



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 143

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1997

No. 143

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 22, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable VINCE SNOWBARGER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

With grateful hearts we laud and praise every person who uses the talents and abilities You have given, O God, in ways that promote justice and serve the common good.

May Your good blessing, O God, be with the men and women who serve in this place and encourage them along the way. Give them vision to see the way of justice, give them grace to withstand all the pressures of the day, and give them patience and understanding to demonstrate the spirit of unity in their words and in their actions.

Bless us this day and every day, 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. Will the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SANCHEZ 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.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1534, the Private Property Rights Implementation Act. Allowing property owners their day in court to defend their constitutional rights should be an easy vote. Why should property owners face enormously expensive hurdles in attempting to defend their Federal rights in court?

Some opponents of the bill are now standing as defenders of federalism and local decisionmaking. I hope their faith in State and local officials and their ability to make responsible decisions carries over to future discussions about block granting various Federal programs.

The fact is that H.R. 1534 does not impose any new limit on the ability of local governments to make decisions affecting zoning or any other land use controls. Those limits are imposed by the Constitution, not H.R. 1534. H.R. 1534 simply allows an individual who feels their fifth amendment rights have been violated the opportunity to have the facts of their case heard without fighting bureaucratic hurdles for years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 1534.

CONGRESS SHOULD NOT GIVE UP ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, just two weeks ago Speaker GINGRICH forced this House to pass a publicly-financed private school voucher program in the D.C. appropriations bill. This provision initially failed to pass the House, but the Speaker held the vote open and basically twisted his fellow Republicans' arms to change their vote.

In spite of this near failure, Speaker GINGRICH will take another step at cutting public education. He will bring to the floor this week another bill to pour taxpayer dollars into private and religious schools. It is called an education savings account, but would primarily benefit wealthy families.

Democrats have an alternative that would use the money for school construction bonds to help public schools that are in disrepair or in need of new construction.

Mr. Speaker, let us improve public education rather than siphon Federal dollars for private schools. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues: Do not give up on the public schools.

FOR EFFECTIVE EDUCATION PARENTS SHOULD BE IN CONTROL

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] and let me simply, gently correct the gentleman.

The proposed legislation we will bring to the floor of the House will help every American family by empowering every parent with the choice of how best to educate their child, whether in

□ 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

H8931

public schools or in an alternative setting.

Also, the bill we will bring to the House with a tax-free, interest-bearing account will allow those parents of children with special needs to have the ability to find a way to educate their children and, moreover, there will be no time limit on those children with special needs because we understand full well the challenges they will face, the special needs they have.

Mr. Speaker, what this bill does instead is allow parents the dignity to decide how best to educate their children, free from the Washington bureaucrats and the notion of centralized planning. It is as elementary as ABC.

Mr. Speaker, for an effective education, parents need to be in control.

\$13,000 TOILETS BUILT BY PARK SERVICE

(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, the U.S. Park Service built a \$500,000 out-house. That is right. This Taj Mahal has a slate roof, a porch, and a cobblestone foundation. The paint cost \$80 a gallon. The wildflower seed was \$720 a pound.

Unbelievable. To boot, it is earthquake proof, able to withstand the shock of 6.5 on the Richter, either from without or within.

Mr. Speaker, if that is not enough to warm your globe, there is no running water and the special high-technology self-composting toilets cost \$13,000 each. The Park Service said, "We tried to cut costs desperately."

Mr. Speaker, I have a suggestion. Why do they not cut those \$13,000 toilets in half to better accommodate all those half-passed bureaucrats at the U.S. Park Service?

DANGERS OF TRANSPORTING NUCLEAR WASTE

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, in the upcoming debate over H.R. 1270, many of my colleagues will make the unfortunate statement that the shipment of the world's most deadly material, nuclear waste, is safe. That is wrong. It is absolutely and totally wrong.

The Sandia National Laboratories found that terrorists using a small amount of military explosives could blow just a 6-inch hole in a container, releasing 2,000 to 10,000 curies, a deadly amount of radiation.

Furthermore, a 1985 Department of Energy contractor report stated that the release of only 1,380 curies could be sufficient to contaminate, get this, 42 square miles, an area that could take up to 460 days to clean up at a price tag for the taxpayers of more than \$620 million.

Mr. Speaker, another DOE contractor estimated that that could cost up to \$19.4 billion, that is with a B, billion, to clean up.

Mr. Speaker, we are aware of the real threat of terrorism and accidents in this country. I say to my colleagues, if it could happen in their district, there is no reason to transport nuclear waste.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 1270.

SAY NO TO FAST TRACK

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, those of lesser intellect might question the wisdom and efficacy of our trade policy. After all, our deficit rose last month. In fact, the \$10.4 billion deficit in August was the worst in 7 months. We are headed toward a \$114 billion budget deficit this year, eclipsing last year's record of \$111 billion.

Mr. Speaker, we are headed toward an all-time high deficit with China and our deficit with our NAFTA, free-trade partners increased once again. There was only one spot on the horizon that looked a little dark. We are actually running a surplus, a trade surplus with Central and South America. Imagine that. That is against the principles of free trade.

But do not worry, Mr. Speaker. This administration and the Republican leaders want to fix that. They want to jam through a fast track trade agreement so we can have free trade and the same principles with Central and South America that we do with the rest of the world. That means trade deficits for the United States, job exports for the United States, and disaster for the American workers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to say no to fast track and let us get a real trade policy that makes sense for American workers in this country.

TIME IS NOW FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, with the failure of the Senate to address the problem of campaign finance reform, the spotlight has returned to the House to create momentum for this effort.

As a conservative editor, Bill Kristol, recently suggested, there is a conservative grassroots hostility to the massive soft money donations and the apparent influence such donations buy for big businesses and unions.

Mr. Speaker, we must not let the American people down and shuffle aside reform. Do not forget that unlike the Senate, we must face the voters next year. To oppose this reform effort is not only bad policy, but it is bad politics.

In 1992, the voters abandoned the Republican and Democratic Parties in significant numbers, attracted by the reform platform of Ross Perot, who understood that the people are tired of the Washington status quo.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot surrender control of Congress to the multinational corporations and unions, which pump millions of dollars of soft money into the system. We must return power and influence to the grassroots, to the people who sent us here.

Mr. Speaker, as a conservative, I came to Washington with just such an agenda; to return authority to the people back home. To abandon that reform would be to abandon that effort. I cannot do so.

"RADICAL REPUBLICANS" NOT A MODERN MONIKER

(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, often, very often, we have heard the Republicans and their ideas called derogatory names, names like "extremist," "far right," "radical," "radical Republicans." But this is not the first such occasion this has happened.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, it was about 130 years ago when in this very room the defenders of the status quo called a group of Republicans radical. During Reconstruction, it was radical Republicans who were criticized 130 years ago.

So what were these radical ideas 130 years ago that caused the radical Republicans to be so chastised by their critics? It was full citizenship for black Americans, not just abolishment of slavery, full voting rights, owning of property, full citizenship. Now it is commonly accepted here in America.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we hear today's radical Republican ideas like scrapping the IRS Tax Code, like school vouchers and competition, like regulation reform and individual responsibility, remember the critics of radical Republicans not long ago. It is not new; it is just the entry fee for the bright future of our country.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DEBORAH TAMARGO, WINNER IN FLORIDA DISTRICT 58 ELECTION

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Florida we had a special election in Florida State House District 58. The incumbent Democrat, Elvin Martinez, had retired to take a judgeship.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Republican Deborah Tamargo, the new State Representative from District 58. This now moves