



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2006

No. 9

House of Representatives

The House met at noon.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, ever present, source of all wisdom and self-giving love, the sacred scriptures reveal Your continued guidance in human affairs. We thank You for the many blessings granted this Nation throughout its history.

Today, as a new page is turned, fill the hearts of Your people with even greater confidence and renewed faith in Your promises to be near us and attentive to our needs.

As work begins on this Second Session of the 109th Congress, we seek Your mercy and rely on Your revelation to guide and protect this legislative body. As this House of Representatives and the United States Senate anticipate a joint session and await the State of the Union message of President George W. Bush, we pray to You for his health, enlightenment, and well-being. Together with the Supreme Court, may all three branches of this government be drawn into Your Spirit of wisdom and good judgment. With renewed standards of ethics and a deeper commitment of accountability, may all who serve in public office be Your steady instrument in unifying, protecting, and guiding the American people of this democracy to increasing virtue, greater prosperity, and a witness to goodness for the world.

Lord, bless America and its people who place their trust in You, now and forever.

Amen.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 16, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Mr. SPEAKER: For the past thirteen years I have had the great honor and privilege of serving the people of New Jersey as a Member of the United States House of Representatives.

As Governor Jon S. Corzine of New Jersey has told me his intention to appoint me to fulfill the remainder of his term in the United States Senate upon his inauguration as Governor, I submit my resignation as a Member from the House of Representatives, effective close of business on Monday, January 16, 2006.

I accept my new position with enthusiasm but also a sense of gratitude for the trust and confidence the voters of the Thirteenth Congressional District have placed in me over the years. I have always tried to reflect credit on the District, the great state of New Jersey, and this body. It has been a distinct pleasure to work and serve with many good friends and colleagues in the House of Representatives.

I look forward to continuing my service to the people of the State of New Jersey through my service as a Member of the United States Senate.

Sincerely,

ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the whole number of the House is adjusted to 433.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 26, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 26, 2006, at 10:15 am:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 77. Appointments:

Board of Visitors of the United States Military Academy.

Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy.

Board of Visitors of the United States Air Force Academy.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 27, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 27, 2006, at 3:00 pm:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 78.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the House stands in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m. today.

□ 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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