



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2006

No. 125

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BONNER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 29, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JO BONNER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Barry C. Black, Chaplain, United States Senate, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, high and lifted up, Your ways are often beyond our understanding.

Today, guide the leaders of our Nation and world.

When they cannot discern Your purposes, open their eyes.

Lead them away from the valleys of discouragement and pessimism to the high ground of faith and cheer.

Through Your power, direct them when clouds obscure the light of Your countenance.

May they do Your work when there are none to applaud and encourage.

Give them the wisdom to strive simply to please You.

Remind them that in everything You are working for the good of those who love You and are called according to Your purposes.

We pray in Your holy name. 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. KELLY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. KELLY 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute requests on each side.

DO-NOTHING CONGRESS??

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

Ms. FOXX. I rise today to object to a phrase that has been said all too often lately, "the do-nothing Congress." The Democrats are speaking for themselves as they have not put forth any constructive ideas or sound policy.

As for our side of this aisle, this Republican-led Congress has taken major steps in the advancement of our Nation. I am honored to be a part of the 109th Congress and its accomplishments.

This Republican-led Congress has voted to permanently end the death tax and voted for additional tax cuts. The results: The economy is strong. The unemployment rate is at 4.7 percent, its lowest average over the past three decades. Home ownership is up. And just yesterday the Dow Jones industrial average reached its highest level in 6 years.

But most notably is all the legislation that has been passed to support

our troops and protect our homeland. We have listened to the American people and focused on their priorities. Our constituents wanted border security, and we passed several border security bills. In addition, Congress has passed numerous bills that will prevent terrorist attacks and give our military and intelligence forces the tools they need to win the global war on terror.

Mr. Speaker, this Republican-led Congress has taken tremendous steps in growing our economy, protecting our homeland, and fighting the global war on terror.

HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Every day, Americans work hard to meet their responsibilities, to pay their mortgage, to send their children to college, to save for retirement, and every day Americans worry about the health and safety of their family, friends, and loved ones. Yet, under the policy of the Bush administration and the Republican Congress, access to health care has gotten harder.

The number of untreated Americans is on the rise; 47 million are currently without insurance. Health insurance premiums are skyrocketing, a 73 percent increase over the last 5 years. And medical research is stifled because politics, not science, dictates public policy.

Democrats have a plan to make health care more affordable and to advance lifesaving medicine. Democrats will enable small businesses to join together to negotiate more affordable rates for their employees. Democrats will negotiate lower prices for seniors and eliminate overpayments to HMOs, and Democrats will work towards cures for diseases that affect all of our families by investing in the promise of stem

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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H7905