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No. 4

House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, in your scriptures "to be elected" is "to be among the chosen."

Down through the years, You have chosen people and given them specific tasks and great responsibilities to accomplish before the world, marvelous deeds in Your Holy Name.

Although all are equal in Your sight, at certain times, You call for certain people. No one is ever rejected by You, but You alone know who should be called to serve You at a particular time to achieve Your purpose, whether it is to correct, affirm, admonish or teach.

As Your people, we are truly blessed. As a people any of us may feel called to lead. But because of Your care for Your people at any given moment, You alone know the ones who should serve. This Nation has come to trust in Your guidance in the unfolding of its history. This Nation turns to You again and seeks Your Spirit that it may be true to all Your commands, learn from its past and be a sign of promise for the future.

As this Chamber hosts the Joint Session of Congress for the counting of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States, be with us. Be with us as before. Be with us as never before.

May those who are elected be received by the people of this Nation with prayer that they may be open to Your power and their leadership in the years ahead. Before You we all stand humbly as servants 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 Texas (Mr. COMBEST) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COMBEST 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.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS-ELECT

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) kindly come to the well of the House and take the oath of office at this time.

Mr. STARK and Mr. GUTIERREZ appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

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 4, 2001.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to 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 4, 2001, at 3:53 p.m.

Appointments:
Senate National Security Working Group
NATO Parliamentary Assembly
Tellers to count electoral votes
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, L.
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 5, 2001.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to 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 5, 2001 at 9:49 a.m.

That the Senate PASSED without amendment H. Con. Res. 1.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, L.
Clerk of the House.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 11, rule X, and clause 11 of rule I, the Chair appoints the following Members of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

□ 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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Mr. GOSS of Florida, chairman,
Ms. PELOSI of California.

APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE TO COUNT ELECTORAL VOTES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, the 107th Congress, the Chair appoints as tellers on the part of the House to count the electoral votes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COMBEST). The Chair will entertain five 1-minutes on each side.

JOYOUS REALIZATION IN REACHING AN END TO A TORTUOUS POLITICAL CAMPAIGN

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

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, my friends, I join you in the joyous realization that we have reached the end of a very tortuous political campaign, and today is the final act in choosing our national leader.

The United States Supreme Court very unusually had an important role in bringing this to its stated finality. But it did, among several things, one very important thing, and that is reassert the primacy of the legislative branch, the elected legislature, rather than the appointed judicial branch. That is very important.

Today, we can approach this as Americans, not as Republicans, not as Democrats, not as conservatives, not as liberals, but as Americans. We can serve the public good, the common good. We are elected to do that. Let us put the bitterness and rancor behind us, and let us move forward to do the job we are sworn to do. God bless America.

OBJECTING TO THE ELECTORAL VOTE COUNT FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA

(Ms. WATERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, let the RECORD show that on today, Saturday, January 6, I am present on the floor of the House of Representatives prepared to object to the electoral vote count for the State of Florida at the proceedings that will take place at 1 o'clock.

Let the RECORD show that the rules require all objections to be submitted in writing and signed by a Member of the House and a Member of the Senate. As of 11:00 today, I have not been able to identify any U.S. Senator prepared

to sign any objections; therefore, all attempts to object may be denied. However, I am voicing my objections to the electoral votes submitted by Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I believe these electoral votes to be illegitimate and unrepresentative of the true popular vote in Florida. Vice President GORE is leading in popular votes in excess of 500,000 votes in this country, and all of Florida's vote recounts are not yet tabulated. The recounts will document that GORE won Florida, despite voter fraud, despite voter intimidation, despite the butterfly ballots, despite the criminal recording of ID numbers on absentee ballots. History will record what really took place in this election.

HOPING TO HEAL WOUNDS AND PUT PEOPLE BEFORE POLITICS

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, for the most part, it is a quiet and peaceful day here in Washington.

There is a light dusting of snow outside, and the sun is shining brightly.

This place that the world calls America, but all of us call home, is a special place. There is a good reason for this. We are a peaceful Nation. We are a Nation of laws. We are a Nation that takes pride from the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the frustration from the past election; I often feel the same frustration, but now is the time to move forward, to work together, to work in good faith.

I want to work with my Democrat friends to do what is best for America in areas of education, national security, Social Security, Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we can heal the wounds and put people before politics today and throughout the coming weeks and the coming months.

EXPRESSING OUTRAGE AND EXASPERATION OF CONSTITUENTS IN MIAMI, FLORIDA

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am a born and raised resident of the State of Florida. I do not stand today before this Congress with great pride, because I must object to the way the votes were handled in the State of Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to express the outrage and exasperation of my constituents in Miami, Florida, over the failure of our government and our electoral system in the 2000 Presidential election; 20,000 votes or more were not counted in Miami, Dade County, Florida.

I am standing so that history will show and record my words so that people might better understand what has happened to us in Miami.

We are outraged because African American voters in Florida did every-

thing they were supposed to do, studied the issues. We did our civic duty. We lined up at the polls and we voted; and yet massive numbers of our votes were not counted. We cannot be silent, even though we would like to. First, the importance of this election is important throughout the country. We exercised what we thought was our legal right, only to have it nullified by faulty and defective voting machines distributed discriminatorily, targeted in our neighborhoods, nullified by purge of voting lists, and on and on.

Mr. Speaker, I want America to understand that African Americans were not given process in this election.

TODAY IS A DAY OF STATESMANSHIP, CIVILITY, AND RESPECT

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, just 24 days ago, an agonizingly close, long Presidential election came to a close. Regardless of partisanship or ideology, Americans were touched by Vice President GORE's gracious and heartfelt concession speech. That night he recalled the words of Senator Steven Douglas from nearly a century and a half ago. Following his loss to Abraham Lincoln, Douglass said partisan feeling must yield to patriotism. I am with you, Mr. President, and God bless.

Those words were spoken at a time when divisions in the United States were so severe that the next 5 years saw nearly 700,000 Americans give their lives in a great Civil War. Certainly today, even with the partisan rancor that accompanies such a close election, we can stand together.

The traditions of our forefathers, the honor of our constitutional democracy, and the spirit of the words of Vice President GORE call for this to be a day of statesmanship, civility, and respect.

VOICING OBJECTION TO TALLY ON PREMISE OF SELF-EVIDENT TRUTH THAT WE ALL ARE CRE- ATED EQUAL

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Alexander Hamilton said the sacred rights of mankind can never be erased or obscured by mortal power. Today is a solemn day, a day to affirm the votes of the American people; yet thousands of Americans' votes were not counted.

□ 1115

I went to Florida and saw thousands of Floridian votes thrown out. After marches in Selma, Alabama and a dream that was enunciated at the Lincoln Memorial, it is imperative that the self-evident truth is that every vote must count.