



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JULY 22, 1996

No. 108

House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. PETRI].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 22, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI 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 Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3161. An act to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of Romania.

The message also 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. 3610. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1316) "An act to reauthorize and amend title XIV of the Public Health Service Act (commonly known as the 'Safe Drinking Water Act'), and for other purposes," agrees to a conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. REID, and Mr. LAUTENBERG, to be conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 919. An act to modify and reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 3610) "An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BOND, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MACK, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. HARKIN, 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 leaders limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] for 5 minutes.

TRAGEDY IN THE SKIES

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, everyone by now knows about the impact of the recent aircraft tragedy on a small community in Pennsylvania, Montoursville. This area is represented currently by our colleague, the gen-

tleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MCDADE], who very promptly and appropriately expressed his concern to the families of the high school students who were involved in that horrible incident.

This community, Montoursville, is in Wyoming County. Prior to the current configuration of our legislative districts, I had the privilege of representing that area. I must tell my colleagues that this is an all-American community, which the news media has very accurately portrayed in all its coverages following that tragic air crash.

This little community has spawned many, many different types of sports championships and academic championships. It seemed almost every other week I was attending a banquet for the girls' softball champions or the boys' baseball champions or the little league champions, not to mention high academic honors for individuals and classes, et cetera, that emerged from that high school. So I wanted to point that out to my colleagues that, indeed, for a change, the media's portrayal of that community was absolutely accurate as being one made up of neighbors and friends, all of whom knew each other, and in one way or another, always participated in community endeavors, and now they join hands to extend their persona, each and every one to the other, in that lovely little community.

I did direct the communication to the mayor and to others in that area, and I simply wanted to enter my feelings into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

NO MORE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS

On another matter, everyone knows by now that the Government shut down several times, not just this past cycle, not just this term of Congress, but in previous occasions, actually shut down. As a matter of fact, there was a time when during Desert Storm or Desert Shield, I guess the formation of our

□ 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

H8033

troop contingents in Saudi Arabia before Desert Storm, while our young people were gathering there, weapon in hand, as it were, our Government shut down.

What kind of a spectacle is that? This is in December 1990, the troops were already amassing in Saudi Arabia and were poised to launch the eventual Desert Storm activity, and our Government shut down.

Is that not shameful, to have the Government, which is sponsoring the activities of our young members of the Armed Forces, to shut down? They were over in Saudi Arabia without a government back home. Now, that is disgraceful.

Well, prior to that time even, when we sensed the urgency of what happens when the Government shuts down, I introduced a piece of legislation which I want to redescribe here today, which would end shutdowns forever. If we adopted my legislation, I repeat, never again would we witness or experience a Government shutdown. It is so simple in its aspect that the reason that people have told me that it has not passed up until now is because it makes too good sense. It makes common sense, and that is why it cannot get through Congress.

Here is what happens: At the end of the fiscal year on September 30, if the Congress has not adopted a new budget which is due by midnight September 30 or October 1, then my bill, if enacted, would automatically cause an instant replay, as it were, everybody recognizes that, an instant replay of last year's budget.

In its lowest denominator terms, last year's budget, or if the House has passed an appropriations bill that is lower than the last year's bill, or the Senate has, we take the lowest figure and instant replay what occurred the next day, October 1, and our budget would be in place, no shutdown could occur, the employees of the Federal Government would continue with their functions, our Armed Forces would continue in their duties to our people, and everything would go on normally, and the Congress would still have an opportunity with the White House to negotiate the next year's budget. In the meantime, we will have ongoing portions of last year's budget.

Is that not simple? Should we not have that kind of resolution of this vexatious problem?

The bill that I introduced again this cycle was one which became the subject of my entreaties before the Committee on Rules, and an amazing thing happened. In previous times when the Democrat Party controlled the Committee on Rules, I went before them and each time they slammed the door in my face. Only the Republicans supported me on that measure each time I appeared before the Committee on Rules.

The reverse has now happened. It is time to end Government shutdowns forever. Support the Gekas bill.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule 1, the House will stand in recess until 12 noon.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. WALKER] at 12 noon.

PRAYER

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

Teach us, O God, to make good use of our time, that precious gift that we use to our benefit or to our harm. When we have new opportunities and health we think that time will never end, and when we face the adversities or afflictions that certainly come, our span of days runs out and we yearn for more time. Encourage us, O gracious God, to use our time wisely so that we do not miss Your blessings of faith and hope and love but rather embrace them, hold to them, and never let them go. In Your name, we pray. 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. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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 PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

SUPPORT H.R. 497, NATIONAL GAMBLING IMPACT AND POLICY COMMISSION ACT

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, shortly we will be bringing up a very important

piece of legislation that will be setting up a national commission to study the impact of gambling which is running rampant in the country. Quite frankly the country is turning into one gambling casino as gambling spreads and spreads and spreads. As gambling proliferates in casinos on riverboats, on Indian reservations, dog and horse tracks and elsewhere, problems such as crime, political corruption, cannibalization of existing businesses, gambling addiction, family breakups, and suicides are growing, which is an unfortunate consequence.

This legislation we are about to take up will create an unbiased, bipartisan nine-member commission to finally take a comprehensive look at these problems.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to make sure all the Members know that we have finally been able to bring this bill to fruition. Last Wednesday, July 17, the full Senate passed by unanimous consent H.R. 497 with an amendment and, despite public pronouncements of the gambling industry in support of an unbiased study, tremendous lobbying pressure was brought to bear on Senators to kill or gut this bill. It is a tribute to this deliberative body that such pressures, which clearly represented the opposition of a small but powerful minority, were not able to thwart the will of the vast majority of Congress and the American people.

In the process, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Senate Majority Leader TRENT LOTT who, notwithstanding some concerns he had about the legislation, exerted great leadership in bringing H.R. 497 to a vote. He is a man of his word, of honor and integrity.

REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO LIBYA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 104-248)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby report to the Congress on the developments since my last report of January 22, 1996, concerning the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order No. 12543 of January 7, 1986. This report is submitted pursuant to section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act ("IEEPA"), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); and section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c).

1. On January 3, 1996, I renewed for another year the national emergency