



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1996

No. 130

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.
The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

As the night brings the myriad stars to view and the day is warmed by the Sun, we are witnesses to the marvels of Your creation, O God, and the beauty of every living thing. In this world You have created the challenges and choices that are before Your people each day. May Your good Spirit, O gracious God, that points us in the way and heals us from all guilt and transgression, encourage us to make those choices that advance the cause of justice and promote the presence of virtue. May Your strong hand, that created the order of the heavens and the wonders of the Earth, guide, guard, and gird each person along the daily path. In Your name, 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.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Washington [Ms. DUNN] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DUNN of Washington 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 without amendment bills, a joint resolution, and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1772. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain interests in the Waihee Marsh for inclusion in the Oahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex;

H.R. 2909. An act to amend the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Act to provide that the Secretary of the Interior may acquire lands for purposes of that Act only by donation or exchange, or otherwise with the consent of the owner of the lands;

H.R. 3676. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the intent of Congress with respect to the Federal carjacking prohibition;

H.R. 3802. An act to amend section 552 of title 5, United States Code, popularly known as the Freedom of Information Act, to provide for public access to information in an electronic format, and for other purposes;

H.J. Res. 191. Joint resolution to confer honorary citizenship of the United States on Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, also known as Mother Teresa; and

H. Con. Res. 120. Concurrent resolution supporting the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine and the progress of its political and economic reforms.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3675) "An act making appropriations

for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, 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. 982. An act to protect the national information infrastructure, and for other purposes;

S. 1090. An act to amend section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Freedom of Information Act), to provide for public access to information in an electronic format, and for other purposes;

S. 2006. An act to clarify the intent of Congress with respect to the Federal carjacking prohibition; and

S. 2007. An act to clarify the intent of Congress with respect to the Federal carjacking prohibition.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina). The Chair will entertain ten 1-minutes on each side.

REFORM THE IRS

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

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to present you with a clear and convincing contrast of two visions for America: The Republican vision and the Democrat vision.

First, the Democrat vision:

In Monday's Washington Post my good friend, the gentleman from New York, CHARLIE RANGEL, the House Ways and Means Democrat in line to become chairman of the committee if the Democrats pull off a miracle, defended the IRS and said, "We have the best and fairest tax collection system in the world."

□ 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 containing 100% post consumer waste

H10603

Hmmm.

Now, for the Republican vision:

Earlier this month Bob Dole said, "It's time to end the IRS as we know it." He is calling for putting the word "service" back in the Internal Revenue Service by requiring IRS employees to help taxpayers understand the law rather than simply punish Americans for misapplying it.

I like the second vision, and I bet America will too. We need a solution to our IRS problem that empowers the hard-working American taxpayer. We need to reform the IRS.

ETHICS COMMITTEE PROCESS IS DEGENERATING

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

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk today about a process that lies at the heart of this House's reputation, the Ethics Committee process.

Its strength historically has been the ability of Democrats and Republicans to separate nuisance complaints from substantive charges important to the reputation of this House and to pursue such matters with diligence no matter where that takes it.

As a former member of the Ethics Committee, 8 years as a matter of fact, I cast some of the toughest votes of my congressional career, just as many others who have served on the Ethics Committee have done on a bipartisan basis. We cast them because we believe the reputation of this House is more important than any Member. I underline any Member.

I believe this Republican-controlled House has done tremendous damage to an already fragile process. The evidence: A year-long delay in appointing a special counsel in a case involving the leadership; the GOP leadership's initial refusal last December to even grant the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct floor time for a bipartisan recommendation on book royalties; now unreasonable delays in making an important report public.

We are watching the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct process completely degenerate.

FORTY REASONS TO SAY "NO" TO CLINTON REELECTION

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, late last week the Boston Globe ran the following article—"Four more years? Here are 40 reasons to say 'no.' I'd like to share their more amusing reasons to vote against Clinton.

His "Cabinet that looks like America" contained 14 lawyers and 10 millionaires; "100,000 more police on the street." Seen them yet?

"A tax cut for the middle class." Seen it yet?

George Bush was right: Clinton did want to turn the White House into the waffle house.

Shut down two of the four runways at Los Angeles International Airport so he could have his hair cut aboard Air Force one by Christophe of Beverly Hills; Christophe's going rate: \$200 per haircut; Jocelyn Elders; Craig Livingstone.

Clinton went on national television and answered questions about his underwear.

Mr. Speaker, haven't we had enough?

SUPPORT MOTION TO RELEASE REPORT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to follow up on the comments of my colleague of California about the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

The complaints that have been filed against the leader now are approximately 2 years old, having been originally filed in September 1994.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LINDER. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is referring to matters before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, which is against the rules of the House.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, my point is simply—

Mr. LINDER. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey will suspend for a moment.

The Chair sustains the gentleman's point of order just raised. The gentleman from New Jersey may proceed in order.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am simply trying to point out that myself and the members of the public, including many of the editorials around the country, the New York Times, feel very strongly that the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct needs to proceed with the investigation in this matter.

We have actually made a motion, which I hope will come up today, asking that the report of the outside counsel be released to the public. I feel very strongly that that report should be released. The time has come to do so.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, in spite of the admonition of the Chair, the gentleman continues to refer to matters

before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from New Jersey care to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. PALLONE. My only point, Mr. Speaker, is that a motion has been filed that this report should be released.

Mr. LINDER. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. PALLONE. I understand it is coming up today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

The Chair sustains the point of order raised by the gentleman from Georgia, and the gentleman from New Jersey must suspend any reference to that matter, since the resolution is not under consideration in the House at this time.

Mr. PALLONE. I understand it will be coming up later today, and I would simply say I will be supporting that motion.

DRUG USE UP UNDER BILL CLINTON

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

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, in 1992, before Bill Clinton took over as President, the overall chances that an adolescent used drugs was 1 in 20. In 1995, after 3 years of Bill Clinton, the chances an adolescent was using drugs had skyrocketed to 1 in 9.

Mr. Speaker, our children are being lied to. They are being sold on messages from popular culture, the music industry, and Hollywood that drug use is acceptable; that it is glamorous; and that it is cool. Nothing could be further from the truth. Drugs destroy lives, they destroy families, indeed they destroy freedom.

Under Bill Clinton, the war on drugs has become a small skirmish; a rear guard action. Enforcement is down, interdiction is down, and prison time for drug dealers is down. And this is all compounded by Bill Clinton's own flip-pant remarks on MTV about his own drug use.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot surrender; we cannot give up; we must fight for our children and fight for their future.

WISHING MY COLLEAGUES WELL

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

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, for me it is swansong time. I have two suggestions as I take my leave. The first is to my colleagues. Get to know each other and you will like each other. There is a lot to like in every Member of this body. In the words of Edward Wallis Hoch, "There is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us that it hardly becomes any of us to say very much about the rest of us."