



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1996

No. 86

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. LAZIO of New York].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 12, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable RICK LAZIO 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:

May words of gratitude ring from our hearts, O God, and may the spirit of thanksgiving ever lift our souls. When we look for remedies for the ills of the world and when we wonder why we have often forgotten our spiritual roots, may we meditate on the wonders of Your creation and the glories of the favor You have given to us. When we contemplate Your grace, O God, and the wonderful gifts that fill our days, our very beings are filled to overflowing with thanksgiving, with gratitude and with praise. For these good gifts and for the opportunities of this new day, we offer these words of prayer. 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.

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

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

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the "noes" appeared to have it.

Mr. RIGGS. 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 pro tempore. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas, Mr. PETE GEREN, come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PETE GEREN 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.

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 resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 172. Concurrent resolution authorizing the 1996 Summer Olympic Torch Relay to be run through the Capitol Grounds, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to Public Law 104-127, the Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, appoints Sheri L. Chapman, of Idaho, and Richard K. Golb, of California, to the Water Rights Task Force.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 104-127, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic

leader, appoints Elizabeth Ann Ricke, of Colorado, to the Water Rights Task Force.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

FBI FILES

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, in 1992, candidate Bill Clinton refused to sign a waiver that would allow the FBI to release requested information from his FBI file. The candidate's, in 1992, press secretary said and I quote, "It is a personal file and he is not going to do it."

It just so happens that I have a staffer who works in my office whose name happens to be on that list of FBI files that happens to be at the White House. Nobody knows how. Nobody knows why. I wonder how she feels about her name and her file being displayed at the White House. Who saw it? What did they do with the information?

Mr. Speaker, as the chaplain said, today is a new day. In 1992, Bill Clinton promised the most ethical administration in the history of this country, the most ethical. Today is a new day. I think it is time for the President and the White House to work fully with the FBI and to work openly and fully with this Congress to determine who knew what, when they knew it and what they are going to do to correct the problem.

FLAG DAY PRAYER CONCERT

(Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

□ 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.

H6185

Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, from 12:30 to 2 in the Canon Caucus Room, Members of the Congress will gather with the VA-National Medical Musical Group for the first Congressional Flag Day Prayer Concert.

VA-NMMG will be joined by singers Judy Collins, Wintley Phipps, Detra Battle, and Naoko Okada, and by various Members of Congress who will narrate the program with patriotic and inspirational readings. NBC's Tim Russert and Adrian Cronauer, the military broadcaster who inspired "Good Morning, Vietnam," will act as masters of ceremony.

The program, which will focus on prayer for our troops in Bosnia and for peace in the Balkans, was developed by the VA-NMMG, a highly-acclaimed chorale and symphony group made up of doctors, nurses, scientists, veterans, and students. These individuals come from veterans' and other medical centers and medical schools across the United States. VA-NMMG, which formed in 1983, has performed at the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton White Houses and for such dignitaries as Pope John Paul II and members of the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us today, join us in this occasion of prayer, join us in this celebration of Flag Day.

FBI FILES IN WHITE HOUSE

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, this morning's New York Times features an editorial that is highly critical of the Clinton administration in its involvement in raiding the FBI files of former Republican White House employees.

Let me just quote some of the questions raised by the New York Times, "There are deeper questions here. What, for example, were the Attorney General and the F.B.I. Director doing while their control of their agency was being usurped? If Bernard Nussbaum * * * was out of the loop, why was his letterhead weighty enough to unlock hundreds of confidential files at an agency not under his supervision? * * * The FBI and the Secret Service have always been at the center of the review and documentation process. Why suddenly was a temporary employee from the Department of Defense given the task of security vetting of White House staff and visitors?"

The Times concludes by saying, "These are executive questions of a historically important nature. We would think the current Chief Executive would be first in line demanding answers."

MARGE SCHOTT AND THE CINCINNATI REDS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, most Americans agree that the statements of Marge Schott, owner of the Cincinnati Reds, were crude, rude, repugnant, ignorant, and disgusting, to say the least.

Mr. Speaker, was Marge Schott wrong? Yes. Do baseball owners have the right to be upset? Yes. Do baseball owners have the right to sanction Marge Schott? Yes.

Do baseball owners have the right to strip Marge Schott of the ownership of the Cincinnati Reds? I say absolutely not. The baseball owners can fine her; they can sanction her; but, by God, they cannot take her ownership of the Reds away.

We may disagree with what she says, but she has the right to say it. The fact is, I believe that Marge Schott is more of a threat to sobriety than she is a threat to our society. Think about that one.

I yield back the balance of any ownership. There is still a Constitution around here.

PATENT PROTECTION

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

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, next week this House will have a chance to vote on H.R. 3460, the Moorhead-Schroeder Patent Act, which I believe should be entitled the "Steal American Technologies Act."

Members of the Committee on the Judiciary yesterday were given inaccurate answers to questions, and this bill passed right through that committee and will be heading toward this floor next week.

The bill mandates, mandates that every patent application that is made to the United States Patent Office be published after 18 months, whether or not the patent has been issued. Do my colleagues understand what that means? That means every new idea our people come up with, whether or not they have been issued the patents, it will be published for the entire world to see. It is an invitation to steal every new American technological idea. It is an insane mandate, and it is in this bill.

The bill also obliterates the Patent Office and resurrects it as a quasi-independent corporation, like the post office. Only with that, congressional oversight is limited and patent examiners are stripped of their right of civil service protection.

It is an invitation to steal American technology. H.R. 3460 must be defeated.

FAILURE ON BUDGET RESOLUTION

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday this failed Congress failed to act on the national budget resolution. Appar-

ently the budget resolution advanced by the Gingrich leadership was so bad that even some of our Republican colleagues could not stomach it.

In fact, I quote from a leaflet that one of them sent out, Do we want the deficit to go back up, the budget resolution conference report shows the budget deficit going back up again, reversing the gains made in the past 3 years.

He could have added, under President Clinton. And he is exactly right. Their resolution increases the budget deficit, and he urges the House to reject the conference report.

These are the same Republicans who in the name of deficit reduction said they were willing to cut Medicare, the same Republicans who in the name of deficit reduction shut down the Government with their antics of last year. Yet now that we have an election coming along, they are willing to let the budget deficit soar.

Those of us who backed the conservative coalition budget have a better way. Balance the budget now without unbalancing the budgets of American working families and without wrecking Medicare.

ROBERT J. DOLE

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Senate majority leader Robert J. Dole became a private citizen. He left us in Congress a legacy of integrity, honesty and character. Character is something that you develop when no one is around, as Senator Dole did in his service to his country during World War II and the 39 months that followed as he struggled to regain his ability to walk. Honesty is something that he has provided to the American public even when it was unpopular. Integrity is something Senator Dole has undergone with three decades of public scrutiny and three presidential campaigns. He has worked hard throughout that time to do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss Senator Dole on the Hill, but we will welcome him with open arms as he moves into 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday this House sent to conference committee a health care reform bill and hopefully we will see a bill come out. But the one that was in conference committee now allows for what is called MSA's, for most folks medical savings accounts.

It would be a Federal tax deduction for someone who can afford to buy a high deductible insurance policy, \$4,000 or \$5,000 deductible a year.