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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:

Lord God, who speaks wisdom to the brokenhearted and heals the wounds of nations, when any of us comes to an impasse and becomes paralyzed with fear or confusion, by prophetic call You bid us to turn to You with renewed faith.

Lord, speak Your word and help leaders of government and judges in courts to look beyond self-interest as if this were the path for another's good. And, while in dialogue, seeking the full circumference of facts, let a new light arise in their midst which draws all to a deeper common ground which will grant a surface of security in truth and pave a course to justice and peace, which always reflects Your image and will last 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 her approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KUCINICH 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. G. Timothy Saunders, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to ten 1-minutes on each side.

REPUBLICANS UNDER INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, the list of Republicans under investigation or resigning in this administration in disgrace keeps growing. This morning, The Washington Post reported Julie A. MacDonald, the deputy assistant Secretary of the Interior Department, resigned, just as she was being investigated for changing scientific reports to protect the interests of oil and gas companies and real estate developers, all the people she was supposed to be actually holding accountable. I wish this was an isolated case in the Bush administration.

This morning, The New York Times reported the Department of Commerce Inspector General faces three separate investigations in conduct of his office. Scott Block, the special counsel of the Justice Department, is being investigated for the management of his office. Lucita Doan at the GSA is being investigated for politicization of the office. Monica Goodling of the Justice Department resigned. Sue Ellen Wooldridge at Justice stepped down. Matteo Fontana at the Department of Education has stepped aside. David Safavian at OMB has been prosecuted. Stephen Giles at the Interior Department had to step down. All have had their conduct scrutinized while in their professional office.

It is time, in fact, and justifies why this Congress is doing its job of oversight and accountability, and bringing people's professional conduct in order.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with millions across our Nation who applaud the Supreme Court's recent decision to uphold the ban on partial-birth abortion. Partial-birth abortion is unrivaled in its gruesome brutality. There is no question it has caused the vicious destruction of viable, living, breathing babies whose only crime is inconvenience.

The court's decision is a victory in the quest to restore the dignity of human life. No longer will the most vulnerable and innocent among us be subject to such cruelty as partial-birth abortion.

It is also a victory for the Constitution, Mr. Speaker, which liberal activist judges have demeaned for far too long. It is encouraging to see the court's decision move towards our Founders' vision, a vision rooted in the commitment to not only protect, but to also respect human life.

While this is a step forward, it is only one victory in the longer struggle to assure that the abolition of abortion altogether is achieved. Let us never forget our responsibility to hold the basic sanctity granted to us by our Maker.

H.R. 1234

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

Mr. KUCINICH. The President's veto will stand, but now what will we stand for?

We say we want the war to end, but will we give the President the money to continue the war? We say we want our troops home, but will we continue to support the occupation? We know that U.S. contractors have been stealing from U.S. taxpayers and the Iraqi

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