to support this important mission to protect the safety of our constituents and our Nation.

LOBBYING REFORM

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the Senate we heard testimony of blatant fraud masquerading as a legitimate lobbying operation. And also yesterday, the Washington Post ran a front page story detailing the excesses of K Street, known as Lobbyists Avenue.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that these are gold rush times for professional lobbyists in Washington, DC. Since 2000, the number of professional lobbyists has more than doubled, to 34,000. Professional lobbyists have become the full service "back office" to Congress, arranging lavish fact-finding trips, writing legislation, and functioning as an employment agency for Members and staff.

Just as we put distance between donors and Members of Congress when they run for office, we need to do the same when it comes to professional lobbyists and Members of Congress who write the laws. Our bill, the Meehan-Emanuel bill, slows the revolving door between government and lobbying, enhances disclosure and transparency, curbs privately funded congressional junkets and gives teeth to enforcement mechanisms. With congressional approval at all-time lows, we must act now to restore public confidence.

Mr. Speaker, when your gavel comes down, it should mark the opening of the people's house, not the auction house.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, Social Security is going broke and we need to fix it. The question is how. When the baby boomers begin to retire in 2008 and 2009, the only way to save Social Security is then to cut benefits by 30 percent or raise taxes by \$600 billion a year.

The Democrats believe in tax hikes. In fact, the only Democrat proposal to reform Social Security is to raise your taxes. But the best way to reform Social Security is with personal accounts, to get a better return on our investments. And there are a lot of proposals out there. In fact, Ways and Means Committee leaders actually came up with a good plan yesterday that has personal accounts, that everyone paying into the system would get a personal retirement account by using the Social Security surplus that we have for the next few years. I like this idea because it means politicians cannot spend the money and it is a true lockbox for every citizen that pays taxes.

We need to have personal retirement accounts, Mr. Speaker, not tax hikes.

We need to support Social Security reform.

150TH ANNIVERSARY TREATIES

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this weekend marks the 150th anniversary of the Treaty with the Tribes of Middle Oregon and today I have introduced legislation to commemorate that event. There were a number of important treaties signed in 1855 which included the Cayuse, Umatilla, Walla Walla and ultimately the Warm Springs. These treaties helped guide and shape the management of land, water, wildlife and fisheries of the Pacific Northwest now and into the future. The treaties were understood by their signers to ensure the unique quality of life of native peoples in middle Oregon.

Unfortunately, the United States' history of honoring its commitments to Native Americans leaves much to be desired. In honor of the anniversary of these treaties, we should reaffirm and support the promises made 150 years ago between the Pacific Northwest tribes and the United States of America. Together, we have a rich legacy and a bright future to protect, and I urge my colleagues in joining me in supporting this resolution.

STOP USING TAXPAYER DOLLARS TO SUBSIDIZE VIAGRA FOR SEX OFFENDERS

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

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, we must stop using taxpayer dollars to subsidize Viagra for sex offenders. It was recently revealed that almost 800 convicted sex offenders in 14 States have received Medicaid funded Viagra and other similar drugs. This practice is a disgusting abuse of taxpayer dollars and must be stopped now.

On today's calendar, an amendment in the Labor-HHS appropriations bill prevents taxpayer dollars from being used to reimburse sex offenders for Viagra and similar drugs. This amendment does not just address Medicaid but it also prevents Medicare and any other public health service from reimbursing convicted sex offenders for these types of drugs. It is the responsibility of Congress to take action to close this loophole immediately which we in the House shall do today.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

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

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to