



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1996

No. 14

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Ms. PRYCE].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 1, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable DEBORAH PRYCE 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:

Of all the many gifts that You have given, O God, we offer our gratitude for Your free gifts of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. You have invited us to speak to You with our supplications and petitions, our hopes and fears, our joys and concerns. When we face the challenges of the hour and the anxieties of every day, encourage us, O gracious God, to communicate with You in prayer and realize the abounding grace that You give to every person and know the overflowing love that is available to all. 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 her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the House in 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 desires to make an announcement.

After consultation with the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent and approval, the Chair announces that during the joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Jacques Chirac, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on his right and left will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House.

Due to the large attendance which is anticipated, the Chair feels that the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor, and the cooperation of all Members is requested.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Friday, January 26, 1996, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

During the recess, beginning at about 11:40 a.m., the following proceedings were had:

□ 1140

JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY JACQUES CHIRAC, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

The SPEAKER of the House presided. The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Bill Sims, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. On the part of the House, the Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Jacques Chirac into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY];

The gentleman from California [Mr. COX];

The gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN];

The gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER];

The gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT];

The gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. KENNELLY];

The gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER]; and

The gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON].

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as a committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Jacques Chirac, the President of the French Republic, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT];

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN];

The Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK];

□ 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

H1141

The Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND];

The Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL];

The Senator from Louisiana [Mr. BREAU];

The Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. PELL];

The Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE]; and

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID].

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Royal Highness, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 11 o'clock and 57 minutes a.m., the Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the President of the French Republic, His Excellency Jacques Chirac.

The President of the French Republic, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, and stood at the Clerk's desk.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, it is my great privilege and I deem it a high honor and a personal pleasure to present to you the President of the French Republic, His Excellency Jacques Chirac.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY JACQUES CHIRAC, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

(The following address was delivered in French, with a simultaneous translation in English.)

President CHIRAC. Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, Members of the Congress, first, I want to thank you very warmly for your welcome, and I am deeply touched by it.

"In America, I saw more than America; I was seeking a vision of democracy itself." Thus spoke Alexis de Tocqueville, one of our greatest thinkers. And because in the eyes of the world for more than 200 years you have been the symbol of such an ideal, I am indeed glad and proud of the opportunity of saluting today your very distinguished assembly.

Loyalty and friendship are the keynotes of my visit to the United States. It is a personal friendship, born during the liberation of France, when at the age of 12, I saw the American troops land in Provence. This friendship was still further strengthened when I came here to your country as a student, and I worked here, too, because one needs money to live, as a driver and as a soda jerk. It is a true and sincere friendship that grew from strength to strength each time I came to the United States, which was often.

But especially I wish to bear witness today to the friendship between our two peoples. We have all learned in our history books how France helped your country to establish itself as a free, sovereign, and independent nation and likewise, in return, how your political ideals had inspired our own revolution and contributed to the foundation of our Republic.

This friendship, sealed in blood, has never faltered. Twice during the present century, when Europe was engulfed in the darkness of war and barbarity, America rose up and threw in her might in the defense of democracy. Your soldiers paid with their lives or their wounds the price of that fight against evil.

Some of you here belong to that generation of heroes and your bodies carry the scars of war. Through you it is to the whole American people that I wish today to express our gratitude. The French will never forget the sacrifices you made for the freedom and the rebirth of Europe and France.

This exceptional relationship between the United States and France is based on a common vision of the world, the same faith in democracy, liberty, human rights, and the rule of law. Naturally, our interests do not always coincide, but since the very beginning France has always been and will always be, on the basis of equal rights and obligations, an ally of the United States, a firm ally, an ally you can count on.

Whenever essential values were at stake, each time France was by your side. In Berlin, and then during the Cuban missile crisis, and 20 years later, when the euromissiles were being deployed in Europe, and again in the Gulf war.

"True friendship," said George Washington, "is a plant of slow growth and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation." The friendship between our two peoples has stood the test.

The agreement that is to restore peace in Bosnia was signed 6 weeks ago in Paris in the presence of President Clinton. A few days later NATO was given the necessary authority to implement that peace.

This enterprise is the culmination of long, joint efforts. In 1994, France proposed to the Europeans, the United States, and Russia to set up an original structure, the contact group, in order

to work out a peace plan. For this to succeed, we first had to ensure respect for our soldiers on the ground. That is why as soon as I took office I suggested to our British partners that we set up the rapid reaction force, and we discussed this together, Mr. Speaker, to use the strength of NATO in a decisive manner. It is in this new environment that the United States took the excellent initiative to organize the Dayton talks. I wish to pay tribute to the tenacity, the talent of those who crafted the accord.

Our joint action in Bosnia, the first large-scale military operation ever carried out by the alliance, illustrates the profoundly novel nature of the missions NATO can be called upon to accomplish. In this case the task is to give a country devastated by 4 years of war a unique opportunity to attain peace at long last. The alliance would not evade such a mission. France, with the United States and Great Britain, is responsible for one of the three zones of operations, and we will do all in our power to make the operation a success.

By accepting to throw in the balance the full weight of the political and military power of the United States, President Clinton and your Congress have shown a sense of political responsibility, the high moral standards that are so deeply embedded in American tradition. My wish would be that this commitment be pursued in the form of a lasting and balanced participation in the necessary reconstruction of the region.

Your presence in Bosnia sends a clear message to the world: As in the past, the United States considers that Europe is vital for its own security. I wish to pay tribute to the continuity and the strength of this commitment.

As I stand before you, I wish to reaffirm the position of France: The political commitment of the United States in Europe in its military presence on European soil are still an essential element of the stability and the security of the continent and also of the world.

Our common action in Bosnia emphasizes the need for the Atlantic Alliance to adapt itself to a universe that is no longer that in which it was born. The reform must first define the modes of action that will enable it to meet effectively the unpredictable situations that can arise in the post-cold-war period.

But the reform must also enable the European allies to assume fully their responsibilities, with the support of NATO facilities, wherever the United States does not wish to engage its ground forces. In accordance with what was said at the 1994 summit, we must work on the European pillar within the alliance, which President Kennedy referred to and which must progressively become a reality with the Western European Union.

In this new situation, France is ready to take its full share of this renovation process. And this was demonstrated a few weeks ago when France announced