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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 19, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC COLLINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

We know, O God, how we strive to gain influence and extend our ideas and we know too that Your word calls us to see the needs of others. We admit that excessive pride demands victory in all things but Your word calls us to do justice and speak the truth. We acknowledge that we can see more clearly the evil in another person but can miss the selfishness in our own hearts. O gracious God, our creator and our guide, we pray Your spirit will lead us in the way of justice and reconciliation and with a greater understanding may we walk faithfully along the road of peace. In Your holy 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT 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 had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4. An act to declare it to be the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense.

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. 39. An act to provide a national medal for public safety officers who act with extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 95-521, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints Patricia Mack Bryan, of Virginia, as Senate Legal Counsel, effective as of June 1, 1999, for a term of service to expire at the end of the One Hundred Seventh Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public law 105-341, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to the Women's Progress Commemoration Commission:

Joan Doran Hedrick, of Connecticut;
Lisa Perry, of New York; and
Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, of South Dakota.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes per side.

UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL

(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, Lincoln once said, "United we stand, divided we fall." Well, that old adage is quite appropriate to the Kosovo crisis, and I am sure Mr. Milosevic understands it very well.

Just take a look at NATO. The British are calling for ground troops and a summer invasion of Yugoslavia; while the Germans, the Finns, and the Italians are openly opposed to ground troops and are engaged in a hectic peacekeeping effort calling for a pause in the NATO bombing.

Meanwhile, the European Union leaders met with Russian delegates with very little progress, and no signs of any agreement on how to proceed.

Now, on the other hand, the Clinton administration may or may not be opposed to ground troops. It certainly does not support a bombing pause. Now, is anyone else confused?

Mr. Speaker, one week ago 11 Members of Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, tried to provide the administration with a simple framework for peace in Kosovo, in complete cooperation with the Russian Duma. The administration, however, came out whining about freelance diplomacy, but sadly they have completely missed the point.

Our bipartisan effort is simply an attempt to get the Clinton administration and the rest of NATO singing off the same sheet of music, and to bring solidarity, consensus, and a peaceful conclusion to this confusing crisis.

□ 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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H3299

EVERY DIPLOMATIC OPPORTUNITY SHOULD BE PURSUED TO END WAR IN YUGOSLAVIA

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, there is a drumbeat in Washington this morning, as there has been a drumbeat in London, where troops are being advocated to be sent to Kosovo and into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for purposes of winding up this war.

I think it is an important moment to reflect, as British officials are visiting this country today, as to whether or not it is in the best interest of our country to not just be talking about ground troops but to even have the thought of an expanded war in which the lives of our young people, of our sons and daughters, would be put at risk.

I say that instead of talking about the possibility of an expanded war, we should begin aggressively to pursue peace. We should look for every diplomatic opportunity to bring an end to this war, to stop the conflict, to stop the bombing, to begin the withdrawal of the Serbian troops, to stop the military activities of the KLA, to begin the repatriation of the refugees, to give them a chance to go home.

This has to be done diplomatically with international armed peacekeeping troops. We cannot win this war militarily. We have to bring an end to it diplomatically.

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION IS REFUSING TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, why is the Clinton administration short-changing Medicare? Under the Clinton-Gore leadership, the executive branch's Health Care Financing Administration is refusing to spend money which is desperately needed by our Nation's elderly population and which has been authorized under the Balanced Budget Act. This amounts to an astonishing \$20 billion this administration is withholding from the most deserving members of our society: retired Americans who are suffering from illness.

There is a lot of discussion in this town about abiding by the caps of the Balanced Budget Act, and I support the idea of requiring our appropriation bills to follow the budget. But when the Congress and the President enact a statute that says funds are needed to ensure the health of our country's greatest generation, HCFA has an obligation to abide by the law.

It is a scandal that the Clinton-Gore administration is refusing to provide adequate health care for our senior citizens.

AMERICA GIVES, GIVES, GIVES TO RUSSIA AND RUSSIA TAKES, TAKES, TAKES

(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, a classified report says, and I quote, Russia is spying on NATO and America. The report goes on and says Russia has recruited spies and is sabotaging our activities in the Balkans. Now, if that is not enough to scorch your Apache, Russia is passing on our secrets to Milosevic. Unbelievable. Think about it. America gives, gives, gives to Russia. Russia takes, takes, takes; then stabs us right in the back.

Beam me up. I say Russia is a bunch of ingrates that should not get one more penny from Uncle Sam. Finally I say, after the bombing is over, let Russia go in with their rubles and rebuild Yugoslavia, not Uncle Sam.

THE QUESTION ARISES, WHAT WAS THIS PRESIDENT OPPOSED TO IN VIETNAM?

(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 want to read a quote made recently by retired three star General Tom Griffin, attempting to understand our involvement in Yugoslavia. I quote: "Now let's see here if I understand all this correctly. President Clinton has ordered our forces to engage an entrenched, politically motivated enemy backed by the Russians, on their home ground, in a foreign civil war, in difficult terrain, with limited military objectives, bombing restrictions, boundary and operational restrictions, queasy allies, far across the ocean, with uncertain goals, without prior consultation with Congress, the potential for escalation, while limiting the forces at his disposal, and the majority of Americans opposed to or at least uncertain about the value of the action being worth American lives," end quote.

When we review history, the question arises, what was this President opposed to in Vietnam? Are we going to learn from the history of the 1960s?

IF WE HAVE THE POWER TO BOMB, THEN WE HAVE THE POWER TO SETTLE THIS WAR IN YUGOSLAVIA

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of finger pointing with the tragedy of Littleton, Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I announce a proposal for "give a child a chance" omnibus mental health services bill for our children, for there are

many things that we can do, but I believe that it is important that we listen to young people and provide them with school counseling services and guidance services which will be available to intervene for children at risk and others.

Mr. Speaker, as we talk about violence, let me move quickly to a subject and join my colleague in asking for a cessation in the bombing. I have asked the President for three days, 72 hours, in order to begin talks on a negotiated settlement over the Kosova conflict.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we can win. I supported the air strike. I certainly did not support the bill yesterday that was throwing good money after bad, \$15 billion, although I supported it before for the refugees and military pay increase. If one has the power, they need to use it right. We need to go to the negotiated settlement table right now and deal with the request or the needs of the NATO allies and begin to send refugees back home.

When I went to the refugee camps in Macedonia, they said one thing to me: Promise to help us go back home. And that was my promise. If we have the power to bomb, then we have the power to settle this.

We need to be at the table of settlement, the negotiated settlement with Mr. Milosevic. It has nothing to do with whether he is a war criminal. That is another matter. Let us get a negotiated settlement and stop this conflict now. It is time now to stop the bombing and begin to discuss the way to really get our refugees back home and bring our military personnel back home.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION SHORTCHANGING SENIORS

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, why is the Clinton administration short-changing our seniors? Here is a story we will not be hearing much in the mainstream media. The administration is spending \$20 billion a year less on Medicare than Congress authorized and provided under the 1997 Balanced Budget Act. My colleagues heard that right, and let me repeat it. The administration is hoarding \$20 billion a year from the funds the Republican Congress provided under the current law.

Skeptical? I encourage my colleagues to give a call over to their friendly HCFA offices and verify these numbers for themselves. One can hardly grasp the irony of the startling facts. The same administration that has run millions and millions of dollars in deceptive Medicare TV ads aimed at scaring seniors is now found to be short-changing the same seniors they claim to care so much about.

We cannot blame seniors for becoming cynical about this administration's constant willingness to play politics