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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. COLLINS of Georgia].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 23, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable MAC COLLINS 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 except the majority and minority leader limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] for 5 minutes.

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to United States foreign policy, the deteriorating situation in Haiti is one of those news items that has been crowded off the front pages by bigger problems elsewhere, problems like the breakdown of the peace process in Ireland, the mending of fences with Mr. Netanyahu, and the Mujahidin's new foothold in the Balkans. But even so, just because it suits the White House for Haiti to be out of sight, it does not mean that it is out of mind for those of us who are interested in accounting for

\$3 billion in United States taxpayers' dollars the White House has spent there and those of us who are concerned about the safety of Americans and American interests in Haiti.

Because of the very special relationship between my south Florida district and Haiti, my office follows the reports and stays in touch with our contacts on the ground in Haiti. How are things going? The short answer is that there is slippage, steep slippage; a strong sense, based on events, that things in Haiti have degenerated again very rapidly. We are finding a seemingly endless litany that suggests a serious breakdown in law and order. We find institutional inadequacy, particularly in the judicial area, and serious retreat from any economic progress at all. We find no relief from the grinding poverty that is everywhere in Haiti.

Taken together this seems to prove what informed observers have said all along; that is, that throwing \$3 billion and 20,000 American troops haphazardly at Haiti is not the way to bridge the deep divisions of Haitian society or to promote lasting gains on the slow path to democracy there. Divisions are deepening. Destabilization campaigns appear to be coming from all sectors across the social spectrum. The time for settling old scores and even new ones appears to have arrived and get even acts of violence and intimidation are the daily menu. The victims include former members of the military, the police, and innocent civilians. In fact, it is sad but true that the Haitian national police have participated in more than their share of altercations. Recall that this was supposed to be a hope of future law and order, that new Haitian national police, but the most damning assessments of police behavior have been coming from the Washington office on Latin America and the OAS mission in Haiti. The latest OAS report notes summary executions and allegations of ill treatment

including beatings and routine use of electric shock treatment on prisoners in a Port-au-Prince police station. No place to get a parking ticket.

While these incidents are protested, the OAS also reports that the Inspector General has failed to take action against the police, giving some sectors of the Haitian population the view that the police agents enjoy the same impunity as the members of the old armed forces and former regime enjoyed. This wins the police no friends, and in some areas the police have literally been run out of town by local populations. In fact, there have been some 10 assassinations of investigators of the police, most of them off duty.

There are some other tough issues that we are not hearing much about but that clearly deserve some attention. One should ask the White House how the American citizens in Haiti who have borne the brunt of some of the violent acts are faring. Murders and kidnaping have apparently gone unanswered or uninvestigated.

Taken together, all of this adds up to instability, growing instability. It might also go a long way toward explaining why the Clinton administration went through such machinations to badger our allies to extend the U.N. mission through the month of November, the same month as the election month in our country.

Dismal as it is, law and order is only part of the stability equation. The other part of this equation is prosperity. We are long overdue for an update from the White House on the privatization process of Haiti. We understand from the media that the Parliament is having difficulty gaining a quorum to hold a vote on reform measures. Why? There are good reasons. Lack of will is one, but fear is another, brought on by threats from some of the left-leaning segments of the Haitian society and the drumbeat of opposition raised by former President Aristide.

□ 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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Remember former President Aristide? We spent a lot of money and time getting him back there. Now he is opposing the economic development of his country. Any way you look at it, all of this suggests that somebody in the White House owes the American people and this Congress an explanation. After all this money, time, and effort, what have we gotten? What is going on in Haiti and why? Will American taxpayers, and incidentally American voters, agree that this was \$3 billion well spent? Or is this whole episode another success story that was more successful for its spin than its substance in the White House? We shall see.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WOOLSEY] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, each year over 150,000 incidents of domestic violence involve a gun.

In April, a woman in the district I represent was shot to death by her husband, even though she had a restraining order against him.

Last week, a Ventura County sheriff's deputy, responding to a domestic violence call, was killed by a man with a long criminal record.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to put an end to this insanity.

That is why I am applauding President Clinton for announcing his support today for legislation, sponsored by Congressman BOB TORRICELLI, which will prohibit people convicted of a domestic violence offense from purchasing a gun.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense way to prevent tragedy.

It is simple: Wife-beaters, child abusers, and other domestic violence offenders should not have access to a gun. Period.

UPDATE ON THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. WELLER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing the most diverse district in the State of Illinois. I represent part of the city of Chicago, the south suburbs, in Cook and Will Counties, and farm communities as well as cornfields. That means that I have a district not only that is very diverse, but time and time again I am looking for ways and issues and concerns that are very, very common throughout this very diverse district that I have the privilege of representing.

I have found over the last 17 months now that I have had the privilege of representing my district two of the

most common priorities that the people of the district that I represent have. Of course, they want to see a change in how Washington works but they also want to see a Congress in Washington looking out for local concerns.

I am proud that in the last 17 months we have been working to keep our commitments, to honor those principles and to change how Washington works while looking out for local concerns. As I look back over the last 16, 17 months, I am particularly proud that some of those most basic principles that we have worked for in changing how Washington works are being honored. One of the most basic, of course, is forcing Washington to live within its means.

Of course, the deficit today is at its lowest level in 15 years, having dropped \$60 to \$70 billion because we have lived and worked hard to bring down that deficit, doing something that every family does, working to live within our means. We have twice sent now to the President real welfare reform that emphasizes work and family, responsibility. Unfortunately, he vetoed it. And also we sent to the President a plan which would lower taxes for working families. In my district for a family with children, that would mean almost an extra \$1,000 in take-home pay had the President signed that bill rather than vetoing it. We also, because of our concern for seniors, people like my mom and dad that are on Medicare, we are working of course to prevent Medicare from going bankrupt. Everyone knows Washington does nothing and Medicare goes bankrupt in 2001.

We sent to the President this past year a plan to save Medicare, to keep it solvent for the next generation. In fact we increased funding for Medicare by 62 percent, \$724 billion, as part of that plan and would have kept Medicare solvent until the next generation. Unfortunately, partisan Presidential politics got in the way and the President vetoed that plan.

But also not only are we working to keep our commitment to change how Washington works by working to balance the budget, to save Medicare, to reform welfare and, of course, lower taxes for working families, but we are also honoring the commitment to look out for local concerns.

I am particularly pleased that in the last few months alone, this House has passed and sent to the Senate as well as sent to the President legislation that looks out for local concerns important to the State that I represent, the land of Lincoln, the State of Illinois. I was particularly pleased that back in February the President signed our legislation to redevelop the Joliet Arsenal, 24,000-acre military facility to redevelop it for conservation, a veterans' cemetery and job creation. It was a bipartisan project, a bipartisan priority. Because of bipartisanship we were successful in getting it signed into law. Of course now it is time to put the

money where our mouth is and to move forward and, of course, fund that priority.

I am particularly pleased that the House honored our request to provide \$18.4 million which will complete development of the veterans' cemetery at the Joliet Arsenal. In fact the VA says that if that legislation is signed into law that that funding would allow the cemetery to be opened by 1999.

In the Interior appropriations bill, thanks to the help of a lot of people including the gentleman from Illinois, SID YATES, and the Illinois delegation, we have \$3.35 million for continued development of the National Tall Grass Prairie. Redevelopment of the Joliet Arsenal is clearly our top conservation and veterans' priority for Illinois for many of us and I am pleased that we are making progress.

When it comes to crime which is so important to the south suburbs and the parts of the city of Chicago that I represent, we are also making some real progress. Last year the President signed our legislation which allowed Federal prison grant funds for the first time ever to be used for juvenile detention center construction and operation. In the appropriation bill that we are going to be debating today we provide \$680 million for prison grants, \$50 million more than the President asked for, and for the first time ever counties such as Will and Kankakee and La Salle, struggling to deal with gang problems, will now be able to apply for and use those funds for construction and operation of juvenile detention centers. That is an important issue.

We are looking out for local concerns. But one issue today I want to close with is something very important. Last Friday a number of my colleagues and I from Illinois went home to a flood-devastated Chicago region. In fact I have a photo of a news clipping here. Thousands and thousands of homes were flooded in the Chicago region. Many of those homes saw severe damage.

REVIEW OF 104TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I think for a moment here I would like to reflect on what the 104th Congress has not done. This 104th Congress, led by the Republicans for the first time in 4 decades, has not done several things. We can applaud the fact that they have not done a few things. For example, the Gingrich-Dole-Lott plan to cut \$270 billion out of Medicare to provide tax breaks for wealthy people, thank goodness President Clinton was there to veto that effort. Because for a lot of senior citizens it would have meant higher premiums and for families it would have meant a greater economic burden. A lot of those families are middle-income families struggling to get