

Journal of the House

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

At ten o'clock in the forenoon the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Mark Pitton, Pastor of the United Church of Christ, Montpelier.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Greer Cowan of Westminster led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

House Bills Introduced

House bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred to committee or placed on the Calendar as follows:

H. 12

Rep. Obuchowski of Rockingham, for the committee on Ways and Means, introduced a bill, entitled

An act relating to education property tax rates

Which was read the first time and, under the rule, placed on the Calendar for notice tomorrow.

H. 13

By Rep. Koch of Barre Town,

An act relating to exemption of property transfer taxes;

To the committee on Ways and Means.

H. 14

By Rep. Fisher of Lincoln,

An act relating to capital gains exemption;

To the committee on Ways and Means.

H. 15

By Reps. Deen of Westminster, Botzow of Pownal, Clarkson of Woodstock, Jewett of Ripton, Masland of Thetford, McCullough of Williston, Mitchell of Barnard, Mrowicki of Putney and Sharpe of Bristol,

An act relating to aquatic nuisance control;

To the committee on Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources.

House Resolution Referred to Committee

H.R. 4

Rep. Fisher of Lincoln offered a joint resolution, entitled

House resolution urging support for the Day One Initiative to close the Guantanamo prison, stop torture of detainees, and end the United States government's policy of extraordinary rendition

Offered by: Representative Fisher of Lincoln

Whereas, terrorists hijacked four airplanes on Sept. 11, 2001, crashing two into the World Trade Center towers in New York City, one into the Pentagon, and one into a rural Pennsylvania field, and

Whereas, the federal government immediately began searching for the perpetrators of these violent actions, and

Whereas, an extra-territorial prison was established on U.S.-controlled land at Guantanamo, Cuba to hold and try alleged terrorists removed from the due process protections afforded detainees within the United States, and

Whereas, in violation of the Geneva Convention, torture has been used in the interrogation of detainees at the Guantanamo prison, and

Whereas, a practice known as "extraordinary rendition" has been used to seize, without warrants or other judicial orders, citizens of other countries and secretly transport them to foreign jails for interrogation, and these individuals have often been subject to torture, and

Whereas, these practices are inconsistent with American core values, and

Whereas, the Day One Initiative is a national effort to persuade President-elect Obama to close the Guantanamo Prison, stop torture of detainees, and end the practice of extraordinary rendition through the issuance of executive orders on the first day of his presidency, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body urges President-elect Obama, on his first day in office, to adopt the Day One Initiative by issuing executive orders that the Guantanamo prison in Cuba be closed, that the torture of detainees stop, and that the practice known as "extraordinary rendition" be ended, and be it further

Resolved: That the clerk of the house be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President-elect Obama and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

Which was read and referred to the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs.

Message from the Senate No. 6

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Marshall, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part adopted joint resolutions of the following titles:

J.R.S. 7. Joint resolution providing for release of payments to towns for highway aid.

J.R.S. 8. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

In the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and ten minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Komline of Dorset**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at one o'clock in the afternoon.