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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Teach us to remember, O gracious God, that we communicate our messages through what we say or do or think and that how we say or do or think colors our perceptions and the attitude of those who hear us. Remind us of the words of the Book of Proverbs where it is written: "To get wisdom is better than gold; to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver." May we use the gifts of communication that You have given us, O God, so that in the application of our ideas and thoughts we will gain wisdom and understanding and so speak and listen using the good gifts that are Your blessing to us. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. 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. Evidently a quorum is not present.

Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this vote will be taken later today.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. HOLDEN] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HOLDEN 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 amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1114. An act to authorize minors who are under the child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and who are under 18 years of age to load materials into balers and compactors that meet appropriate American National Standards Institute design safety standards; and

H.R. 3107. An act to impose sanctions on persons making certain investments directly and significantly contributing to the enhancement of the ability of Iran or Libya to develop its petroleum resources, and on persons exporting certain items that enhance Libya's weapons or aviation capabilities or enhance Libya's ability to develop its petroleum resources, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 3107) "An Act to impose sanctions on persons making certain investments directly and significantly contributing to the enhancement of the ability of Iran or Libya to develop its petroleum resources, and on persons exporting certain items that enhance Libya's weapons or aviation capabilities or enhance Libya's ability to develop its petroleum resources, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House of Representatives on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses

thereon, and appoints from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. MACK, and Mr. SARBANES; and from the Committee on Finance: Mr. ROTH and Mr. MOYNIHAN, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize ten 1-minute speeches on each side.

OLYMPIC LACK OF LEADERSHIP EMANATING FROM WHITE HOUSE ON CUBA POLICY

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in the week of the Olympic games it is fitting that the President rendered a decision filled with Olympic-size doublespeak essentially waiving the right of American citizens to sue foreign investors who traffic in their stolen property in Cuba. With the agility of a gymnast, President Clinton found a way to jump around the law to deny American citizens their day in court while scoring points with foreign investors who enrich themselves from stolen goods.

Once again we have a lack of leadership emanating from the White House in Cuba policy.

It is clear from yesterday's nondecision decision that a definite change in White House leadership and character is necessary if our foreign policy is to be based on principle and not on the next election.

Mr. Speaker, the President deserves a gold medal for his sorry performance in caving in to foreign interests, while lamentably he falls out of the medal count in standing up for freedom and

□ 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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democracy in Cuba and in defending American interests.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FAIRNESS ACT OF 1996

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

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to cosponsor a bill I am introducing today, the Social Security Benefits Fairness Act of 1996.

Under current law, no Social Security benefits are paid for the month of a death. When a person dies, their family is not entitled to the benefits and must send back the Social Security check, even if they lived to the end of the month. This happened to a family in my district.

Phyllis Strunk's husband, Royden, died on May 31, 1996, at 7:04 p.m. almost living the entire month and incurring living expenses. His wife was told she would not receive her husband's benefits for May because he did not live 4 hours and 56 minutes longer.

This is unfair and absurd.

My bill will put fairness and security back into Social Security. Under my bill, if a person dies before the 15th day of a month, the family will receive $\frac{1}{2}$ of the month's benefits. If a person dies after the 15th, the family would receive the entire amount of the benefits.

It is simple and fair. Please join me in this effort and cosponsor the Social Security Benefits Fairness Act of 1996.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RADIO STATION WBHF FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in 1946, World War II had ended. Thousands of young men were returning to their hometowns all across America, establishing families and seeking new opportunities. With their eyes on the future, they welcomed change and sought progress. On July 17, 1946, in Cartersville, GA, they first heard the voice that would champion the future of Bartow County: radio station WBHF went on the air, to begin its continuing commitment of service that has lasted for 50 years.

WBHF has become a valuable resource to its many listeners. As a news source, it has chronicled the years of change from the small southern town in 1946, to the thriving city Cartersville is today, recognized as one of the best communities in all of Georgia. In times of National disasters or local victories, the people of Cartersville can count on WBHF to be there, often as their only information source.

I am proud to extend congratulations today to radio station WBHF, and to

Herschel Weisbram and Lee Burger who run this fine radio station, for 50 years of service to Cartersville and Bartow County, GA.

SWEATSHOP PRODUCT BAN ACT

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I plan on introducing the Sweatshop Product Ban Act, which I have dubbed the "No Sweatshops Where GI's Shop Act."

Through defense commissary and exchange stores, the Department of Defense exercises a purchasing power of well over \$9 billion. However, there is nothing in law that prohibits one of the largest retailers in the Nation from purchasing goods manufactured under inhumane conditions. This bill would specifically prevent the commissary and exchange stores from inadvertently supporting child labor, prison labor, or goods produced under human rights violations. It would also come closer to insuring that our GI's around the world do not sport any products produced by children who work under deplorable conditions, 14 hours a day.

Congress can encourage private industry to police themselves by allowing companies to have access to these minimum labor standards. Corporations such as J.C. Penny and Levi Strauss have already agreed to monitor their contractors as publication of potential violations by these retailers pose a threat to sales. My bill would take it a step further: As consumers, the Defense commissary and exchange stores can take the lead and influence corporations to adopt better labor practices through the power of their purse.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Sweatshop Product Ban Act.

DO WE REALLY NEED A SURGEON GENERAL?

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, all of us fondly recall President Clinton's first Surgeon General, Jocelyn Elders. She is the one whose valuable contribution to medicine was to suggest, and let me put this delicately, that schoolchildren quit playing with each other and—well, never mind. Now, for that bold contribution, which many of my colleagues remember, and I am not going to allude to it any more than that, but she was run out of office. So now the new Surgeon General has come out with a study, but she is playing it safe, daringly sticking right in the middle of the road. She has come out with a study paid for by thousands of tax dollars that comes out with this revelation:

"Exercise is good for you."

Yes, I promise, that is her study: Exercise is good for us. Imaging the possibilities. Next thing we know, the private sector will be coming out with health spa chains.

Next the Surgeon General plans to study does the sun cause suntan? Does the rain get things wet? Does climbing stairs get you higher?

I ask my colleagues this:

Do we really need a Surgeon General? Is this the way we should be spending tax dollars instead of pursuing real goals?

□ 1015

THE CIA AND THE FBI: BILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR INEPTNESS

(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, the CIA and the FBI never found out who killed those two CIA employees outside of CIA headquarters 3 years ago. They did not find out who was responsible for the bombing of Pan American 1034. They never found out who carried out the recent Saudi Arabia bombings. But lo and behold, the Washington Post has uncovered that the anonymous author of the book, "Primary Colors," is Newsweek writer Joe Klein.

Let us check this out. The CIA and the FBI get billions of dollars from Congress every year and they cannot seem to find the restroom around here. I say something is drastically wrong when a newspaper can solve a national mystery and a TV network has to notify America that there is a military invasion in Kuwait, but the CIA and the FBI cannot even tell us who hired Craig Livingstone. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. I yield back all the deceit, coverup, and lies in this FBI Filegate matter.

SUPPORT THE BONILLA DISCHARGE PETITION AND REFORM THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

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

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, the time is now for reform of the Endangered Species Act. Our people have waited long enough. Private property owners are sick and tired of the Federal Government taking their land because it cares more about bugs than people.

Today I am submitting a discharge petition to bring the Endangered Species Management and Conservation Act to a vote. The current ESA has failed the people and it has failed species.

This ESA reform bill works by providing incentives to encourage private property owners to conserve species. ESA reform establishes a cooperative framework for these landowners to work together with the Government to protect species.