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No. 2

House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 6, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

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

God of justice and Lord of history,
In 1821 John Quincy Adams said, "Let us not be unmindful that liberty is power . . . The nation blessed with the greatest portion of liberty must, in proportion to its numbers, be the most powerful nation on Earth."

Your scriptures tell us, Lord, "Balance and scales belong to the Lord; all weights of justice are His concern."

Lord God, through the years, the three branches of government and the Electoral College have had a lot to do with balancing power in this Nation.

Today as the legislative branch of government counts the votes of the Electoral College to verify the election of the President, we praise and thank you for the intuition of law-abiding citizens who seek justice in every free election and for the desire of founding fathers to have both the voice of large and small States, and the votes of States with the most and the least in population, both be heard and counted.

May the 109th Congress measure and be measured in the balance of dialogue and justice. And may every citizen of this great Nation find balance in his or her own life so to find peace in oneself and fairness with others.

So we will pray and act now and forever. 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 South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CLYBURN 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.

ELECTION OF MAJORITY MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 32) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 32

Resolved, That the following Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives.

Committee on Agriculture: Mr. Goodlatte, Chairman.

Committee on Appropriations: Mr. Jerry Lewis of California, Chairman; Mr. C.W. Bill Young of Florida; Mr. Regula; Mr. Rogers of Kentucky; Mr. Wolf; Mr. Kolbe; Mr. Walsh; Mr. Taylor of North Carolina; Mr. Hobson; Mr. Istook; Mr. Bonilla; Mr. Knollenberg; Mr. Kingston; Mr. Frelinghuysen; Mr. Wicker; Mr. Cunningham; Mr. Tiahrt; Mr. Wamp; Mr. Latham; Mrs. Northup; Mr. Aderholt;

Mrs. Emerson; Ms. Granger; Mr. Peterson of Pennsylvania; Mr. Goode; Mr. Doolittle; Mr. LaHood; Mr. Sweeney; Mr. Sherwood; Mr. Weldon of Florida; Mr. Simpson; Mr. Culberson; Mr. Kirk; Mr. Crenshaw; Mr. Rehberg; Mr. Carter; and Mr. Alexander.

Committee on Armed Services: Mr. Hunter, Chairman.

Committee on Budget: Mr. Nussle, Chairman.

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Mr. Boehner, Chairman.

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Mr. Barton, Chairman; Mr. Hall; Mr. Bilirakis; Mr. Upton; Mr. Stearns; Mr. Gillmor; Mr. Deal; Mr. Whitfield; Mrs. Cubin; Mr. Shimkus; Mrs. Wilson of New Mexico; Mr. Pickering; Mr. Fossella; Mr. Blunt; Mr. Buyer; Mr. Radanovich; Mr. Bass; Mr. Pitts; Mrs. Bono; Mr. Walden; Mr. Terry; Mr. Ferguson; Mr. Mike Rogers of Michigan; Mr. Otter; Mrs. Myrick; Mr. Sullivan; Mr. Murphy; Mr. Burgess; and Mrs. Blackburn.

Committee on Financial Services: Mr. Oxley, Chairman.

Committee on Government Reform: Mr. Tom Davis of Virginia, Chairman.

Committee on Homeland Security: Mr. Cox, Chairman.

Committee on House Administration: Mr. Ney, Chairman.

Committee on International Relations: Mr. Hyde, Chairman.

Committee on Judiciary: Mr. Sensenbrenner, Chairman.

Committee Resources: Mr. Pombo, Chairman.

Committee on Rule: Mr. Gingrey.

Committee on Science: Mr. Boehlert, Chairman.

Committee on Small Business: Mr. Manzullo, Chairman.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Mr. Don Young of Alaska, Chairman.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Mr. Buyer, Chairman.

Committee on Ways and Means: Mr. Thomas, Chairman; Mr. Shaw; Mrs. Johnson of Connecticut; Mr. Herger; Mr. McCrery; Mr. Camp; Mr. Ramstad; Mr. Nussle; Mr. Johnson of Texas; Mr. Portman; Mr. English; Mr. Hayworth; Mr. Weller; Mr. Hulshof; Mr. Ron Lewis of Kentucky; Mr. Foley; Mr. Brady;

□ 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. Reynolds; Mr. Ryan of Wisconsin; Mr. Cantor; Mr. Linder; Ms. Hart; Mr. Beauprez; and Mr. Chocola.

Mr. PENCE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTION OF MINORITY MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 33) and ask for immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 33

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

- (1) COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.—Mr. Peterson of Minnesota.
- (2) COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.—Mr. Obey.
- (3) COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.—Mr. Skelton.
- (4) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Mr. SPRATT.
- (5) COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE.—Mr. George Miller of California.
- (6) COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE.—Mr. Dingell.
- (7) COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES.—Mr. Frank of Massachusetts.
- (8) COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM.—Mr. Waxman.
- (9) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—Mr. Thompson of Mississippi.
- (10) COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.—Mr. Lantos.
- (11) COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—Mr. Conyers.
- (12) COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES.—Mr. Rahall.
- (13) COMMITTEE ON RULES.—Ms. Slaughter.
- (14) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE.—Mr. Gordon.
- (15) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Ms. Velázquez.
- (16) COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE.—Mr. Oberstar.
- (17) COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS.—Mr. Evans.
- (18) COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.—Mr. Rangel.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain five one-minutes per side.

LEGITIMATE ELECTION

(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, today, Congress will certify the votes of the Elec-

toral College. In doing so, we will reaffirm the historic victory won by President Bush. On November 2, 2005, he won more votes than any candidate in history, becoming the first President since Franklin Roosevelt to win reelection while leading his party to two consecutive gains in the Senate.

Based on conspiracy theories and speculation, some in the minority party will seek to derail the constitutional duty we will seek to carry out today. They are wrong for doing so.

President Bush won Ohio by 118,457 votes. Again, some will not accept the results of a democratic election. They intend to prolong legal challenges to achieve in court what they could not achieve on Election Day.

Look at the basis for the legal challenge, Mr. Speaker. Mysterious hackers manipulating voting machines, phantom agents committing unspecified acts, Senator KERRY receiving fewer votes than another statewide candidate, and the final results not reflecting exit poll numbers.

Mr. Speaker, this is absurd. None of these charges are legitimate. But votes are. The quicker we accept the fact, get on with addressing the issues that caused the American people to support George Bush in record numbers, the better we will be.

ROBBING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, this morning we learned the White House wants to not only privatize Social Security but also wants to cut retirees' benefits. Privatization takes money from retirees on Main Street and gives it to the Enrons of Wall Street. Will Wall Street care about what happens to precious Social Security funds when more than half of the private pension funds in the U.S. are already insolvent and cut Social Security benefits?

No one is cutting the cost of food, rent, electricity, gas, oil or property taxes.

There is a solution. Keep the Wall Street/White House hands off. Do not privatize Social Security. Do not cut Social Security benefits. Social Security is rock solid through the year 2042. The crisis is the attempted theft of retirees' benefits.

Mr. Speaker, call the cops. The American people are being robbed.

AMERICAN BOXER REBELLION

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. And so, Mr. Speaker, it begins, the canard of hyperbole, the delusional statements, indeed, word coming to this body that later today, in a joint session, one from the other body will lead an American-born Boxer Rebellion.

The conspiracy theorists use celluloid and mockumentaries and fevered imaginings to try to mischaracterize debate and, as we understand, even this afternoon, try to dissuade numbers and facts.

Mr. Speaker, the sour grapes, the sensationalism, the conspiracy theories, and the fear and smear should be laid to rest. It will be later this afternoon, and for the American people it will be through vigorous factual debate.

BOXER REBELLION OF TODAY

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, if you believe in today's Boxer Rebellion, you must believe that the 627 million votes for President Bush do not count. You must believe that the 50 Secretaries of State who certified their elections were all wrong. You must believe that Ohio's Secretary of State lied in his solemn certification of Ohio's electorate. You must believe that Senator KERRY was all wrong when he said the election should be decided by voters, not lawyers.

Today, you will hear from Members of Congress who want to choose a President here in Congress because they do not like the choice that was made at the voting booth. But, here in America, elections should be decided at home at the ballot box and not here by extremist Members of Congress who show themselves on national television to be sore losers.

HONORING SERGEANT JEREMY WRIGHT

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, in December I had the privilege of leading a delegation of my colleagues to visit American forces serving in Operation Enduring Freedom in Kabul, Jalalabad and Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan.

As we learned during our journey, Mr. Speaker, Afghanistan is a place where American generosity and American power are succeeding. But upon my return I had a grim and heart-breaking reminder of who deserves the credit. The American soldier. Literally, the day that I arrived back to work here on Capitol Hill this week, I was notified by the military and by his family of the combat death of Sergeant Jeremy Wright of Shelbyville, Indiana, an incident that claimed his life just 6 short weeks after arriving for duty in Afghanistan.

It is written that no greater love has a man than this that he should lay down his life for his friends.

So I conclude that Sergeant Jeremy Wright's name, like every other American soldier lost in the war on terror in