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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. Cox of California].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON DC,
May 21, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable CHRISTOPHER COX to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, 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. 3103. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve portability and continuity of health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets, to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in health insurance and health care delivery, to promote the use of medical savings accounts, to improve access to long-term care services and coverage, to simplify the administration of health insurance, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to the order of May 13, 1996, the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2202) "An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve deterrence of illegal immigration to the United States by increasing border patrol and investigative personnel, by increasing penalties for alien smuggling and for document fraud, by reforming exclusion and deportation law and procedures, by improving the verification system for eligibility for employment, and through other measures, to reform the legal immigration system and facilitate legal

entries into the United States, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. HATCH, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KYL, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SIMON, Mr. KOHL, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 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 leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

ASIAN AND PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity this morning to acknowledge a celebration that has been ongoing throughout the month of May, which is the month in which we celebrate Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month. This is a part of the permanent law which former Congressman Frank Horton was successful earlier in establishing recognition for a week each year. On his last year of service he was successful in having the whole month designated as Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month.

Just this past week we had the opportunity of celebrating the Asian and Pacific American Institute banquet, at

which President Clinton spoke and highlighted the importance of the Asian continent as well as the Pacific communities. In so doing he emphasized the importance of active participation of Asian Pacific-Americans in the United States and in all of their various activities, professionally, academically, in business and commerce, in international trade, and, in particular, in the Federal agencies and in the Federal Government and here in the Congress in both the House and the Senate.

The March 1994 population of Asian Pacific-Americans is estimated at nearly 9 million, and we account for about 3 percent of America's population. It is a growing number, probably the fastest growing ethnic group in the country.

So we take great delight in recognizing the achievements of our constituencies throughout the United States, their academic excellence and achievements spread over a wide variety of subject areas, most notably in math and science, where Asian and Pacific-Americans excel with great prominence.

The history of Asian and Pacific Members of Congress is noteworthy. There have been 17 Asian Pacific-Americans elected to Congress from 1903 to the present time. They included Chinese, Chamorro, Asian Indian, Japanese, Korean, native Hawaiian, and Samoan.

The first Asian Pacific Member of Congress came from Hawaii. We was a native Hawaiian, Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole, who represented the territory of Hawaii as a nonvoting delegate from 1903 to 1922. He was responsible for the enactment of our Hawaiian Homestead Act, which is a basic land tenure program which has made it possible for many native Hawaiians to acquire land to build their homes and raise their families.

□ 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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The first voting Asian and Pacific-American Member of Congress was Dalip Singh Saund of California, an immigrant from India who served in the House from 1957 to 1963.

The first Asian Pacific-American Senator was Senator Hiram Leong Fong from Hawaii, who served from 1959 to 1976.

Currently we have nine sitting Members of both the House and the Senate that make up our congressional Asian Pacific Caucus, which was formed on May 16, 1994, to establish an effort in the Congress to cause other Members of Congress perhaps to be more sensitive and aware of Asian and Pacific-American issues within their own constituencies.

The caucus idea came about from former Congressman Norm Mineta, and he is to be congratulated for having put in the effort to organize this caucus.

The Member of the House of Representatives who has the most Asian and Pacific Members is Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE from the First District in Hawaii, and his constituency is about 66.5 percent Asian Pacific. In my own case, the second district, I have about 57 percent Asian Pacific. The gentleman from California [Ms. PELOSI] has the next highest at 27.8 percent.

The other participant of our caucus who has been instrumental in leading the fight on all of the Asian Pacific issues throughout his entire tenure is the gentleman from California [Mr. MATSUI]. The other Members, the gentleman from American Samoa, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, the gentleman from Guam, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Senator INOUE, Senator AKAKA, and Senator MURRAY, all constitute the original membership of our caucus. Recently we added 10 additional Members.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following material for the RECORD:

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN NEIL ABERCROMBIE IN CELEBRATION OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, MAY 21, 1996

Now, more than ever, the need to recognize America's rich and diverse cultures is crystal clear. America is at a crossroads and a few would rather forget that this is a nation built by immigrants whose ancestral roots trace back to every corner of the earth.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month gives us the opportunity to acknowledge one of the great communities of this country. Across this nation, over 7.3 million Asian and Pacific Islanders make America their home. Asian and Pacific Islanders have made notable contributions in industry, education, science and government. Along with other immigrant groups, Asian and Pacific Americans helped to strengthen the fabric of American society.

Against the backdrop of America's multicultural society, the push for "English-Only" and other anti-immigrant measures are indefensible and are an affront to the heart of this nation. During Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and every month of every year, let us not forget what we so often take for granted: America has been made great by the collective contributions of every group who has settled in this country. The distinguished contributions of Asian Pacific Americans are a superb example.

CONGRESSIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC CAUCUS

The Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus was formed on May 16, 1994 to establish an organized effort within the Congress to advocate for the needs of Asian Pacific Americans.

Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Executive Committee:

Neil Abercrombie (HI-1)—66.5%.
Patsy T. Mink (HI-2)—57.0%.
Nancy Pelosi (CA-8)—27.8%.
Robert Matsui (CA-5)—13.9%.
Eni Faleomavaega (AS)—?.
Robert Underwood (GU)—?.
Sen. Daniel Inouye (HI)—55.6% (State of Hawaii).
Sen. Daniel Akaka (HI)—55.6% (State of Hawaii).
Sen. Patty Murray (WA)—5.7% (State of Washington).

New Member of Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus:

Tom Lantos (CA-12)—25.6%.
Matthew Martinez (CA-31)—22.8%.
Xavier Becerra (CA-30)—21.2%.
Zoe Lofgren (CA-16)—21.1%.
Nydia Velázquez (NY-12)—19.6%.
Pete Stark (CA-13)—19.4%.
Ronald Dellums (CA-9)—15.6%.
Bob Filner (CA-50)—14.8%.
Anna Eshoo (CA-14)—12.2%.
Lucille Roybal Allard (CA)—4.0%.

NOTABLE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

Asian Pacific Americans have made significant contributions to the United States and the world in a variety of ways. In the arts, academia, business, sports, politics, Asians have reached the top of their field:

I.M. Pei, the internationally renowned architect.

Samuel C.C. Ting who won the Nobel Prize in physics.

Ellison Onizuka, one of the seven astronauts of the Challenger.

Christie Yamaguchi, the young figure skating Olympic champion.

Vivienne Tam, fashion designer who built a \$10 million business.

Amy Tan, Author.

Elaine Chao, head of the United Way.

Robert Nakasone, CEO of Toys R Us.

Brigadier General John L. Fugh, Former Judge Advocate General of the Army.

Chang Lin Tien, Chancellor, University of California—Berkley.

ASIAN PACIFIC MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Seventeen Asian Pacific Americans have been elected to Congress from 1903 to the present. Their ancestry has included Chinese, Chamorro, Asian Indian, Japanese, Korean, Native Hawaiian, and Samoan.

The first Asian Pacific Member of Congress was Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianoʻle (Native Hawaiian) who represented the Territory of Hawaii as a non-voting delegate from 1903 to 1922. The first voting Asian Pacific American Member of Congress was Dalip Singh Saund (D-CA), an immigrant from India who served in the House from 1957 to 1963.

The first Asian Pacific American Senator was Hiram Leong Fong (R-HI), who served from 1959 to 1976. Senator Fong was also the first American of Chinese ancestry elected to the Congress.

Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink was the first Asian Pacific woman to serve in the House, serving from 1964 to 1976, and from 1990 to present.

There have been only two Asian Pacific American women in the Congress—Patsy T. Mink (D-HI) and Patricia Saiki (R-HI).

ROMER VERSUS EVANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May

12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. CANADY] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a sad day in our Nation's history. In one fell swoop, the U.S. Supreme Court managed to seriously undermine our tradition of democratic self-governance, and, at the same time, to deliver a harsh slap-in-the-face to all Americans who seek to preserve traditional moral standards regarding homosexuality. I hope and expect that American citizens share my sense of outrage at the Court's action.

I'm referring to the Court's decision in the case of Romer versus Evans. The case involves an amendment to the Colorado State Constitution adopted in 1992 by the citizens of that State. The amendment, known as amendment 2, would have prevented the State or any of its political subdivisions from enacting, adopting, or enforcing any law granting homosexuals protected status or other preferential treatment. Amendment 2 was adopted in response to the actions of several Colorado cities that had adopted so-called gay rights ordinances, which had added homosexuals to the list of protected persons under local antidiscrimination laws.

By a 6-to-3 vote, the court yesterday ruled that amendment 2 violates the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution. The Court held that amendment 2 "lacks a rational relationship to legitimate state interests, and so could only be understood as an expression of animosity toward homosexuals."

That might sound like stale legal doctrine, but don't be deceived. What the Court did yesterday has profoundly troubling implications for our democracy and for our civilization. As Justice Antonin Scalia, writing for himself, Chief Justice Rehnquist, and Justice Thomas, pointed out in his dissenting opinion, the Court has unleashed a new constitutional doctrine that has no rational limitation.

We must be clear on one important fact: Notwithstanding the majority's portrayal of amendment 2 as an effort to make homosexuals "stranger[s] to [Colorado's] laws," the measure did no such thing. All amendment 2 would have accomplished is to prevent the government from making homosexuals a protected class, or otherwise to make homosexuality the basis for any preferential treatment. Every Colorado law of general applicability applies fully to homosexuals. This case, no matter what the majority held, was about whether or not homosexuals could be given special protections under the law.

I quote from Justice Scalia's dissent:

The only denial of equal treatment [the majority] contends homosexuals have suffered is this: They may not obtain preferential treatment without amending the state constitution. That is to say, the principle underlying the Court's opinion is that