



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1996

No. 39

House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. ROGERS].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 20, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable HAROLD ROGERS 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:

Remind us, O gracious God, that we should use our words in ways that point to the truth and in a manner that elicits conversation and discussion. May our expressions not bring forth only a concern that only promotes our place or advantage, but may our words bring hope to those who despair, light to those who cannot see, encouragement to those who feel alone, and a beacon for those who seek the truth. And may the words that we say with our lips, we believe in our hearts and all that we hold in our hearts, may we practice in our daily lives. 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 gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACK-

SON-LEE] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE 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 entertain 15 1-minutes on each side.

AGRICULTURE IN OKLAHOMA

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, in most years Rogers and Hammerstein hit the nail right on the head when they penned, "Oklahoma, where the wind comes sweeping down the plain, and the waving wheat can sure smell sweet when the wind comes right behind the rain."

Well, my friends, this is not a typical year. There has been no rain, there is no waving wheat, and it seems all we are getting this year is the wind. It is dry, my farmers and ranchers are facing another bad year, and I am just praying that most of them will make it through this tough time.

Now I know this might not be a proper place to give a Southern Plains crop and weather report, but it's the only forum I have got. On national agriculture day, we in unison should all tip our hats to the men and women that fight the elements to provide us with the cheapest and safest food and fiber supplies that this world has ever known. We can't bring them rain. But colleagues, we can give them a workable farm policy. While I have great

faith in the conferees on the farm bill to do what is right for American agriculture, I take this floor to urge them to work expeditiously to make this happen.

REPEAL HIV-DISCHARGE PROVISION IN DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, last night the other body voted to repeal the hateful and punitive provision in the Defense Authorization Act requiring the immediate discharge of service men and women infected with the AIDS virus. I congratulate them.

Let us hope the House supports the other body's courageous action.

Mr. Speaker, requiring the discharge of HIV-positive personnel is unfair and punitive and is opposed by the Pentagon, including all the surgeons general of the military services. It is also opposed by the Veterans Administration, the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Air Force Association, former Senator Barry Goldwater and conservative columnists George Will and Charles Krauthammer.

It is both unnecessary and bad policy for the Congress to interpose its own personnel policy on the military. As General Shalikashvili has testified, "discharging service members with HIV deemed fit for duty would waste the Government's investment in the training of these individuals and be disruptive to the military programs in which they play an integral role."

Let's join such prodefense Senators as SAM NUNN, JOHN MCCAIN and CONNIE MACK in repealing the requirement that HIV-positive personnel be immediately discharged.

□ 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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LET US RECOGNIZE THE AMERICAN FARMER ON NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today on National Agriculture Day, I would like to express my appreciation for all the hard work that the American farmer does each year. Our Nation's food system is envied throughout the world. No where else is food produced and delivered with such remarkable quality and consistency, yet available at such a low price.

And in spite of the criticism leveled on the American farmer I am proud to say that this Congress, with the help of farmers across the Nation, worked within the new Republican framework and took a long hard look at the existing farm programs. We put in place a system that works effectively and efficiently, for our farmers, for our taxpayers, and for America. The result: A farm bill that costs the taxpayers less money and at the same time gives our farmers a safety net. A farm bill that is more flexible and market oriented than ever before and a farm bill that is the most environmentally friendly agriculture legislation in our history.

The road has not been easy. Farmers across the Nation struggle each year doing the most difficult work in the world. For this reason, on National Agriculture Day, it is important that we recognize the work they do and thank them greatly.

LEAVE THE AMERICAN WORKERS ALONE

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, General Motors is on strike; some people are blaming the workers. Let us get off it. It is not about blame anyway. It is about jobs and outsourcing. The fact is, companies keep killing good paying jobs by buying products outside their company from nonunion, low-wage companies that pay no benefits.

Enough is enough. When Zenith moved to Mexico, did they drop the prices of their televisions? When Smith Corona moved to Mexico, did they cut the prices of their typewriters? The truth is, American workers have been trapped between GATT and NAFTA, imports and outsourcing. It is time, ladies and gentlemen, it is time for workers to take a stand. If not now, when, and if not outsourcing, what is it?

Now, General Motors wants to make some cuts. They could hire some of those high paid executive a whole hell of a lot cheaper from China. Think about that and leave the American workers alone.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of all that unemployment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind our guests in the gallery that they should remain quiet.

IN MEMORY OF NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER KEVIN GILLESPIE

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

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, I attended the funeral of Kevin Gillespie, a New York City police officer from Lindenhurst, Long Island, who was senselessly killed last Thursday while attempting to arrest three carjackers in the Bronx. Officer Kevin Gillespie, who was only 33 years old, was the father of two young sons, Danny, age 7, and Bobby, age 4.

What makes Kevin heroic is that he risked everything in an attempt to make the streets of New York City safer for people that he probably didn't even know. He had been a member of the elite Street Crime Unit for only 4 months. He was described by those in his unit as a hard worker who was good at what he did. He loved his work and loved his unit. The Street Crime Unit is responsible for fighting crime in some of the city's worst neighborhoods. He gave what Lincoln so aptly called the last, full measure of devotion, while trying to prevent violent criminals from escaping. As St. John the Apostle said in the Bible, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

I had the opportunity to meet Kevin Gillespie's mother and wife. There are no words that one can say in such a situation. As I looked into their eyes, and saw their pain, I was filled with a sense of deep personal loss. I was particularly moved when I learned that Kevin's son, Danny, wrote a note with a crayon and put it in his father's coffin which read, "Dad, I'm sorry that you died. I love you. You were a really good dad." Officer Gillespie truly is a hero, and after having seen his beautiful family, I can tell my colleagues that his death diminishes us all. But what is particularly tragic about this case is that the individuals responsible for the death of Officer Gillespie should never have been on the streets in the first place; all three had violent criminal records. All had been convicted of armed robbery, and one of the three had been convicted of attempted murder. Each was out on parole.

It is unconscionable to give early release to habitual violent criminals. Instead, we need to ensure that States have the resources to keep these violent offenders behind bars and off the streets for longer portions of their sentences. Through truth-in-sentencing, we can work to ensure tougher sentences for the most violent criminals, and hopefully avoid tragedies such as

this. I do not want to have to go to any more funerals and see the pain in the eyes of another mother, wife, or child.

CLINTON'S BALANCED BUDGET

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Clinton submitted his new budget to Congress and I urge my Republican colleagues to examine it closely for two reasons.

First, President Clinton has blazed a trail to a balanced budget. Ronald Reagan never submitted a balanced budget. George Bush never submitted a balanced budget. But yesterday Bill Clinton did.

Second, and just as important, he has provided a plan that balances the budget while protecting our priorities like education.

The President protects basic reading, writing, and math skills. He protects college loans, safe and drug free schools and a program to help youngsters who do not want to go to a four-year liberal arts college to make the transition from school to work.

My Republican colleagues say the education cuts they are insisting on are necessary to balance the budget. Yesterday President Clinton proved that we can balance the budget without robbing our children of the skills and the training they need to compete in the 21st century.

A DISHONEST BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman who spoke just before us talked with great glee about this President's balanced budget, but she did not tell the whole story. He also protected \$7 million for foreign countries to teach their children how to measure rainfall and \$10 million more for the National Endowment for the Arts. He also gave us a budget that indeed is balanced under CBO numbers, the Congressional Budget Office numbers, in 7 years. It just does not cut any spending until the sixth year and the seventh year, after he leaves office for his second term.

Does anybody in the sound of my voice believe that you can add to domestic spending for the next 5 years, and then hope a future Congress can come along and in 2 years make all the cuts that come to balance?

This is indeed a balanced budget, a dishonest balanced budget, and a cynical one at that.

CUTS IN EDUCATION FUNDING WILL NOT RAISE TEST SCORES

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address