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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 1, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LINCOLN DAVIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Adam Dooley, Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come seeking Your blessing on this hallowed hall and the men and women who serve here. We do so with the full awareness of the Apostle Paul's teaching that "there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God."

So Lord, we pray that Your steady hand guide them, Your eternal wisdom inform them, Your compassionate heart encourage them, and Your relentless holiness purify them.

May their decisions preserve America as a city on a hill with a light that cannot be hidden. Forgive us of our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Bring us to a place of humility before You in order that we might enjoy Your richest blessings.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York 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 SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 186. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month.

WELCOMING REV. DR. ADAM DOOLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WAMP. I want to welcome this morning to the House of Representatives my pastor, Dr. Adam Dooley, who hails from Berea, Kentucky, graduated from Clear Creek Bible College, and went on to receive his Doctor of Divinity from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He was the senior pastor at the Red House Baptist Church in Kentucky before he came to my home church of Red Bank Baptist in Red Bank, Tennessee.

Dr. Dooley, his wife, Heather, and their son, Carson, bless our large congregation there in Chattanooga, and today we welcome him to the House of

Representatives as the guest chaplain and thank him for that extraordinary opening prayer this morning.

Welcome, Dr. Dooley.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE). The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MAD AS HELL DOCTORS

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

Mr. KUCINICH. I want to acknowledge the presence in our Capitol of a group of physicians who have traveled across the country rallying public support for a single-payer health care system.

The group, which calls itself the Mad As Hell Doctors, is expressing the concern of millions of Americans about a health care system which is failing to meet the people's needs: that there are 47 million Americans without any health insurance, that 50 million Americans are underinsured, that people are literally going broke, not being able to pay their hospital bills.

We clearly recognize that this system is not sustainable. That's why JOHN CONYERS and I drafted a bill, H.R. 676, that provides for universal single-payer, not-for-profit health care. We're already paying for such a system. It's just that we're not getting it because \$1 out of every \$3 goes for the activities of the for-profit system for corporate profits, stock options, executive salaries, advertising, marketing, the cost of paperwork.

It's time to take that \$800 billion a year and put it into care for people. Everyone is covered then for vision care, dental health care, mental health care, prescription drugs, long-term care. It's time for single-payer.

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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CONTRADICTING INTELLIGENCE ON IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM

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

Mr. KIRK. The United States revealed a secret underground uranium enrichment facility near Qom, Iran. U.S. officials told us they were carefully observing it for "several years." But earlier this year, the Director of National Intelligence, Dennis Blair, provided written congressional testimony that the intelligence community has "no evidence that Iran has yet made a decision to produce highly enriched uranium."

There is a glaring contradiction between the administration's revelation and Blair's testimony. I urge Members to cosign the bipartisan Kirk-Berkley letter calling on Director Blair to account for contradictory testimony on the growing Iranian threat.

The 2007 National Intelligence Estimate on Iran downplaying the threat now appears to be a glaring Intelligence failure. According to the Wall Street Journal, the main authors of that NIE, Van Van Diepen, Tom Finger, and Ken Brill, should be accountable, too.

Congress should ensure that key officials get this right, especially on Iran.

ALERT DRIVERS ACT

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, distracted driving is a serious problem in our Nation. One study conducted by Virginia Tech University found that drivers are 23 times more likely to get into an accident when texting. A recent New York Times/CBS News Poll indicated 90 percent of adults agree that texting while driving should be illegal.

This is an issue that rises above political power. This is why the Department of Transportation has dedicated a 2-day summit here in Washington this week to address the rising concerns of distracted driving on our Nation's highways.

H.R. 3535, the ALERT Drivers Act, which I am proud to introduce along with my colleague, Nita Lowey from New York, would ban anyone from writing, sending, or reading text messages while operating a moving vehicle.

Already endorsed by Ford Motors and the Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, I ask that you join me in curbing preventable accidents on our Nation's roadways and cosponsor the ALERT Drivers Act.

Madam Speaker, we see these accidents all the time. We need to do something.

SMALL BUSINESSES AND HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, affordable health care is critical to our country, but let's not forget small business. They create 70 percent of the jobs in Florida. Ninety-nine percent of all businesses in Florida are small businesses, but yet in this debate we're looking at charging small businesses an 8 percent tax on payroll. That's like a fixed expense.

They're also looking to raise taxes up to 45 percent, with a 5.4 in sunseting President Bush's tax. So, again, 45 percent. A lot of that's pass-through income for many of our small companies.

These taxes will kill jobs. The 8 percent alone, they're talking, will put 20 percent of our businesses out of business in Florida. I know. I've been in business for 30 years.

Let's help our small businesses. Small businesses create the jobs. We can cannot afford to tax them to death. It needs to be about the economy and jobs.

SAVE THE OCEANS

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

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, yesterday, the actor Sigourney Weaver showed a movie in the Capitol which was scarier than her movie *The Aliens* because it was fact, not fiction, and it was a movie documenting the acidification of the oceans caused by carbon dioxide that we burn that goes in the atmosphere, goes in the water, and makes the oceans acidic. This documentary showed that the waters off the Pacific coast soon will be so acidic that they can actually melt shell life.

The reason I mention this is that yesterday the EPA rolled out proposed rules to do something about these noxious gases. Some have said we shouldn't do that, but those are the same people saying we shouldn't pass a bill. They're saying we shouldn't regulate CO₂ here, there, or anywhere.

I urge all of us to move forward on a bipartisan basis to stop ocean acidification by passing the energy bill we passed in the House. We hope the Senate will pass it. That's a route to do it. But, one way or another, we've got to save the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

NATIONAL MEDIA IGNORES MEDIA EVALUATION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, if a poll is conducted but no one hears about it, does that poll really exist? Sacred Heart University recently found out that five out of six Americans see

the national news media as "very or somewhat biased." But you aren't likely to hear about the Sacred Heart poll from the establishment media.

A search of *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *USA Today* yielded zero articles about the poll. Network news programs have also intentionally ignored it.

It seems the establishment media believe that if they simply ignore the poll, it does not exist. It's no wonder that almost half of Americans have stopped watching a news outlet because of the media bias. By ignoring a poll that shows their bias, the establishment media has confirmed the poll's results that most Americans believe the national media is biased.

And that's just the way it is.

CORAL REEFS

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Last week, the House passed critical legislation to protect one of Florida's most treasured national wonders. The Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement, which I strongly supported, will be a key tool in protecting this endangered ecosystem.

The bill will support grants for coral reef conservation and scientific research at our outstanding institutions like the National Coral Reef Institute in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Coral reefs are integral to our safety and economy in south Florida. They act as a first line of defense against hurricanes and storm surges and they drive our tourist economy by bringing divers, snorkelers, and fishermen from all over the world to our community. In Broward County alone, coral reefs contribute over \$2 billion annually to our local economy.

Madam Speaker, this is not a Democrat or a Republican issue. Protecting our national treasures is something we can all agree on. I'm proud that my colleagues came together to pass this important piece of legislation.

MEDIA SLOW TO REPORT ON ACORN SCANDAL

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

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, in his latest column, *New York Times* Public Editor Clark Hoyt criticized the *Times* for its lack of coverage of the ACORN fraud and corruption scandal. Hoyt wrote that the *Times* showed "slow reflexes" and risks appearing "clueless" or "partisan" if it does not cover similar stories in the future.

The *Times* wasn't alone. The *Washington Post's* ombudsman admitted the *Post* was slow to cover the story as well and speculated that reporters' liberal leanings might have played a part.