

who submit themselves for public service need not begin by taking a poll but by trying to lead public opinion and mold it, not just to react to it.

Senator Yarborough was a leader in the true sense, a genuine public servant. We are fortunate that he came our way.

There are those, of course, who refer to him as a firebrand, but when I visited with him, I always found that the fire that burned was a fire of justice, one who responded consistently when injustice affected the people of our State.

We thank you, Senator Yarborough, for a life well lived, and a State well served. You have served well not only those of us in Texas while you were in the Senate, but have benefited generations of Texans to come.

RESCUE OUR NATION'S CREDIT NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this morning to say a few words about two cosmic issues. One is the state of disrepair in which our CR's and appropriation process have left Federal agencies. The other, of course, is the weightiest of all: the debt limit of the United States, our full faith and credit twisting in the wind as we speak.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has got to face up to its responsibility to come to cloture, to settle the Government so that the Government does not dissolve into chaos waiting to see whether continuing resolutions will be for a few days, a few weeks, or until September 30. Mr. Speaker, we avoided a shutdown and took a breath, but for some Federal workers and for some agencies, what has been left is virtually the same thing.

What should Federal agencies do? Some are on CR's that go to March 15, others to September 30. There are disparate amounts of money that the agencies may spend. For those on short-term CR's, shall they wait to find out what we are going to do or should they RIF now or cut back now? Of course, if they do, they may find that the layoffs were entirely unnecessary if we reach a budget agreement. What a position to leave the Government in.

How much worse is the position in which we leave people who happen to work for the Federal Government? Let us take the EPA as an example. Should they now fire almost 4,000 employees? Shall they plan for unpaid furloughs that could last almost 3 weeks? Or will we do something to make all of this unnecessary? Is it, by any definition, fair to leave people wondering about this set of choices?

What about the States? The States depend upon money that is holed up in

these agencies that we have not let free. They will not be getting their Federal funds on which they too are relying. These are your States and my States.

What about the contractors? Often contractors are out there doing the work because we said they could do it more efficiently. What about contractors? Shall they lay off people? Shall they go out on a limb and take bank loans?

This is no way to run a corner store, much less a government. If we are going to cut people off, we ought to cut them off. We should not let people and agencies starve to death. Above all, we should take our full faith and credit and decide what we are going to do with it.

Believe me, Mr. Speaker, I think I know what it means to lose your credit, because I come from the District of Columbia. There is no higher authority than the Government of the United States. The Congress is that higher authority. The District of Columbia avoided default, but it has lost its credit. Moody's has said that we could lose our credit. A default may be unthinkable, but even a threat of default could raise interest rates on ordinary Americans. Almost nobody would be immune from the effect. Those who would feel it most immediately would be those with adjustable rate mortgages, which millions of Americans have, and pensioners whose pensions depend upon interest payments from annuities.

This week we must not go home without settling, bringing to cloture what is to happen to our Federal agencies. Of course we should not walk out that door into the street without rescuing our credit, the best credit in the world, from doubt.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Florida) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, we come before You in this quiet moment of prayer with our petitions both great and small. We place before You our aspirations and hopes, our dreams and our ambitions,

asking that You bless that which is good and honorable and show us the way of truth. May Your spirit correct us when wrong, amend our willful deeds, and teach us the power of faith and hope and love in all we do or ask or say. 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2111. An act to designate the Federal building located at 1221 Nevin Avenue in Richmond, California, as the "Frank Hagel Federal Building".

H.R. 2726. An act to make certain technical corrections in laws relating to Native Americans, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill (H.R. 2029) "An act to amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to provide regulatory relief, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1543. An act to clarify the treatment of Nebraska impact aid payments.

S. 1544. An act to authorize the conveyance of the William Langer Jewel Bearing Plant to the Job Development Authority of the City of Rolla, North Dakota.

S. 1463. An act to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to clarify the definitions of domestic industry and like articles in certain investigations involving perishable agricultural products, and for other purposes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii 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.

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE— WITHDRAWAL OF INVITATION TO FRENCH PRESIDENT JACQUES CHIRAC AND NOT AGREEING TO FUTURE APPEARANCES TO AD- DRESS JOINT MEETINGS OF CON- GRESS BY HEADS OF STATE OF NATIONS CONDUCTING NUCLEAR TESTS

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I

hereby give notice of my intention to offer a resolution which raises a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. —

Whereas virtually every nation in the world has adhered to a moratorium on nuclear tests since September 1992;

Whereas, on June 13, 1995, President Jacques Chirac of France ended his nation's adherence to the moratorium by ordering a series of nuclear tests in the South Pacific;

Whereas France has acted conducted six nuclear tests on the Pacific atolls of Moruroa and Fangataufa in French Polynesia;

Whereas France has acknowledged that radioactive materials from some of the tests have leaked into the ocean;

Whereas, as a result of the tests, the people of the Pacific are extremely concerned about the health and safety of those who live near the test sites, as well as the adverse environmental effects of the tests on the region;

Whereas, in conducting the tests, France has callously ignored world-wide protests and global concern;

Whereas the United States is one of 167 nations that have objected to the tests;

Whereas the tests are inconsistent with the "Principles and Objectives for Disarmament", as adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

Whereas, in proceeding with the tests, France has acted contrary to the commitment of the international community to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the moratorium on nuclear testing;

Whereas the President of France, Jacques Chirac, is scheduled to appear before a joint meeting of the Congress on February 1, 1996; and

Whereas, in light of the tests, the appearance of the President of France before the Congress violates the dignity and integrity of the proceedings of the House: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That, by reason of the recent nuclear tests conducted by France in the South Pacific, the Speaker of the House shall take such action as may be necessary to withdraw the invitation to the President of France, Jacques Chirac, to address a joint meeting of the Congress, as scheduled to occur on February 1, 1996.

SEC. 2. On and after the date on which this resolution is agreed to, the Speaker of the House may not agree to the appearance before a joint meeting of the Congress by any head of state or head of government whose nation conducts nuclear tests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time or place designated by the Speaker in the legislative schedule within 2 legislative days of its being properly noticed. The Chair will announce the Chair's designation at a later time. The Chair's determination as to whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege will be made at the time designated by the Chair for consideration of the resolution.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain 1-minute.

THE DEBT CEILING INCREASE

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I have listened with amazement as the President calls upon Republicans to pass a clean increase in the debt ceiling. Well, let me just say right now, there is nothing clean about stealing another trillion dollars from our children.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans already passed a responsible increase in the debt limit. It was part of the Balanced Budget Act. The President choose to veto it. We put it very clearly to the President: We are not going to let our Nation default on its debt, but we will not give the President a blank check to spend more money.

That is exactly what the President is asking for: a blank check, so he can spend not our money, but our children's money.

Mr. Speaker, default is not an option and Republicans will not let the President's irresponsibility let that happen. We will give him the chance to sign yet another increase in the debt ceiling. But we won't do it without at least providing a downpayment on a balanced budget.

JOINT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT JACQUES CHIRAC

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

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I have filed a privileged resolution and hope that the leadership of this House will consider it before the resolution itself and its contents become moot.

The resolution asks the Speaker to disinvite the President of France to come to a joint session to address it on February 1. There is an awesome responsibility in nations that possess nuclear power. And in this time and age, certainly we are sophisticated enough and advanced enough to reject the possibility, even, of a nuclear war.

So for such a nuclear power to say that continued tests were necessary, even after their prior government in France had declared a moratorium, to me seems to be an insult not only to humanity but to future life on this planet. Therefore, I feel that the House, being host to such a person who has violated moral responsibilities of leadership, would be against the conscience and integrity of this House.

I ask Members not to attend such session.

SUPPORT IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Congress has a historic opportunity to create an immigration policy that serves America's national interests—not the whims of special interests.

The Immigration in the National Interest Act, H.R. 2202, is a bipartisan effort. It has 120 cosponsors and passed the Judiciary Committee by a vote of 23 to 10.

H.R. 2202 has been endorsed by the Hispanic Business Roundtable, United We Stand, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. The National Association of Manufacturers, Information Technology Association of America, and American Council on International Personnel have endorsed the business-related immigration reforms in the bill.

This bill will secure our borders, protect American lives, make America more competitive in the global marketplace, give spouses and minor children high priority in the immigration system, and encourage immigrants to be self-reliant.

Support immigration reform in the national interest. Cosponsor H.R. 2202 today.

IN SUPPORT OF PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION

(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 proudly stand with the gentlewoman from Hawaii in her privileged resolution, asking that this body take up and debate whether or not the President of France should have the very special privilege that so few heads of state ever have, and that is to address this Chamber.

I think it will be very ironic if we are allowing a French President, who has nuclear weapons and who has allowed them to be tested at the horror of all the rest of the world standing by and watching it, if we allow that French President to come here and address this body but we do not allow a resolution of a Member of Congress with many Members joining with her to come up to debate it first. I must say, if that happens, what has happened to our democracy?

But, Mr. Speaker, furthermore, we all know that nuclear weapons are very, very dangerous and with the cold-war meltdown, there is no reason to go throwing them around in the environment, harming people just because you can. That is wrong, and the French President should not be here.

A LETTER TO FRENCH PRESIDENT JACQUES CHIRAC

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

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, after exploding six nuclear weapons tests, the