



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 1, 1995

No. 70

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mrs. WALDHOLTZ].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 1, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable ENID G. WALDHOLTZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leaders limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

RECESS IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Madam Speaker, the House has just completed a district work period, as Members know. Members are returning to Washington as we speak. The district work period is a time we all go home and listen to what the people we work for have to say. We reflect on what has been accomplished here in Washington. We report back to them. We get a little bit of a report card on how things should be done and

instructions about what it is that the people that we work for would like us to try and achieve as we go forward with the congressional agenda.

This year's spring break tragically, as we all know, was overshadowed by the terrible bomb blast that occurred April 19 in Oklahoma City. Our hearts and our prayers go out to the victims, their families, the entire Oklahoma community, and all the extraordinary Americans who have rallied together in this time of crisis. So many people were touched by this tragedy. Even in remote southwest Florida that I represent the grief was felt in families who lost loved ones who were killed in the blast. We certainly applaud the efforts of the President, Federal and local law enforcement, and Members of this Congress in coming together to bring the perpetrators to justice and explore the challenge of preventing such a tragedy from recurring again.

Madam Speaker, I spent a good part of the break meeting with citizens in Florida, from small business owners and operators to students, to representatives of the media, a broad cross section of the people who make things tick in our small corner of America. It was an extremely valuable period of dialog for me, a time to share ideas and reflect on where we as a nation need to be headed. The timing of the recess—which we all know included the tax filing deadline of April 17—helped focus people's attention on the functions of their Federal Government and the need for change in the way we conduct the Nation's business. Just about everywhere I went in my travels throughout the district and beyond the district as well, people were encouraged by the changes that are taking place up here in Congress in terms of increased efficiency, streamlined operations, less Government interference in their daily life, and maybe even achieving a better return to citizens for their hard-earned

tax dollars in the way we spend them. But there was also growing interest in tackling the challenge of reforming our tax system in a comprehensive way, and I suspect that may have had something to do with the fact that people were trying to understand those very difficult instruction forms at the last minute on April 15 when they were rushing to get in even before the extended deadline of April 17 this year. I think most people recognize that our current tax structure is inefficient, it is unfair, and it is largely incomprehensible certainly to the average American if they try and read the instructions. The paperwork alone is enough to ruin anyone's day, and the feeling is pervasive that many filers are paying too much and do not see a fair return on the investment they are required to make, and I think many agree that taxes are not moneys that are always well spent by Washington.

In fact, it was while I was home over this break that I received a note from our UPS delivery person who brought a package to my house. He scribbled his message right on the little yellow delivery ticket one gets right over the printed instructions so I could not read it exactly, but the sentiment was very clear. It said: "Today's tax system is unfair and needs to be changed." This particular citizen urged my support for a flat tax, an option that is gaining in popularity and deserves our close attention. There are, in fact, many possibilities for tax overhaul, including not just the flat tax, or some version of it, but the national sales tax and other variations on those themes. I am pleased that the chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the House majority leader have committed to beginning the dialog of tax reform this year, with the possibility of real change by next year. That would certainly be a welcome relief by the time April 15 came around.

□ 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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This is a discussion that affects every American, and I hope the national dialog will help to educate us all about the pros and cons of the options out there.

We understand the problem. We just do not know what the best solution is yet, and I think that that ought to be at the top of our agenda. I think it is clear from those of us who went home and took the pulse that America is ready for bold change. It is time to stop fooling around at the edges of some of these systems and start constructing new systems that are fairer and more efficient. Everybody I talked to one way or the other, when we got on the subject of taxation, said, "How about a better deal with our taxes? How about a system that we can understand?"

Well, Madam Speaker, how about it? As we tackle the budget process, can we include tax reform? I think the people we work for have asked us to do that, and I can see no reason at all why we should not. So how about it? Let us take on tax reform.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O loving God, we come together on this day and we recount with thanksgiving all the blessings You have bestowed upon Your people. Yet, we are painfully aware of the suffering of people whose lives have been devastated and whose families have been destroyed. We especially remember with our thoughts and prayers the people of Oklahoma City who have suffered such distress and misery. We pray that Your good spirit that supports and gives hope even in tragedy will be with them in their grief and give healing to their souls. We pray also for all those valiant people who have done so much to rescue those in need and who have risked their own lives to save others. May Your peace, gracious God, that passes all human understanding, be with all Your people, this day and every day, we pray. 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 pro tempore. The gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] will lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MONTGOMERY 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 Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed a resolution of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. RES. 111

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable John C. Stennis, late a Senator from the State of Mississippi.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate recesses today, it recess as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 421. An act to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for the purchase of common stock of Cook Inlet Region, and for other purposes; and

H.R. 517. An act to amend title V of Public Law 96-550, designating the Chaco Culture Archeological Protection Sites, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1158. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for additional disaster assistance and making rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 1158) "An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for additional disaster assistance and making rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. BOND, Mr. GORTON, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MACK, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BYRD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. LAUTENBERG,

Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. KERREY, Mr. KOHL, and Mrs. MURRAY to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills and a joint resolution of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 268. An act to authorize the collection of fees for expenses for triploid grass carp certification inspections, and for other purposes;

S. 349. An act to reauthorize appropriations for the Navajo-Hopi Relocation Housing Program,

S. 441. An act to reauthorize appropriations for certain programs under the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, and for other purposes;

S. 523. An act to amend the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to authorize additional measures to carry out the control of salinity upstream of Imperial Dam in a cost-effective manner, and for other purposes; and

S.J. Res. 32. Joint resolution expressing the concern of the Congress regarding certain recent remarks that unfairly and inaccurately maligned the integrity of the Nation's law enforcement officers.

The message also announced, that in accordance with Public Law 99-498, section 1505(a)(1)(B)(ii), the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints Mr. DOMENICI to the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development.

The message also announced, that pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99-93, as amended by Public Law 99-151, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints Mr. GRASSLEY as a member and chairman of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control.

The message also announced, that in accordance with Public Law 99-498, section 1505(a)(1)(B)(ii), the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints Mr. INOUE to the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native culture and Arts Development.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 96-388, as amended by Public Law 97-84, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore appoints Mr. GRASSLEY, to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, vice Mr. METZENBAUM.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. REID, and Mr. GRAHAM, to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WALDHOLTZ) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives: