



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1996

No. 94

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. FUNDERBURK].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 24, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable DAVID FUNDERBURK 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:

As we come before You this day, O gracious God, to offer our prayers and supplications, we remember with affection the life of our colleague and friend, BILL EMERSON. We are grateful for his concern for the issues of great importance to our Nation and for his abiding service to the people of Missouri. We ask, O God, that Your blessings of mercy and peace, of remembrance and recollection, be with his family and with all who knew and loved him. We are grateful that he has now received the fullness of Your promises and he abides with You and all those who sought to serve You by serving people in their need. May Your peace, O God, that passes all human understanding, be with each person now and evermore. 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 gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MONTGOMERY 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 without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 153. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

GRANTING MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS TO CHINA

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, the House will soon vote on most-favored-nation status with China. That means should we have a trading relationship with this Communist dictatorship that violates the rights of its people, is belligerent against its neighbors, is helping in the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and a country that is now run by a group so hostile to the United States that it could well be-

come our enemy in the future and possibly an enemy at war with the United States of America unless we do something?

Mr. Speaker, this is not the time to grant that type of trading status, that grants this dictatorial regime the same status as we grant England and France and other democratic countries. We should put our foot down and say until we see changes in human rights and in their aggressive policies toward their neighbors and the stealing of American technology, we will not grant them this right. And if we do that, we will be protecting the interests of the people of the United States of America and we will be securing our future, because tyrants understand action. They do not understand platitudes, and up to this point they have only heard platitudes about human rights from the United States of America.

MESSAGE CONCERNING THE DEATH OF CONGRESSMAN EMERSON

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

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, as Chaplain Ford mentioned this afternoon about the death of our colleague, the gentleman from Missouri, Congressman BILL EMERSON, was one of the most popular Members in the Congress. He even came as a page many, many years ago. He loved this House. He died at the age of 58 at Bethesda Naval Hospital. He served eight terms in the Congress. His funeral will be this Thursday out in his State of Missouri. So I bring this message to the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure tomorrow the Missouri delegation will take more time to talk about this wonderful man, BILL EMERSON.

□ 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

H6693

HOW NOT TO HANDLE A SEX DISCRIMINATION CASE IS DEMONSTRATED BY MITSUBISHI AUTO COMPANY

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I am positively amazed by the executives at Mitsubishi Auto Co. They seem to be destined to go in the textbook as the classic textbook case on how not to handle a sex discrimination case. Over the weekend, they decided that they would now try and get out from under the EEOC charges that have been filed against them. This case has been one that has been documented in newspapers all over the place, and they constantly continue to spend all of their money trying to do legal maneuvers, find fancy high-priced people that they can hide behind to say that they are coming clean.

I guess the bottom line is "denial is not a river in Egypt." It seems to be something that is flowing right through the executive offices of Mitsubishi Auto Co., and it is a shame they do not just settle this case and get on with it. I think everybody would have a whole lot more respect for all of them.

THE FAMILY LEAVE ACT LAID A FOUNDATION FOR THE FAMILY INVOLVEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for recognizing me, and I first of all take the floor and say how very, very sad I am by the passing of our colleague, BILL EMERSON. This is a man who cared very much about hunger issues and nutrition issues, and he will be sadly missed because those are not great power issues. You can imagine, hungry people do not have political action committees and they are not really involved in the great power process. So they have lost a friend, and we have lost a friend, and my deepest sympathy goes to their family.

Now, I wanted to talk a bit today about what is going on in Tennessee, which I think is very exciting. Vice President GORE and his wife Tipper, and the President and Mrs. Clinton, are all in Tennessee doing a family reunion. They are doing a family reunion where they are calling families together and continuing the dialog of what can Government do to make family life a little less stressful. A lot of people say we do not have the values anymore for families. We have those values. We have those values. The problem is the whole society is pressing down on families so hard that it is very hard for a family to sustain itself. So

the question is, Is there anything that can be done for a little relief?

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I am doing with the gentleman from Connecticut, Senator DODD, and that they will be talking about today in Tennessee is to extend the family medical leave concept that we passed 2 years ago. The family medical leave that we passed 2 years ago gave families for the first time the right in the workplace to have unpaid leave upon the birth or adoption of a child or a critical chronic illness of a member of the family. Because the President and Vice President listened so well and many others have been listening so well to what families have said, they have said this family leave has really been a salvation for them in many cases.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are introducing a bill to lower the covered companies down to 25. If you have 25 or more employees, we think you should be covered by family leave. Right now, it is up at 50. We think that experiment worked so well, and we had a whole year of hearings all around America so that we are now ready to make the next step and lower it. That will be a very, very exciting thing and we hope that we can get that passed.

Now, the next part, now we are talking about parental involvement leave, because what so many parents tell us is that they want to be more involved in the child's education, but where they work they cannot take the time off. So this would give each parent a couple of days of unpaid leave a year where they could participate in the child's educational advancement. You know, all sorts of corporations give schools machinery, equipment, computers, and that is all wonderful. But they will tell you they are so understaffed that unless they have people who know how to use them and can help them, they do not do much good.

So we are saying let us work together with corporate America to find a way where we also allow employees who are in the work force to be able to take a couple unpaid days of leave and invest it in their child's education. We have study after study showing that any child does much better in school if the parents are interested, if the parents are involved, and if the parents are tracking along. We desperately need to allow people that option. One of the things that has troubled me, imagine, project yourself 100 years into the future and suppose we are going through some of the surveys we now see in this country. We see survey after survey showing that the average American will tell you if they get up in the morning and their child care has fallen apart or their spouse is chronically ill that they feel much safer calling their employer and lying about that. They feel much safer if they call their employer and tell them that the car broke down, rather than the truth. Now, 100 years from now, they are going to dig us up and say, "What did they do, wor-

ship these cars? I mean, they care more about their cars than children, spouses, family members." I do not think so.

But the same thing also goes with what we see these surveys talking about what a person says if they want to go to the child's school to participate. How many will tell their employer that? Very few. Most people will say they feel much more comfortable saying they are going to play golf. Now, going to play golf is more important than going to participate in your child's school? I do not think most Americans think it is more important, but they think that their employer will not be as apt to dock them if they say they are going to play golf or they are going to play tennis or they are going hunting, rather than they are going to the school.

Mr. Speaker, what kind of craziness has happened that the values that we all feel in our home, in our kitchen, around the kitchen table, the things that pull us into our family and pull us into the institutions they want us to participate in, that somehow we do not feel that we are able to talk about those out in the work world without being condemned, without being punished or without having our career on the line? Something is really wrong.

So family leave began to work on that and now we are going to have a parental involvement act that really is just like family leave. It is not paid, so you are taking a penalty to do it. Very few people can have very many unpaid days. But at least a couple times a year you could do this if you wanted to do this and not worry about having to use sick days and not having to make something up or whatever.

□ 1415

I think we need to continue this dialog with America's families to find everything we can find to see what other kinds of things like this we could do just to give them a few tools to lift some of the pressure they are feeling up off their shoulders.

When I talk to the average American family they tell me they feel like one of those hamsters in a wheel. My kids used to have hamsters when they were growing up, and in the cage there was a little wheel and the hamsters would run and run and run and run, and they never got out of the wheel, obviously. I think families feel that way. They run faster every year, they are more exhausted every year, and they are still at the bottom of the wheel. I think it is because families still have the same values their families had but they feel they are in a society where they will be penalized for expressing those values or trying to act on those values.

Well, if that is true, we are in real bad shape and the No. 1 goal of this Government should be to try and make sure that you will not be penalized for expressing and acting on those values. Anyone who thinks a car is more important than a child, I want to talk to them.