

passion? Tell us, are You the one to rule Your people and the nations? Need we look for another?

Since Your coming is wrapped in night's silence and peace, we fail to understand Your notion of power. Your drawing near only gives rise to questioning good news.

All you, people of the Earth, whether rich or poor, need you look for another? Rush out to meet the Lord, Your God, and say: Rule over us, Shepherd of souls. Lead us as You did of old. Show us You are the one. Then, each of us can go on our own way and find rest. For the Earthly light You have set in the distant window will draw us home for the feast of promise.

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 Tennessee (Mr. COOPER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COOPER 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 passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 758. An act to establish an inter-agency aerospace revitalization task force to develop a national strategy for aerospace workforce recruitment, training, and cultivation.

H.R. 1285. An act to extend for 3 years changes to requirements for admission of nonimmigrant nurses in health professional shortage areas made by the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999.

H.R. 4057. An act to provide that attorneys employed by the Department of Justice shall be eligible for compensatory time off for travel under section 5550b of title 5, United States Code.

H.R. 4583. An act to amend the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939 to revise the requirements for labeling of certain wool and cashmere products.

H.R. 4766. An act to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide for the revitalization of Native American languages through Native American language immersion programs; and for other purposes.

H.R. 5136. An act to establish a National Integrated Drought Information System within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to improve drought monitoring and forecasting capabilities.

H.R. 6316. An act to extend through December 31, 2008, the authority of the Secretary of

the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

The message also announced that the Senate agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 419. Concurrent resolution recognizing and supporting the efforts of the State of New York to develop the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor, New York, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3546. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to serious adverse event reporting for dietary supplements and nonprescription drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 3718. An act to increase the safety of swimming pools and spas by requiring the use of proper anti-entrapment drain covers and pool an spa drainage systems, by establishing a swimming pool safety grant program administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to encourage States to improve their pool and spa safety laws and to educate the public about pool and spa safety, and for other purposes.

S. 4046. An act to extend oversight and accountability related to United States reconstruction funds and efforts in Iraq by extending the termination date of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

S. 4093. An act to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to extend a suspension of limitation on the period for which certain borrowers are eligible for guaranteed assistance.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minute speeches on each side.

PEARL HARBOR—"LEST WE FORGET"

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, West Virginia, California, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah, Maryland, Nevada, Arizona. These were fierce U.S. naval battleships whose silent guns and hulls became sacred graves in the peaceful Pacific for 2,403 Americans.

These sailors on board these battle wagons fought with the courage and heroism of entire legions of warriors when attacked by a fanatical and tyrannical enemy.

"December 7, 1941, a date that will live in infamy" were words spoken by President Roosevelt that became forever embedded in the minds of patriots across our land, igniting and launching a Nation into the fiery trenches of battle.

Japanese naval commanders were concerned because they said, "What Japan has done was awake a sleeping giant," the United States.

Mr. Speaker, those of the greatest generation proved that when invaded, our people will stand up and fight,

bringing the thunder of God upon our enemies. Defending freedom and liberty was the battle cry of the sailors and soldiers that died 65 years ago today.

Mr. Speaker, we don't always choose war, but we must always choose victory. And that's just the way it is.

PRIVATIZATION OF IRAQI OIL RESOURCES

(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, President Bush has cited oil as a reason for our continued presence in Iraq. The Iraq Study Group is recommending that Iraq oil law be changed to facilitate privatization of Iraq's oil resources. The Iraq report says as much as 500,000 barrels per day, that is \$1.3 billion per year in Iraqi oil wealth, is now being stolen, which is interesting since the oil ministry is the first place our troops were sent after the invasion. And we have 140,000 troops in Iraq.

How can we expect the end of the Iraq war and national reconciliation in Iraq while we advocate that Iraq's oil wealth be handled by private oil companies? And it is ironic that this report comes at the exact time that our Interior Department's Inspector General says that oil companies are cheating us, the U.S. people, out of billions of dollars and the administration is looking the other way. Is it possible that Secretary Baker has a conflict of interest, which should have precluded him from co-chairing a study group which promotes privatization of Iraq oil assets, given his ties to the oil industry? Is it possible that our troops are dying for the profits of oil?

RECOGNIZING THE WATAUGA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Watauga High School football team of 2006. The Pioneers of Watauga High School in Boone, North Carolina, set out with modest expectations and ended up just one game away from the State championship for 4-A football. They won 12 games and lost 3, and set an example of character and perseverance that made a lasting impression on their school and their community.

Frequently coming from behind in the second half to win their games, they won three times in the playoffs by one point, advancing further than any other team from Watauga County in 28 years.

Success on the football team had to be built from the ground level. And as the success of the team gained momentum in this special season, it brought a new spirit and energy to Watauga High

School and, indeed, to the whole community. In churches and stores you could hear excited conversations about the team's success.

In the end, they did not capture the State championship, but achieved something of greater and more lasting importance, the values of determination, hard work and courage in the face of adversity. In proving that history does not have to be destiny, they provided a very real example of the best of the American Dream and they lived at the heart of the American experience. Their school and their community are the better for it.

IRAQ STUDY GROUP REPORT

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

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, the Iraq Study Group has completed its work. Now it is available for all Americans to read. I would urge everyone to pick up a copy. It is only 96 pages. It contains 79 recommendations, and it is a vitally important tool to inform the debate on Iraq.

Regardless of how you feel about this report, the men and women of this commission did a commendable job in reaching a consensus. If only the American people can do the same thing.

Voters voted for change. We will have change. And over the next coming weeks during the Christmas holidays, we need to inform the debate so that everyone can give us, your representatives, your opinion about how the war should be conducted or how it should be ended. So this is a very helpful tool. It is now available for everyone. I urge all of our citizens to pick up a copy.

HOSPITAL INFECTION CONTROL

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, while we are all talking and debating about the number of deaths in overseas wars, America has a dirty little secret in terms of the numbers of deaths that occur in our hospitals. About 90,000 people a year die from infections that they receive at hospitals or health care, at a cost of about \$50 billion to our health care system.

The November issue of the "American Journal of Medical Quality" said it costs about \$26,000 for each patient to treat those diseases. And it lasts an average of 20.6 days for a patient that has an infection, compared to 4.5 days without.

If we are really serious about controlling health care cost, it is not a matter of shifting the burden to having the government take it over, nor is it a matter of offering tax breaks just to carry health insurance.

This Congress, in this upcoming Congress, it is our duty, it is our responsibility

to finally start doing some things about reforming our health care system so we can make it a system that people can afford, and not one that is so overwhelming in cost that it ends up hurting citizens and, in fact, leading to their deaths.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE MORE

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, on a day when 10 more U.S. soldiers died in Iraq, raising the number of brave Americans killed to 2,900, it is hard to find anything positive to say about the Baker Report, anything which is associated with a war which was hopelessly wrong from the outset.

It was Congress that demanded the creation of a bipartisan group to critically examine the U.S. presence. At long last, the Congress, the American people, and the reluctant President have an Iraq plan to debate, except this President's interest has already begun to wane. He recently installed his own study group, which is a sign to me the President has changed his rhetoric but has not changed the course.

America cannot and must not deal with Iraq in 2007 in the same way this President dealt with it in 2006. America needed a plan for Iraq long before the U.S. went in there. Many of the 79 recommendations made should have been implemented years ago. One recommendation that is imperative from any hope of success, diplomacy involving Iraq and Syria, has been rejected by the President before it is even debated out here in the Congress. The American people and the American soldiers deserve better than that. This President has led them into this mess and we have, now, a chance to lead them out. And he rejects the recommendations before they are even discussed. We need better than that out of the Presidency.

GO BUCKEYES

(Ms. PRYCE of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to accept Tuesday's challenge from the gentleman from Florida, who suggested that his Florida Gators will upset the undefeated number-one ranked Ohio State Buckeyes and our soon-to-be-declared Heisman Trophy Winner, quarterback Troy Smith.

In his ill-advised wager, the congressman staked a crate of Florida oranges to a corresponding delicacy from the State of Ohio. I offer up a crate of peanut butter and chocolate buckeyes. But no such buckeye treat will ever reach his palate, for he will never savor the sweet taste of victory.

If the gentleman from Florida remains tragically optimistic about his

team's chances in Glendale, he should examine the fate of two other teams whose schedules placed them helplessly in the path of the mighty Buckeyes. The agony that permeates through the cities of Austin, Texas and Ann Arbor, Michigan should serve ample notice to the Honorable Gator Fan that Florida's berth in the 2006 Fiesta Bowl is not an opportunity for football immortality, but a certain footnote in Ohio State's storybook 2006 season.

INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, 7.5 million Americans would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage. That is 7.5 million people who are currently struggling to make ends meet in an economy where job growth is slow, pay is falling, and prices are rising.

The minimum wage is currently at a historically low level in terms of purchasing power and at a striking 50-year low when adjusted for inflation. Hardworking families are currently struggling because this Republican Congress has refused to raise the minimum wage for the past 9 years.

Democrats believe that these millions of hardworking Americans deserve a pay raise to help them make ends meet in this tough economy. We believe that no one who works full-time in this country should have to live in poverty. They deserve a shot at the American Dream, a chance to give their family the opportunity to move ahead.

Mr. Speaker, within the first 100 hours of the new Democratic Congress, we are going to give these hardworking Americans a much-needed pay raise. It is time this Congress started expanding economic prosperity to those who have been left out. I ask my Republican colleagues to join the Democratic Congress in raising the minimum wage in January.

OPPOSING "RIGHT OF RETURN" REFERENCE IN THE IRAQ STUDY GROUP REPORT

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

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, a curious section of the Iraq Study Group final report which was submitted to the President yesterday mentions the so-called Palestinian right of return demand, and says that it should be addressed in the negotiation process to stabilize Iraq.

I am concerned that many in the region, including groups opposed to Israel's very existence, will take this mention in the Iraq Study Group report as support of a full so-called right of return.