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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. RYAN of Wisconsin).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 26, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable PAUL RYAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Metropolitan Stephan F. Petrovich, Archbishop and Primate of New York, Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church in the U.S.A., offered the following prayer:

All powerful God, You know the hearts of all people and guide all things under Your powerful protection. Help us to always acknowledge Your greatness in comparison to our own human frailty and guide us as we continue to work to make Your will to be done on this Earth.

Bless our Nation which is founded on trust in You. Make us always grateful for the freedoms and blessings we enjoy in this great land of prosperity and mindful of the principles of liberty and justice for all, which our founding fathers and mothers have instilled in us.

In Your divine mercy, guide our Nation's leaders, our elected officials and especially these men and women here today, always keeping in mind these awesome principles upon which our country is founded, never to forget that You call us all not to work for self-glory but to serve the greater good and always make them worthy of the work entrusted to them.

We ask You, O God, to give us the courage to work for peace in the whole world, that the example we give may lead others to sincerely desire the furtherance of the right to the pursuit of happiness for all humankind.

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 gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WAXMAN 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 Mr. Lundregan, 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. 350. An act to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to promote the cleanup and reuse of brownfields, to provide financial assistance for brownfields revitalization, to enhance State response programs, and for other purposes.

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN STEPHAN F. PETROVICH, ARCHBISHOP AND PRIMATE OF NEW YORK

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

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to welcome His Beatitude, Metropolitan Stephan to the United States House of Representatives and to thank him for offering a very thoughtful prayer this morning. I appreciate his willingness to visit Congress and share those meaningful words with Members of the House.

Despite his distinguished position as the highest ranking official of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the United States, Metropolitan Stephan is widely recognized for his great humility in connection to the people he serves. His leadership in bringing people of diverse economic, social, and political backgrounds together in fellowship has made a positive difference in the lives of many Americans.

In addition to his services, Metropolitan Stephan has served our Nation in many other ways. A Vietnam veteran, His Beatitude has founded and supported a number of charitable organizations, including a health care program for seriously ill individuals, and efforts to supply humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine.

On behalf of my colleagues, I thank Metropolitan Stephan for joining us today and wish him the very best during his visit to Washington.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain 10 one-minutes on each side.

NATIONAL PRETZEL DAY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, though many people do not know it, today has been designated by the industry as National Pretzel Day. This is a multimillion-dollar industry, and I have a

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number of large pretzel producers in my district, including Auntie Anne's, which you see in the shopping malls, Herr's, Anderson, Sturgis, Hammond and others. Everybody, it seems, eats pretzels today; but few of us know about the history of the pretzel and that they are one of the world's oldest snack foods.

Pretzels go back as far as 610 A.D., when young students in North Italian monasteries received them as rewards for correctly reciting their prayers.

A monk designed the pretzel to resemble the way students cross their arms across their chest in prayer, and that is also where the pretzel gets its name. Pretzel comes from ''pretiola,'' the Latin word for ''little reward.''

Pretzels have come a long way in the last 1,400 years and they are now a multimillion dollar industry in the U.S., and they are very popular. I am very proud to say that many of America's most popular pretzels come from Lancaster and Chester Counties in Pennsylvania.

GOLDEN JACKPOT AWARD GOES TO THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY

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

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am announcing the new winner of the Golden Jackpot Award which has been created to recognize indefensible government decisions that benefit special interests at the expense of the public interest.

There are two worthy contestants for today's award. The recent Bush administration decision to eliminate contraceptive coverage for women in the Federal health insurance plans and to freeze funding for family planning programs is an amazing example of a ridiculous policy aimed at satisfying right-wing groups that cannot distinguish between abortion and family planning.

Even this incredible decision pales next to Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham's rollback of air conditioner efficiency standards at a time when America is facing its worst energy problems in 25 years. This is an obscure decision that has enormous implications. Because of the rollback, the United States will have to build over 40 new power plants by the year 2020.

The action benefits the manufacturers of air conditioners who contributed heavily to President Bush and Republicans, but it is a disaster for the American people, and Californians in particular. I give this award to Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham.

REWARDING PERFORMANCE IN COMPENSATION ACT

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, performance bonuses and gainsharing programs are a way for employees to share in the success of a company that they work for. Whether exempt or nonexempt, all employees should have the same opportunity to receive bonuses for their hard work. For many employers, the administrative costs associated with operating bonus programs for their hourly employees often end up costing more than actual bonuses. Because of this, current law virtually ensures that employers exclude hourly workers from bonus programs.

Today, I am reintroducing The Rewarding Performance in Compensation Act, which will help workers to share when their efforts that they have produce gains for the company. This legislation would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act to specify that an hourly employee's regular rate of pay in calculating overtime would not be affected by additional payments that reward employees who meet certain goals.

Simply put, this bill would give hourly nonexempt employees the same access to bonuses that are exempt from professional employees that they already receive, and I ask my colleagues to support The Rewarding Performance in Compensation Act.

UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the so-called Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which will be before this body later on today.

First of all, we should have truth in advertising. This bill has nothing to do with protecting unborn victims, which in it is defined as broadly as three cells, but everything in rolling back a woman's right to choose. It is not about violence against pregnant women. It is about taking away a woman's right to choose. It erodes Roe v. Wade. It will define for the first time the beginning of life in a criminal statute.

The domestic violence groups in America do not support it, but President Bush does. I have the statement of administration policy, President Bush's policy, which is anti-woman, toothless in protecting women against violence; but it is very strong in depriving a woman of a right to choose.

I urge everyone to vote against this bill when it comes to the floor today.

SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERS AND WORKERS IN SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA UPLIFTS COMMUNITY

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak today about the floods that have been wreaking havoc in southwest Minnesota and other areas around the country. A week ago, I was in Montevideo and in Granite Falls with Governor Ventura, and I was saddened by the devastation and flooding that nature can cause; but I was uplifted by the spirit of volunteers and workers that came to help their communities with such a disaster.

I wanted to take this time to thank those communities and the leaders and the many youth who gave so much work and worked so hard to help their neighbors during this time of need: Carver County and Kevin Carrolls; Chaska and Mayor Bob Roepke; Granite Falls and Mayor Dave Smiglewski and Bill Lavin; Montevideo and Mayor Jim Curtis and Steve Jones; New Ulm and Mayor Arnolf Koelpin and Gary Gleisner; Redwood Falls and Mayor Sara Triplett and Jeff Weldon; Shakopee and Mayor Jon Brekke and Mark McNeill; St. Peter and Todd Prafke and Jerry Hawbaker; and to all the others who have worked so hard to help their communities. We applaud their efforts and we thank them.

PROCTOLOGIST SHOULD BE ADVISING JUDGES AT FRENCH BEAUTY CONTEST

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, is she or is she not? Rumors persist that Miss France is not a big-bone diva but actually a man. Reports say that pageant officials said they are anxiously awaiting the bathing suit contest. Unbelievable. Maybe J. Edgar Hoover will crown the next Miss France, Mr. Speaker.

Hey, what is next? Will they have certification standards performed by licensed gynecologists for these pageants? Beam me up. This is not brain surgery. Even the University of Dayton School of Political Science can determine human genitalia.

I yield back the fact that a proctologist should be advising these judges at this French beauty contest.

UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT, A SHIELD OF PROTECTION TO UNBORN CHILDREN

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

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 503, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. This bill extends a shield of protection to those children that cannot protect themselves.