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House of Representatives

The House met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. RIGGS].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 7, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable FRANK RIGGS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

O gracious God, from whom comes every good thing, we ask that Your Spirit lead us along the right way, hold our lives in Your providence, direct our minds and enlighten our hearts and heal us and make us strong. We begin each day with gratefulness and confidence that any anxiety or concern that we may have will be sanctified by Your gifts to us and made well by Your presence. May Your renewing Spirit, O God, touch the lives of every person, that we will be the people You would have us be, and do those good works that honor You and serve people everywhere. In Your name, we pray. 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 Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN, come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas 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 recognize 20 Members on each side for the purposes of making a 1-minute address to the House.

SUPPORT URGED FOR A REAFFIRMATION OF UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY IN CUBA

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today the House resumes consideration of the American Overseas Interests Act.

This bill reduces spending by \$3 billion over the next 2 years, and reforms our foreign policy institutions by folding three agencies into the State Department. Five recent Secretaries of State—Eagleburger, Baker, Shultz, Haig, and Kissinger—endorse this plan. The bill addresses important policy issues. It stops aid to countries that supply weapons to terrorist States and those who vote consistently against us in the United Nations. It cuts off aid to countries that provide aid to the Castro regime or which engage in subsidized trade with the Cuban dictatorship.

Tomorrow, freedom-loving people are rallying at noon in Lafayette Park in

front of the White House to protest the administration's policy of forcible repatriation of Cuban refugees. I encourage all of my colleagues to join in this protest and to demand a reaffirmation of this country's commitment to freedom and democracy in Cuba, and please support our bill this week.

HOUSTON ROCKETS PLAYING FOR CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me take just a minute away from the budget cutting debate and the foreign aid debate. Tonight the world champion Houston Rockets will be playing in the finals with the Orlando Magic. I just wanted to talk about it, because this is the second year in a row those of us in Houston have been honored to have the Rockets in the world championship.

This has been a tough year. That is why we are starting in on the road, even though we are world champions. We are blessed by not only a great basketball team but a great city in Houston.

I was honored a couple months ago to receive an award along with Hakeem Olajuwon, an outstanding alumnus of the University of Houston. I am proud that the University of Houston is playing a part in tonight's world championship, because both of the Rockets' stars, Olajuwon and Clyde Drexler, were on the University of Houston teams in 1983 and 1984 when they went to the NCAA championship. The Rockets are fighting to have a back-to-back championship. They have overcome adversity and injuries to become the Western Conference champions.

I see my colleague from Phoenix. There are great teams in Phoenix and other western divisions. I hope they

□ 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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will join us in trying to keep the title in the western division.

CLINTON SHOULD PASS THE BALL

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I would join with my colleague, the gentleman from Texas, in all well wishes to the Houston Rockets, and also really to the Orlando Magic, because cheering the NBA finals we are going to see some great basketball.

Also during the finals we will hear terms like air ball and slam dunk. These terms can also apply to what is happening right here in Washington. The new Republican majority is a slam dunk on the liberal establishment and the bloated Federal bureaucracy. The new Congress wants to deliver a facial on deficit spending.

On the other hand, President Clinton's administration is an air ball. Every time the President tries to show leadership, he is throwing up a brick. The latest example is his threatened veto of the rescission bill. In his first veto Bill Clinton will cut off funds to flooding victims in Missouri, earthquake victims in California, and those who suffered as a result of the Oklahoma City bombing.

Mr. Speaker, instead of constantly throwing up air balls, Bill Clinton should pass the ball to the team who will not choke when the going gets tough.

PROTECT THE FLAG

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in many cities and towns across America it is illegal to kiss in public. It is illegal in some places to ride a skateboard. It is illegal to burn trash or leaves. It is illegal to yodel or sing in public, and it is illegal, Mr. Speaker, to tamper with a mailbox. However, in America, it is completely legal to burn the flag, completely legal to desecrate the flag. It is even legal, Mr. Speaker, to urinate on Old Glory. In the words of a Russian comedian, "America, what a country." The truth is, Congress, the debate on protecting the flag is not about Old Glory. It is about national pride. Think about it.

STAY OUT OF BOSNIA

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, as we speak the President is laying the groundwork for military action in Bosnia. Our troops are about to be put in harm's way by an administration

with no Bosnia policy, no public support, and no idea how and when to stop our involvement once we get in.

Mr. Speaker, what is happening in Bosnia is a tragedy, but I ask you, has the President defined any legitimate American interest in the 900-year war in the Balkans, worth risking thousands of Americans? There is a better way—let the Bosnians defend Bosnia—lift the arms embargo.

Those who think lifting the embargo will prolong the war assume that the Serbs will win. As we speak, the Bosnian Government is preparing to launch a campaign to reverse Serbian gains. Serbia is in the grip of a severe internal crisis. Why not let the people of Bosnia make the price of Serbian aggression high? Why not let the people of Bosnia fight for their own freedom?

Mr. Speaker, this administration should start listening to the American people instead of the United Nations. Mr. President, stay out of Bosnia. Lift the arms embargo or be prepared to tell us why you want to leap into a war that will cost more American lives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will advise that Members should address their remarks to the Chair and not to the President.

SEX TRAFFICKING IN THAILAND

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge all my colleagues to support my resolution to demand that our Government work to stop the sex trafficking and forced prostitution of women and girls from Burma into Thailand. I am pleased that my colleague from Washington, Senator MURRAY, has introduced this same bill in the Senate.

I was appalled and disgusted to discover that the Government of Thailand has permitted the trafficking of women of brothels. Credible reports have indicated that thousands of Burmese women and girls, as young as 14, are being led into Thailand with false promises of employment, only to be forced to work in brothels under conditions which include sexual and physical violence, debt bondage, exposure to HIV, passport deprivation, and illegal confinement. In addition, members of the Thai police are often actively involved.

And now we read in our own New York Times, that Thai women are being brought to the United States for the same purpose. This is a practice the U.S. Government must not support and we must work to stop it, before it becomes a practice quietly condoned and supported worldwide.

As we debate the foreign aid budget, we must remember the gross human

rights violations which occur against women, and we must remember we have a moral duty to pay attention. We have ignored it for too long. This is an issue of fundamental human rights.

STUDENT LOANS

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

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I had the honor in the Memorial Day break to have been chosen as the commencement speaker at two schools, Trinity College in Hartford and Central Connecticut State University in Connecticut. As a result, I talked to many students during this time that we were in our districts. They are very worried.

A perfect example of these students right here is Vincent Federici. He has worked hard in high school, got good grades, got accepted to a good college. His mother is a computer worker, his father works at a machine shop. They have worked hard to make sure that Vincent can go to college. They have three sons coming along. They have put every dollar in order. They know where every penny is going.

Mr. Speaker, as we consider changes in the Student Loan Program, I ask Members to think about Vincent and the millions of other young men and women across this country who are doing the right thing, going to college so they can compete in this world competitive market. Please, Mr. Speaker, do not make the students that are going to college pay more and have a bigger burden. It is the wrong thing to do.

ON REPLACING THE FEDERAL INCOME TAX

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, this week on the Committee on Ways and Means we are looking at alternatives for making our tax system more clear, simple, and fair. There is no longer a question that we should revamp our Federal tax system.

President Carter was right when he stated that our income tax system is a disgrace to the human race. In 1914 we had just 14 pages of Federal income tax law. Today we have over 9,000 pages. A decade ago the IRS commissioned a study that said that it cost \$159 billion in compliance. Today it cost nearly \$500 billion in compliance costs alone.

Today one economist has estimated that last year more hours were spent doing taxes than were used to build a car, van, and truck in the United States. I look forward to working with my colleagues to design a Federal tax system that encourages savings and investment, rather than punishing those who plan for the future.