



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 145

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1999

No. 116

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

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

We pray, Almighty God, that our minds and hearts would be open to the gifts of the spirit so that our daily experiences are not only the necessary duties that must be done, but that we would see more clearly the blessings of the spirit. Grant us new insight so we behold the gifts of wonder and beauty in Your creation and the marvelous gifts of love and grace and peace. Give us, we pray, a new vision of the meaning of justice that deals with the needs of every person and helps bring us all together in respect and dignity. This is our earnest prayer. 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 Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DOGGETT 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 Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 457. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to increase the amount of leave

time available to a Federal employee in any year in connection with serving as an organ donor, and for other purposes.

The message also 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. 2670. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2670) "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. GREGG, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. BYRD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1076. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance programs providing health care and other benefits for veterans, to authorize major medical facility projects, to reform eligibility for burial in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 15 1-minutes on each side.

THE BUREAUCRATIC DAY-DREAMERS AT THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND ARE AT IT AGAIN

(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 bureaucratic daydreamers at the International Monetary Fund are at it again. They are exploring the far reaches of reality and resorting to voodoo economics.

My home State of Nevada is the largest gold producing State in the Nation. This vital industry helps put food on the table, buy homes, send kids to colleges for thousands of Nevada families. The trouble has been on the horizon for the past several months as the IMF has been scheming to dump part of their gold reserve on to the open market in an effort to hide its debt losses.

Their latest debt forgiveness scheme is nothing more than smoke and mirrors and voodoo economics.

The gold scheme sale will lead to a disrupted and flooded commodity market which translates into a plummeting economy for many countries. The reality in Nevada is still the same. It will cause more mines in North America to begin closing at an even more alarming pace and thousands of America's hardest working men and women will be out of work, unable to feed their families; all because of the IMF.

Congress has the power to stop this ill-conceived IMF scheme and I urge my colleagues to oppose the voodoo economics of this taxpayer giveaway.

A WHOLE NEW POLICY ON TERRORISM IN AMERICA: IF TERRORISTS APOLOGIZE, THEY ARE SET FREE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House

□ 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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for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, 12 terrorists from Puerto Rico who are responsible for 130 bombings in America, killing 6 Americans and wounding many more have been pardoned by the President. Now, if that is not enough to get away with murder, check this out: to get the pardon, the terrorists had to promise to give up violence. Unbelievable, Madam Speaker.

A whole new policy on terrorism in America. If terrorists apologize, they are set free. Beam me up, Madam Speaker.

An America that pardons terrorists is an America that invites more terrorism. I yield back the pain and suffering of their victims and their families.

DEMOCRATS DO NOT TRUST AMERICANS TO SPEND THEIR OWN MONEY THE RIGHT WAY

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, many Democrats have stated that tax cuts would be risky. Well, of course they would. They believe the average Americans, to quote the President, might not spend it right.

Is this not the perfect expression of a liberal mindset? They really do believe that money that people earn does not really belong to them. They do not trust people to spend it right, whatever that means. After all, we all know that Washington knows best. It seems clear to me that Democrats do not quite agree with the proposition that rich or poor the money people earn belongs to them, not the Government.

In fact, liberals imply that any time the Government cuts taxes, it is doing everyone a favor, as if giving someone something. It is not giving anyone anything. It is merely taking less from what is already yours.

So every time we hear a Democrat call a Republican tax relief package risky, just remember why they are doing so.

COULD IT BE THE REAL REASON REPUBLICANS ARE DROPPING THE TAX BILL IS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY VETOED IT?

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, surely one of the most bizarre announcements of this do-little Congress was the declaration yesterday by the Republican leadership that there will be no tax bill this year, because there simply will not be enough time to consider the matter after the President vetoes the Republican tax giveaway. This is the same Republican leadership, of course, that has delayed now over a

month in sending the tax bill to the President so that it can be vetoed, as they knew he would do all along.

Could it be that the real reason that they are dropping the tax bill is that the American people have already vetoed it?

They have vetoed the idea of borrowing from a still rising national debt to give more to those who have a PAC and a lobbyist here in Washington for the hundreds of billions of dollars of special interest tax provisions in this measure. They have vetoed the idea of taking from Social Security and Medicare to give a tax break to those at the top when most Americans will get penalties out of this tax proposal.

I believe the American people have vetoed this bad idea, and perhaps that is the real reason that even the Republican leadership, that has done so little this year, is giving up on the tax cut.

PARDON FOR TERRORISTS

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

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I could not believe my eyes when I read the newspaper this morning that President Clinton had given clemency to 12 imprisoned members of the Puerto Rican terrorist organization, the FALN.

U.S. policy to terrorists has always been very consistent; it has always been very clear. We must make no concessions to terrorists. That has been the policy, not to pardon terrorists.

We should be sending a strong message that terrorism would not be tolerated. As my friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), has pointed out, the FALN was responsible for 130 bombings in the United States that killed six people, at least; injured scores of other Americans; three police officers were maimed for life; two were blinded; one lost a leg while trying to diffuse one of the bombs that the FALN planted in 1982.

What does the President have to say to these victims and their families? What does Vice President GORE have to say about releasing these law breakers? All 12 terrorists given clemency were convicted on charges of seditious conspiracy and possession of weapons and possession of explosives. They belong in prison.

THE KIDNAPPINGS, KILLINGS AND FORCED EVACUATIONS IN EAST TIMOR ABSOLUTELY SHOULD NOT BE HAPPENING

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I too am deeply disturbed by the horrifying human rights violations currently taking place in Indonesia in East Timor. The kidnappings, the killings, the forced evacuations absolutely should

not be happening. The horrific beheadings, with severed human heads being paraded around on sticks, is barbaric.

The government of Indonesia imposed martial law on the country to control the violence that erupted after the East Timorese voted for independence. Unfortunately, reliable reports suggest that Indonesian military officials are actually involved in orchestrating the unrest and violence that is occurring right now.

Madam Speaker, I call on President Habibie and the other Indonesian officials to accept the results of the referendum, get control of their military and bring an immediate end to the horrifying bloodshed and violence that is terrorizing the people.

RESPONSIBLE TAX CUTS

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, only in this Congress, with a small Republican majority, would we experience the following: cuts in housing funds, cuts in science and space funds, cuts in education funds, no planning to safeguard Medicare for the future growth, almost \$6 billion in national debt that is owed from the last 50 years, and the major issue we are talking about for the next few weeks is whether we want a tax cut.

Let us be clear about the debate. I would like to have a tax cut, too, just like most Americans, but the biggest concern we have is making sure Social Security is there, Medicare is there, and that we also pay down the national debt.

We cannot ignore those issues and only talk about a tax cut. The Republican plan for tax cuts is financially irresponsible. It only passed the House by a few votes and now they are going to use it for the next month to talk about how bad the President is. Let us put that aside and get on about our business of legislating.

During the August recess, I talked to hundreds of constituents in my district in Houston, like people did all over the country, and they talked about the need to safeguard Social Security, Medicare, and pay down that debt.

ORGAN DONATION IS AS SIMPLE AS FILLING OUT A DONOR CARD

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, we know that life is short, and the 60,000 patients who are currently on a waiting list to get organs know just how precious time is.

Sadly enough, only 20,000 people this year will receive organ transplants, and today nine people will lose their lives because a match was not found.

As the waiting list for organs continues to grow, so does the need for