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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

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

We pray, gracious God, that our ears would be open to hear Your word, that our hearts would reflect the warmth of Your spirit and that our hands would be ready to do the works of justice and mercy. May we not, O God, become so busy with our own goals that we miss the wonder and beauty and truth and glory of our common responsibility to use Your gifts for justice in our land and freedom in our world. Bless, O God, all those who labor for these good works, that the bounty of Your word may be known by all. 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. FROST. 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. FROST. 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. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

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 bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 499. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service under construction at 7411 Barlite Boulevard in San Antonio, Texas, as the "Frank M. Tejeda Post Office Building".

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

S. 305. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Francis Albert "Frank" Sinatra in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions through his entertainment career and humanitarian activities, and for other purposes.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 305. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Francis Albert "Frank" Sinatra in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions through his entertainment career and humanitarian activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

REMOVAL OF NAMES OF MEMBERS AS COSPONSORS OF H.R. 539 AND H.R. 615

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to delete the following cosponsors from H.R. 539: Representatives TOWNS, MARTINEZ, FORD, and ACKERMAN. They were mistakenly added as cosponsors to H.R. 539 instead of H.R. 615.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to request unanimous consent to delete the following cosponsor from H.R. 615: Representative ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. He was mistakenly added as a cosponsor to H.R. 615 instead of H.R. 539.

Corrected cosponsor lists have been submitted.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

After consultation with the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent and approval, the Chair announces that during the joint meeting to hear an address by his Excellency Eduardo Frei, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on his right and left will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House.

Due to the large attendance which is anticipated, the Chair feels that the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor, and the cooperation of all Members is requested.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, February 13, 1997, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 0950

JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, EDUARDO FREI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Pamela Kidd, announced the President pro tempore and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate taking the chair at the right of the

□ 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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Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency, Eduardo Frei, the President of the Republic of Chile, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY];

The gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY];

The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BOEHNER];

The gentleman from California [Mr. COX];

The gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN];

The gentleman from California [Mr. GALLEGLY];

The gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT];

The gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR];

The gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. KENNELLY];

The gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER];

The gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON]; and

The gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The President pro tempore of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as a committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency, Eduardo Frei, the President of the Republic of Chile, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. NICKLES];

The Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK];

The Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL];

The Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR];

The Senator from Connecticut [Mr. DODD];

The Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN]; and

The Senator from Florida [Mr. GRAHAM].

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Vice Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

The Vice Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Dr. Joseph Edsel Edmunds, Ambassador of Saint Lucia, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

At 10 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m., the Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the President of the Republic of Chile, His Excellency, Eduardo Frei.

The President of the Republic of Chile, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, and stood at the Clerk's desk.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, it is my great privilege and I deem it a high honor and personal pleasure to present to you His Excellency, Eduardo Frei, President of the Republic of Chile.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, EDUARDO FREI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE

(The following address was delivered in Spanish, with a simultaneous translation in English.)

President FREI. Mr. President, honorable Senators, honorable Members of the House of Representatives, officials of the United States Government, officials and members of my country's delegation:

I thank you for inviting me to speak here. It is an honor for me and for the people of Chile to address you in this Chamber which has stood for more than 200 years as an uninterrupted symbol of freedom.

I am deeply moved, not only because this House served as forum for Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Abraham Lincoln, but also because it recognized the independence of Chile in the year 1810. It also gave strong support to the people of Chile in their struggle to restore democracy when it had been crushed, and to demand the observance of human rights when they were violated.

Don Quixote de la Mancha, addressing his inseparable companion, declared: "Freedom, Sancho, is one of the most precious gifts heaven bestows on man—all the treasure of the earth and of the oceans cannot equal it. For our freedom, as for our honor, we can and must risk our lives."

I am grateful for the example this Nation has given the world in its unwavering commitment to freedom. Few people know as you do the high and exacting price that must be paid to safeguard that precious value.

I want to share with you why we Chileans are ever more satisfied with the dividends of freedom, why we do not want to look back, why we wish to have a part in the new history, the history mankind is now beginning to write.

Chile is a small country with an unbreakable will to be. Our recent history shows that clearly.

Not long ago we seemed to be shattered by countless hatreds. But today we have built consensus and understanding. The strength of peace has triumphed over violence. We are seeking to understand and practice politics as the art of building and agreeing, not of destroying or paralyzing.

We have suffered setbacks, but today we consolidate our advances. Reconciliation among us has taken root because we have reclaimed our freedom to look to the future. We have known the generous pardon of those whose most sacred rights have been trampled. We have recognized our common heritage. We move forward knowing that today we enjoy the fruits of the energy and work of many generations of Chileans, not just those of any specific government.

In politics and in economics we have experienced extremes, rigidities and

dogmatism. Today we seek our own path to a development that is balanced, independent and creative. We do not believe in fixed models or miracles but in creativity and in the courage to make changes.

We have not attempted everything at once. We know that great initiatives have been defeated by asking for too much too soon. We want sustained, legitimate progress, even if the pace is slow. We know there is much to be done to make our democracy strong and resilient, but we want to move forward surely and safely.

We have learned to be patient. Chile does not begin anew with each election. Rather, we build on our creativity and our work. We are well aware that we have a unique historic opportunity to achieve full development in a free market of political freedom. We value our achievements, but we give equal attention to the challenges ahead of us.

Neither have we sought an easy bonanza. Instead we have chosen sustained growth. We have not promoted ephemeral advances but those based on the work and real effort of the people of Chile. We have not relied on miracles, but, rather, in hard, unflagging work.

Today we have a stable economy that benefits the people: 14 years of sustained growth at a rate that has averaged 7 percent annually over the last decade; a rise in real annual wages of over 4 percent; our per capita income doubled in a decade; savings rates close to 25 percent; 5 consecutive years of fiscal surplus. We hold international reserves sufficient to sustain a year of imports of goods and services. Productivity has grown almost 5 percent annually in the last 6 years. Our unemployment rate is close to 6 percent.

We have resisted the temptation of easy promises. Our message has been frank and society has responded with discipline. Even while many of society's pressing needs remain unsatisfied, the conduct of our people has been exemplary.

We seek today to resolve the age-old dilemmas of the State and the market, the private and public sectors. Both seek to be more effective and to offer services of higher quality in their respective capacities.

Our people want no more paternalism. They are ready to forge their own destiny. They want the tools for progress. That is why my government has assigned education its highest priority. We want all elementary and high schools to have a full school day. We are devoting greater resources to develop a high quality teaching corps and modern educational institutions so that every region of the country can have centers of excellence in public education. We want total investment in education to grow from 4.5 percent of GNP to 7 percent within a period of no more than 8 years.

The State is also making a direct effort to help the poorest, earmarking 70 percent of government expenditures for