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No. 115

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

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

Your word, O God, calls us to do the works of justice and righteousness and we pray that the good words that we say with our lips may be believed in our hearts and may all that we believe in our hearts become the good works of our daily lives.

With all the competing interests that crowd our days, help us not lose sight of the goal of justice for every person; with all the voices that command our attention, let us hear Your still small voice calling us to alleviate the pain of the distressed, to feed the hungry, to give freedom to the oppressed and to honor and respect those whose circumstances are different than ours.

Bless us, O gracious God, this day and every day, we pray. 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 Nebraska (Mr. BARRETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, August 9, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on August 9, 1999 at 5:02 p.m.

That the Senate agreed to conference report H.R. 1905.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

MARTHA C. MORRISON,
Deputy Clerk.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, August 9, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on August 6, 1999 at 10:44 a.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 211; that the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1219; that the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2565.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

MARTHA C. MORRISON,
Deputy Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, he signed the following enrolled bill on Thursday, August 5, 1999:

S. 606, for the relief of Global Exploration and Development Corporation, Kerr-McGee Corporation, and Kerr-

McGee Chemical, LLC (successor to Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation), and for other purposes;

And the following enrolled bill on Friday, August 6, 1999:

H.R. 1664, providing emergency authority for guarantees of loans to qualified steel and iron ore companies and to qualified oil and gas companies, and for other purposes;

And Speaker pro tempore WOLF signed the following enrolled bills on Tuesday, August 10, 1999:

H.R. 211, to designate the federal building and United States Courthouse located at 920 West Riverdale Avenue in Spokane, Washington, as the "Thomas S. Foley United States Courthouse," and the plaza at the south entrance of such building and courthouse as the "Walter F. Horan Plaza";

H.R. 1219, to amend the Miller Act, relating to payment protections for persons providing labor and materials for federal construction projects;

H.R. 1568, to provide technical, financial, and procurement assistance to veteran owned small businesses, and for other purposes;

H.R. 1905, making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes;

H.R. 2565, to clarify the quorum requirement for the board of directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States;

S. 507, to provide for the consideration and development of water and related resources, to authorize the United States Army Corps of Engineers to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes;

S. 1543, to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 to release and protect the release of tobacco production and marketing information;

S. 1546, to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to provide additional administrative authorities to the United States Commission

□ 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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on International Religious Freedom, and to make technical corrections to that act, and for other purposes.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO MIGRATORY BIRD COMMISSION

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to Section 2 of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715a) and the order of the House of Thursday, August 5, 1999, and upon the recommendation of the minority leader, the Speaker on Wednesday, August 11, 1999, appointed the following Member of the House to the Migratory Bird Commission:

Mr. DINGELL, Michigan.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL IN- STITUTION ADVISORY COMMISSION

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 262r and the order of the House of Thursday, August 5, 1999, the Speaker on Wednesday, August 11, 1999, appointed the following individual on the part of the House to the International Financial Institution Advisory Commission to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Mr. Lee Hoskins, Nevada.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from Jack Katz, Office of Payroll of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, August 24, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House that I received a subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined to comply with the subpoena.

Sincerely,

JACK KATZ,
Office of Payroll.

EARTHQUAKES AND NUCLEAR WASTE REPOSITORIES, NOT A GOOD MIX

(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, the two major earthquakes that hit Nevada on the morning of August 1 are further examples of why nuclear waste repositories should not, should not, be built at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

Nevada officials that oversee the DOE operations at Yucca Mountain

stated, and I quote, "In our minds, it sort of speaks to the fact that DOE, or anyone else, cannot really predict with any confidence what is going to happen in the future," end quote.

The large earthquakes, registering between 5.6 and 5.2 in magnitude, occurred a relatively short distance from Yucca Mountain.

Mr. Speaker, there are 32 separate earthquake faults in the area and scientists have concluded that Yucca Mountain is capable of a magnitude 8.5 earthquake and poses too many risks and variables for adequate seismic design.

Clearly, common sense tells us one does not store nuclear waste in an area that ranks third in the country for seismic activity, an area that had more than 630 earthquakes in the last 20 years.

A recent editorial summed it up well when it stated, quote, "Anyone who believes that it is safe to dump nuclear waste into that type of environment needs a brain scan," end quote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of any time I may have, and the brains of the DOE that may be left to scan.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT AND DESERVE A FAIR AND RE- SPONSIBLE TAX CUT

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, the American people want and deserve fair and responsible tax relief for all taxpaying citizens. This balanced plan sets aside 75 cents of every dollar from the \$3.3 trillion surplus to the important task of strengthening Social Security, reforming Medicare and paying down the national debt.

Our tax relief proposal also rebuilds our military and pays for other vital programs. Despite the demagoguery, the Republican tax relief bill does not, I repeat, it does not cut existing programs to pay for itself. The fact is that 25 cents of each overpaid surplus tax dollar is returned back to the American people. It is their money, and they very much deserve to be refunded for a part of the surplus over the course of the next 10 years.

This is very important, too. I remind my colleagues that none of this tax relief will be realized if first the surplus does not materialize. With taxes at an all time high, with the Government in the black, I urge the administration to embrace this responsible approach and rethink their veto strategy on behalf of the American taxpayers. It is not too late for this administration to do the right thing.

THE BARBAROUS OPPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR IS INTOLERABLE

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, the government of Indonesia should be made to understand the terrible consequences it will pay if it continues the barbarous oppression of the people of East Timor. It is simply intolerable for the world to stand by and allow people to be slaughtered wantonly because they express their democratic right to claim their independence.

I have spent a great deal of my time as a Member here on matters involving the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. I want to serve notice now, I know I speak for many of my colleagues who have similarly worked on those issues, that if the IMF and the World Bank do not immediately tell the Indonesian government that all aid will be suspended until order and peace are restored to East Timor, then they will have grave difficulty when they come here again for financial assistance. We will not be party to the funding of slaughter.

To those who say we must withhold, let us look at Serbia and Kosovo. The moral case for an international force intervening in East Timor is as great as the moral case was in Kosovo, and the legal case is greater. We ignored Serbia's claim of sovereignty over Kosovo and gave in to the moral imperative to save people.

In Indonesia, the government in power held a referendum. Overwhelmingly, in the face of great intimidation, the brave people of East Timor voted for independence. That gives us an even stronger right to send a multinational force in there, so the Indonesian government must cease. The international funding agencies must cut off aid if they do not; and, if there is the need, an international force must go in, lest we show the world that we consider human rights to be a matter for Europeans only.

The people of East Timor have a strong moral claim on our assistance.

THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE SE- LECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM SHOULD NOT BE REINSTATED

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

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, later today we will be dealing with the VA HUD bill; and I want to compliment the Committee on Appropriations for deleting the \$24.5 million for the selective service system. There will be an attempt to put that money back into the bill. I think that is a serious mistake.

The military has not asked for the selective service to continue. We do not need it. It is a serious abuse of civil liberties of all 18- and 19-year-old to continue this registration. The registration is totally unnecessary. This \$24.5 million could be better spent on veterans' affairs or some other worthy cause, but to put the money back in is a serious mistake.