

Sabo	Thompson	Watts (OK)
Sherman	Velazquez	Weller
Stenholm	Vento	Wolf
Taylor (MS)	Visclosky	

## NOT VOTING—18

Ackerman	Lewis (GA)	Owens
Coble	Linder	Payne
Cooksey	Menendez	Roukema
Dixon	Molinari	Rush
Greenwood	Nussle	Sanders
Kaptur	Olver	Torres

□ 1124

Mr. PASCHELL changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). Will the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BRADY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BRADY 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces it will entertain ten 1-minute requests on each side.

## HERSHEY RETREAT PAVES THE WAY TO MORE CIVIL DISCOURSE

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the spirit of bipartisanship on this side of the aisle to express my thanks and gratitude to the 200 Members who attended the bipartisan retreat that was held in Hershey, PA. It was an enormous success. We had about 150 spouses and over 100 children, and the headline in the Harrisburg paper on Sunday I think really depicts the outcome, which says: "Retreat declared success." And it was a success, in part because so many Members came, so many families came, and people really had an opportunity to build friendships and relationships that I believe will last well beyond our careers in Congress and, I think, will lead us to opportunities to really have meaningful dialog and debate in I hope what will be a much more civil atmosphere.

I want to express my deep gratitude to the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SKAGGS], who cochaired this with me, the steering committee, the Speaker of the House [NEWT GINGRICH] and the Democratic leader [DICK GEPHARDT] for the extraordinary leadership that they showed in assisting us in getting the Members to come.

It was a great weekend, it was a great start. It is not the panacea, it is

not the solution, but we have begun what I believe is an important event that will lead us to more civil discourse and continue, I think, to build the idea that the House of Representatives is the highest legislative body and the work that we do here is very important and should be held in high regard.

□ 1130

## ALL U.S. ALLIES SHOULD BE TREATED FAIRLY

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

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I recently returned from a trip to Israel where I reviewed important aspects of the longstanding United States-Israel defense relationship. Nobody can visit this region without being struck by the fragility of the peace process and the looming potential for violence. During our meeting, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechi emphasized both the military risks in the region and the willingness of Israel to take risks in pursuit of peace. I am deeply concerned, however, that the United States appears to be holding Israel to one standard and her peace partners to another. Friends and allies may disagree over the appropriateness or timing of building in Har Homa, but this administration's handling of the issue is surprising and potentially counterproductive—not to mention confusing.

The administration should be congratulated for standing up in the United Nations and vetoing the anti-Israel resolution brought before the Security Council earlier this month. While condemning the Israeli Government's decision to build Jewish housing in Har Homa, the resolution did not address the failure of the Palestinians to live up to many of their commitments under the Oslo accords. The resolution made no mention of the many steps Israel has taken for peace, including re-deploying Israeli security forces in Hebron, releasing terrorists convicted of killing Israelis and proposing to cede additional lands in the West Bank. The proposed United Nations resolution would have been extremely damaging to the peace process. The American veto told the world that we would not let our friend and ally be bullied, nor our concern for rational discourse and diplomacy be railroaded.

However, the actions this administration has taken since the U.N. veto—publicly criticizing Israel and agreeing to take part in an international conference in Gaza to which Israel was not even invited—threaten to undermine not only the positive effects of the veto, but the honest broker role the United States must play to promote peace in the Middle East.

Over the last week, the world has seen the President of the United States standing with Yassir Arafat and Egypt-

tian President Mubarak, harshly criticizing Israel while ignoring the tangible risks she has taken. These public reprimands and actions do not serve the cause of peace and can only increase the potential for violent confrontation.

Mr. Speaker, the administration needs to treat all of our allies fairly. It has not done so in this case.

## POSITIVE EXPERIENCE IN HERSHEY, PA

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I had the distinct pleasure to make some history with more than 200 of my colleagues in Hershey, PA at the bipartisan retreat. I want to congratulate the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. LAHOOD] and the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SKAGGS] and everyone who worked so hard in putting this retreat together.

My experience in Hershey was very positive, and I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their cooperation in making this event a real success.

For most of the world, the U.S. House of Representatives means democracy. We, as Members of Congress, have a profound responsibility to treat this institution with respect, to uphold its rules, and to realize that the House and its traditions are bigger than any one person or party.

I also would like to remind my colleagues that disagreement in policy, disagreement in philosophy, disagreement in ideology is the wellspring of democracy, and I welcome spirited debate.

In the weeks, months, and years to come, I can guarantee one thing: We will all disagree. But after this weekend, I hope that those disagreements are made with the understanding that we all, as elected Members of Congress, are trying to do the best for our Nation.

## KEEPING THE MOMENTUM OF HERSHEY GOING

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

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to follow the good lead of my colleague from Illinois [Mr. LAHOOD] in addressing this side of the House in the spirit of the weekend just concluded, where we had a remarkable event occur: almost half of this body, with many spouses and children, spending some time together, doing the fundamental business of any institution, which is getting to know each other, developing some minimum level of trust and respect so that we can conduct our business here on the basis of policy, not on the basis of going after each other personally.

We realized something very important over this weekend, which is that we are in charge here and we have the power, if we wish to exercise it, to change a bit the culture of the House. Many terrific ideas came out of the weekend, very practical, very much able to be implemented with the goodwill and support of the leadership on both sides which happily were in attendance for the weekend.

We will be meeting again, the organizing committee and the coleader teams tomorrow, to start to work on keeping the momentum going forward in the effort that was begun this weekend. I thank the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. LAHOOD]; I thank all of my colleagues, both Democratic and Republican, for the spirit with which they approached this undertaking, and we are deeply in the debt of the Pew Charitable Trusts for their support in underwriting this experiment in making the democracy work better.

#### GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER IN HERSHEY

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I too spent the weekend with my family at Hershey, PA. I want to congratulate the Members on both sides of the aisle that put the event together, and really congratulate the some 200 Members of our Congress who came to Hershey with an open mind about how we can proceed in this very difficult environment where we do have disagreements, but how we can proceed in a way that continues to allow the American people to have respect for their institution.

We are going to have our disagreements, but it does not mean that we need to be disagreeable to each other.

Probably the most long-lasting part of the weekend was the opportunity for each of us to better get to know each other. I have been here 6 years, and over the last 6 years we virtually have a brandnew Congress. Some 70 percent of this Congress has been elected since 1990, and over the last several cycles we have had large classes with little opportunity to begin to understand each other.

As we understand each other better, understand where we are coming from and why we hold the beliefs that we do, I think it allows us to have better respect and more respect for the diversity of opinion that we certainly find here in Congress.

It was a great weekend, it was a good start, and there is a lot more that needs to be done, and we need to work each and every day on helping ourselves and our colleagues deal with our disagreements in a more professional way.

#### UNITED STATES MILITARY WEARING COMBAT BOOTS MADE IN CHINA

(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, it is no wonder that millions of Chinese dollars have popped up in American politics. I mean, check it out: China alone gets \$45 billion from American taxpayers in a sweetheart deal known as most-favored-nation trade status.

Now, to me, that is absolutely disgusting, with the 17 cents an hour labor wage. But if that is not enough to rip one of those false made-in-America labels on one of those Chinese imports, check this out: The United States Air Force just issued military combat boots to our troops that were made in China. That is right. American military personnel are wearing combat boots now made in China.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. What is next, marines in Mao suits? I think it is time to take a look at what China has done and take a look at every one of these sweetheart trade deals.

I yield back the balance of all American shoe wear that has cost jobs in this country.

#### WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE AMERICA BETTER

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, last weekend my family and I joined 200-plus Members of this Chamber. We gathered together in Hershey, PA to restore trust and build friendships and, of course, to eat chocolate.

Now, obviously there were many friendships and relationships in existence before Hershey, but sometimes the reach across the aisle is very short. Sometimes we look around and we cannot recognize a Member, or we have not met them or we do not know their name.

Well, at Hershey, Republicans and Democrats came together to try to change the situation. Perhaps some of the tension that occurred in the last Congress was because we did not know each other well enough.

Now, we do know that we will not always agree; we quite often disagree. But we should work to maintain rigorous standards of respect and dignity, both on and off the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that, working together, we can make America better.

#### LET US GET TO WORK ON BALANCING THE BUDGET

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, we need to put together a budget. Every

day Republicans force poor American families to balance their budgets or plunge into poverty. Meanwhile, as the deadline draws near for our national budget to be balanced, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle submit nothing and delay action. Real people have to balance their budgets; so should we.

Consider the human face of this debate. Hardworking people have to make painful decisions on a daily basis about keeping a roof over their family's head or putting food on their table. While you waste your time on political posturing, families I represent in Williamsburg and Brooklyn, NY, study their bank statement, trying to make ends meet. They cannot postpone their budget; neither should we.

My colleagues, everyone in this Chamber supports a balanced budget, and there are already two proposals we could be working on. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Majority Leader, Americans cannot wait any longer. Let us get working.

#### MUTUAL RESPECT IS VITAL FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, replacing bitterness and a mean-spirited tack with mutual respect is vital to the effectiveness of this most democrat of institutions. Here in Congress, as we approach the challenges of this great Nation, we must renew our focus on the manner in which we do our work. It is here that the spirit of civility and bipartisanship must come alive if we are to build on the richness that is our heritage.

Every one of us has a vested interest to ensure that we as Members of Congress work together with abiding respect and uncompromising civility. Our ability to honor one another, while engaging in vigorous and thoughtful debate, goes to the heart of this institution and the people's faith in each and every one of us. Ultimately, restoring trust, dignity and comity will lead us to succeed on behalf of all of the American people. The people deserve nothing less, and they demand it.

□ 1145

#### A HERSHEY'S KISS

(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, I want to join my colleagues in thanking the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. LAHOOD] and the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SKAGGS] for bringing us all together, over 220 Members, together for a bipartisan retreat.

In that retreat we all acknowledged we are going to have conservative, liberal, urban, rural differences for whatever philosophical reasons, but that we