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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. OSE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

October 26, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG OSE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, 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 leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) for 5 minutes.

EL SALVADOR'S DRIVE TO PRIVATIZE SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS A JOB WELL DONE

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I have a longstanding interest in the growth and prosperity of one of our most important Central American neighbors, the Republic of El Salvador. Today, I would like to recognize the impressive privatization process that is going on in El Salvador, with a particular emphasis on the country's successful privatization program.

El Salvador embarked on a major program to privatize the key national

industries nearly a decade ago. Since that time, the state electric company known as CEL, for Comision Hidroelectrica del Rio Lempa, has been a consistent leader in the country's privatization process.

In 1998, CEL auctioned off 75 percent of the shares of four state-owned electrical distribution companies for more than \$586 million, representing the most money earned to date in any privatization in the region.

One of the three winning bidders in this sale was a well-known Arlington, Virginia, based energy firm called AES Corporation.

Last June, this successful privatization program continued with CEL auctioning off the majority shares in three state-owned thermal generation facilities, Acajutla, Soyapango, and San Miguel, to private investors. The winning bid in this sale, \$125 million, came from another well-known company in the U.S., Duke Energy, which is based in my home State of North Carolina. As I speak, Duke is already making plans to invest more than \$75 million in upgrades to these facilities.

The most recent sale represents a win/win situation for both El Salvador and the U.S. This investment will not only mean more jobs and more income for people in North Carolina, but will also mean more consistent, cost effective energy for people of El Salvador.

El Salvador's privatization process, which also includes the state telephone company and pension plan, has been successful because political parties and labor unions put aside their differences and decided to work together to lead the country into a bright and secure economic future.

This unity and sense of purpose is proof positive that El Salvador has indeed come a long way since the war-torn 1980s. Other countries in the region, and beyond, should be encouraged to follow in the footsteps of El Salvador.

In closing, I would like to extend our best wishes to El Salvador for a job well done, as well as wish the country, and particularly President Francisco Flores, continued success in the drive to privatize and bring increased prosperity to the people of El Salvador.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Stuart York, Rosemead Christian Church, West Covina, California, offered the following prayer:

Father, we praise and thank You for Your patience, grace and mercy that allow us one more day to serve You and the Nation.

Today we celebrate the life of John Chafee. May Your divine comfort and the legacy of the man as a husband, father, grandfather and statesman give strength and solace to Virginia and to the family.

Please bless and protect President Clinton, his family, Cabinet, staff and our Armed Forces serving around the world.

Today we feel heavy burdens. Earthquakes, hurricanes and floods have brought death and devastation to thousands at home and abroad. The innocent victims of violence, crime, injustice, hate and prejudice cry out for help.

□ 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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But this we know, the faintest cry from the loneliest heart in the remotest part of the planet will not go unheard. Even now You are marshaling the forces of nations and peoples to rescue the perishing and care for the dying.

You brought every Member of this House here for a time such as this, 435 good, dedicated, caring people who really want to make the right decisions for the people who sent them here. However, tremendous pressures are bombarding them. Some pressures are of the purest motives. Others are of greed, selfishness and partisanship. Give each Member the wisdom to know what is right, the strength to do what is right and the courage to reject those who would compromise the integrity of this high office. Remind us that it is not always easy to do the right thing but it is always the right thing to do.

And, Father, let the family members and loved ones, especially Mrs. Chafee today, know that they too are true American heroes. They pay a high price keeping the home fires burning while giving strength and support for these representatives to carry on the responsibility of government.

God, use us to bless America. To You be honor and glory in all things. In Christ's name, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TIAHRT 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 206

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable John H. Chafee, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

Resolved, That Senator Chafee's record of public service embodied the best traditions of the Senate: Statesmanship, Comity, Tolerance, and Decency.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark

of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

WELCOME TO THE REVEREND STUART YORK

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it is a special honor for the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY MILLER) and me to welcome Pastor Stuart York and his wife Alicia into the Chamber. We want to express our appreciation to him for the very inspiring words of prayer that he offered us.

Pastor York has dedicated his life to spiritual guidance and to public service. He served as pastor in churches in Missouri, Oklahoma and California, and in California he has been pastor, as the Speaker said, of the Rosemead Christian church for the past 11 years. He also was President of the Missouri Christian Convention and is chairman of the board of trustees at St. Louis Christian College where he graduated.

Pastor York and his wife Alicia have five children, Anna, Tammy, Wendy, Joshua and Rebekah. As a resident of West Covina, he has been active as a leader in local government and various charitable organizations. In fact, I on more than a few occasions have seen him play the role of Santa Claus. I am very proud to have him here in Washington, D.C. I join my colleagues in the House in thanking our distinguished guest chaplain for bringing us this very inspirational message today.

IRS OUT OF CONTROL

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. America's income tax is not only un-American, it is socialism at its best. It promotes dependency, penalizes achievement, kills jobs, kills investment, and subsidizes illegitimacy. It is out of control, Members of Congress. If that is not enough to tax your Social Security from cradle to the grave they keep busting our balsam and taxing us even when we die.

Beam me up here, Mr. Speaker. I say it is time to literally abolish both the IRS and the progressive un-American socialistic income tax.

Audit this. I yield back the socialism of our income tax program.

CALL FOR OVERSIGHT HEARINGS INTO GROWING BODY PARTS INDUSTRY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I read an article in World Magazine this week entitled "Harvest of Shame" about a new and growing industry in America.

This industry trafficks in body parts, parts of babies' bodies, organs and tissues of aborted babies. This business provides fee for services schedules listing the prices they charge for almost any body part you can think of, eyes, livers, brains, thymuses, blood, among other things.

Mr. Speaker, we are not talking about the People's Republic of China. We are talking about the United States of America. Now we know why the partial birth abortion procedure was developed, to give this industry whole body parts. The direction our country is going, the exploitation of innocent and voiceless people, children, babies, for the supposed benefit of the rest of us is shocking. We should be outraged not only because it is a violation of Federal law but because this callous disregard of human life is very real, very grotesque, it is growing steadily and it is done in the name of research. Apparently money talks and many are listening.

Mr. Speaker, oversight hearings should be held immediately on this issue.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION CALLING FOR RATIFICATION OF CEDAW

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am here today because of an alarming pattern of inaction on the part of the Senate. After voting down the comprehensive nuclear test ban and trying to kill the nomination of Senator Carol Moseley-Braun to be ambassador of New Zealand, one Member in particular is continuing to hold the United Nations convention on eliminating all forms of discrimination against women, or CEDAW, hostage. CEDAW formalizes women's equality and promotes women's inclusion in business, government and other economic and social sectors. CEDAW has absolutely nothing to do with family planning or abortion, and more than 160 countries have already ratified this important treaty supporting basic human rights for women. The United States in fact is the only industrialized democracy that has not ratified CEDAW. This is a disgrace.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to cosponsor my resolution calling on the Senate to ratify CEDAW in this Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The Chair will remind all Members they should avoid admonishing the other body to take action or not to take action.