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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SHAW].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 11, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable E. CLAY SHAW, Jr., to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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 25 minutes, and each Member other than the majority and the minority leader limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH] for 5 minutes.

THE CREDIBILITY CANYON

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning first to bring greetings to you and those who look in from the Grand Canyon State of Arizona. As proud as Arizonans and indeed all Americans are of the Grand Canyon, rhetorically and in terms of actions within this city of Washington, DC, there is, indeed, a credibility canyon, not a gap but a canyon, an everwidening chasm between the rhetoric of our President and the reality of his actions and inactions.

The headlines in this morning's Washington Times indicate how this credibility canyon continues to widen. Lists of files may be incomplete. White House stories face Hill questions. But, Mr. Speaker, there are more than questions which will emanate from this Chamber and in committee. There are questions that the American people have about the stewardship of the Presidency, about the veracity of claims made by this President and, again, the disparity between the rhetoric and the reality.

How unfortunate it is, Mr. Speaker, that this administration and, in particular, this President are not defined by the innocent question, what can he do or what can we do together to solve America's problems. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the question that we hear from coast to coast and, indeed, in the Sixth District of Arizona, is this one: How can the President explain it away this time? What verbal gyrations, gymnastics, contortions will be brought to bear to put the best face on obtaining hundreds of FBI files on members of the Republican Party? Our President would have us believe plaintively that it was, "an honest snafu."

Well, he is partially right. Snafu is an accurate term. But as for the first word mentioned, the American people have serious questions.

It is a tragedy that those in the executive branch fail to understand the missive of Mark Twain, who wrote that history does not repeat itself but it rhymes. Mr. Speaker, I read with interest the comments of Daniel Schorr, the liberal media commentator who to his credit in the wake of what transpired 25 years ago during a Republican administration now says of this administration, what makes these people believe that the FBI is their private domain to do their private bidding in terms of political investigations. Indeed, the challenge exists for journalists in this town. Indeed, one wonders

where the next team of Woodward and Bernstein might be found, and one also wonders what the results of an investigation would bring or, given the prevailing advocacy of journalists in this town, would the book written be titled, maybe "One or Two of the President's Low-Level Functionaries" instead of the title "All the President's Men."

It is very interesting, Mr. Speaker, to come here from elsewhere, to come here from the heartland of America and to see this dichotomy between rhetoric and reality. Mr. Speaker, this Congress will move to close the credibility canyon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COLORADO AVALANCHE

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I hope everybody knows what this is because if they do not, they are going to by the end of the day. In Colorado, this is gold. This is the wonderful jersey of the Avalanche who last night won all of our hearts by winning the Stanley Cup in four straight games—four straight games. And this was their very first season in Colorado.

Now, my district is normally a mile high, but today I think it is 2 miles high. I cannot tell you the excitement. And I know I should apologize to all of you who are here who were awakened last night at about 1:04 in the morning when the winning goal was made, but we are not going to apologize because we think it is great that you were awakened by people from Colorado cheering everywhere.

In fact, we are even talking this morning about renaming the Rocky Mountains to the Hockey Mountains. I

□ 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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think they are going to find that hockey fever has taken over and is absolutely captivating.

Some of the things that I particularly want to point out as we talk today is this wonderful, wonderful team. You just heard 5 minutes of the same kind of thing we hear over and over again. The fabulous thing about this Avalanche team is they have acted as a team. I do not know if it was their marvelous Canadian trained organization, whatever, but you do not see egos popping out. You see them working together and liking each other, and look what they did in 1 year. There may be some real messages there for politicians, some tremendous messages for politicians.

So I think I would be remiss not to thank our wonderful neighbors to the north in Quebec who helped train this great team and, of course, everybody is particularly fond of the goalie who happens to share my first name, but we are so proud of him. But he would not want to be singled out because they really see themselves as a total working unit. That is kind of a novel concept when it comes to politics, but it could be something we could all learn from.

We know today that Colorado is going to be a work-free zone. It is going to be a total work-free zone. The question is whether the whole week we are going to be a work-free zone only because we are celebrating this great victory. I think all of America can celebrate it, and I mean all of North America, Canadians and North Americans because of the great example they set in showing how to do this, how to do this together, how to do this without ego, how to make it not look like they were kind of throwing it to drag it out and make more money, all the things that have circulated around some of the things we have heard in professional sports. This is about values, and they have really shown us some tremendous values that are the kind that we traditionally had in sports.

That is wonderful to see come back again. So to see the young people in Colorado out there with their roller blades playing hockey is very exciting. I will tell you, we may not have had the hockey players we would like to have had in the past, but I will bet this next generation is going to be there. It is basically going to be because of the leadership and the example of these wonderful, wonderful men who wore this wonderful, wonderful jersey. I think if anybody wants one of these, good luck. I am not giving mine up, and they are not giving theirs up.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This gentleman from Florida would say to the gentlewoman from Colorado that she is justifiably proud, but I did find some pain in her comments.

IN HONOR OF EUGENE ROSSITCH,
JR., M.D.

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

12, 1995, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BURR] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday is Father's Day, a day when millions of Americans will thank their fathers for the special role they play in all our lives—for being a protector and a provider, for being a counselor, a mentor and a friend. On this morning, I would like to take a few moments to share with my colleagues the story of a gifted doctor, a trusted teacher and most importantly a wonderful father, the story of Dr. Eugene Rossitch, Jr.

On November 18, 1994, Gene Rossitch drowned off a Florida beach while successfully saving his young son. I would like to focus this morning, however, on the inspirational life of Gene Rossitch, who accomplished so much in his 35 years with us.

On February 18, 1959, in Guines, Cuba, Eugene and Carmen Rossitch were blessed by the birth of their first child, Gene Rossitch, Jr. In 1962, when little Gene was 3 years old, his parents left Cuba with only one suitcase and their wedding picture and moved the family to the United States. The Rossitches settled in my hometown of Winston-Salem, NC, where they raised Gene and his four younger brothers.

With the support and guidance of a loving and successful family, Gene began to compile a record of extraordinary academic achievement that marked his entire life. While in high school, Gene was the State president of the North Carolina National Honor Society before graduating first in his class from Bishop McGuinness High School in Winston-Salem.

Gene then attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a Morehead Scholar. He graduated from UNC Phi Beta Kappa and then pursued his medical studies at the Duke University School of Medicine. While at Duke, Gene was awarded the John H. Watson, Jr., Medical Fellowship and was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society.

Following his internship at the Duke University Medical Center, Gene began his residency in neurological surgery at Duke, which included 2 years as a research fellow in neurosurgery at Brigham and Women's and Children's Hospitals. During that time, Gene became the first recipient of the Cushing History of Medicine Fellowship. And shortly thereafter, he completed a clinical fellowship in spinal surgery at Duke.

Gene's remarkable career then led him back to Massachusetts, where he was appointed assistant professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School and attending neurosurgeon at the Brigham and Women's and Children's Hospitals in 1992. Gene was the spinal surgery specialist at both hospitals.

Dr. Gene Rossitch's service was not limited to the operating room. Gene served on the premedical advisory board of the Currier House at Harvard University, on the Greater Boston Spi-

nal Cord Injury Planning Counsel, and on the emergency medical services task force on spinal cord injury. Gene was also very active in national neurosurgery organizations. For example, he was chairman of the program evaluation committee for the 1994 Congress of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting and he had major roles in several other national meetings.

Dr. Gene Rossitch's commitment to finding new ways to treat spinal injury patients can be found in the 61 original scientific journal publications he either authored or coauthored. Gene was also the coeditor of three books. Two dealt with the history of neurosurgery and the third, "A Handbook of Neurosurgery for House Officers and Medical Students," demonstrates Gene's desire to share his vast knowledge with his fellow surgeons of how to treat spinal cord injuries.

While at the Brigham and Women's and Children's Hospitals, Dr. Rossitch supervised the research work of a number of medical students, residents and visiting research fellows. Gene also served as a preceptor for the Introduction to Clinical Medicine Course at the Harvard Medical School.

I have never encountered a more impressive record of service and achievement than that of Dr. Gene Rossitch, Jr. He was recognized by his patients and by those in his field as a gifted and gentle surgeon and caregiver, as an innovative researcher, and as a trusted mentor and teacher of spinal cord injury medicine.

Dr. Gene Rossitch's career is a testament to this young man's dedication to his studies, his sincere concern for his fellow man, and to a willingness to fully utilize the gifts that God bestowed upon him. But as a friend of the Rossitches, I know that the true center of Gene's remarkable life was his family. Gene met his wife Cindy while attending the Duke University School of Medicine and was blessed with three children: Eugene III, Katharine, and Elizabeth. And despite the demands of his clinical schedule, Gene always found time to spend with his family and could be seen on weekends at Chuck E. Cheese, art galleries, and ice cream parlors with his wife and children.

Perhaps the best way to look at how special a person Gene was is to see him through the eyes of the mother of one of his patients. The day before Gene left for Florida with his family for their vacation, he performed a 7-hour operation repairing a congenital abnormality in the neck of Michael O'Loughlin, a 12-year-old boy.

The night before Mike's surgery, the boy was in terrible pain and Mrs. O'Loughlin asked Gene whether they were doing the right thing by operating. Mrs. O'Loughlin remembers asking Dr. Rossitch whether he would perform the operation if Mike were his own son. Gene told her, "Absolutely, without question." Mrs. O'Loughlin tells how Gene insisted that the operation be