

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. LAMPSON 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.

RECOGNIZING ANDRE AGASSI FIFTH GRAND SLAM TITLE AND GRAND SLAM FOR CHILDREN

(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, it is with great pleasure that I come to the floor today to recognize and congratulate a tennis superstar and fellow Nevadan for capturing his fifth Grand Slam title and his second in 1999. It was merely 2 years ago when the sports writers claimed that Andre Agassi was over the hill in world tennis competition. However, after a superb summer which consisted of his winning the French Open title, a second-place finish at Wimbledon, and winning the U.S. Open title, Agassi recaptured the number one ranking and once again the top of the tennis world.

Mr. Speaker, Agassi's unparalleled performances do not end on the court. For the fifth consecutive year Andre Agassi's charitable foundation hosted a Grand Slam for Children that raises money to assist at-risk youth in Las Vegas. With Andre's dedication and tireless efforts, the event raised nearly \$4 million to help these children.

So, to Andre Agassi I congratulate him on his fifth Grand Slam title and also thank him for his outreach and assistance to the children of Nevada. We are indeed proud of him.

STONE COLD PROMOTION OF GARBAGE

(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, it is not just about the Virgin Mary splattered with cow manure; it is about common decency. The Brooklyn Museum of Art is displaying a portrait of a pedophile that features the handprints of the children he murdered.

Think about it: on display in New York City, the handprints of America's murdered children.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. This is not freedom of expression; this is stone cold promotion of garbage. Congress should be supporting Mayor Giuliani's attempt to stop public funding of this type of trash.

I yield back the handprints of America's murdered children on display in the great City of New York.

CORRECT THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT TO REFLECT HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF SENIORS

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my concerns about the Older American Act that was supposed to be on the floor today and apparently will be delayed. This is reauthorization of some very, very important programs in this country, and as a Congressman who represents the largest number of seniors in a congressional district in the southwest part of Florida, it is of great concern for me because of programs like Meals on Wheels and other senior programs that need to be authorized, and they are essential programs.

The bill that was being proposed had some really good innovations and ideas, a care-giver program so that we need to expand upon and create a specialized program for it. However, the real problem in that bill was the funding formula. Florida, having the largest number of seniors, should get its proportionate share of money, but it is biased because it is Florida; and that was just plain wrong to say Florida gets less percentage-wise than other States. We have more seniors. The seniors keep moving to Florida, and they have got a program in the bill that says its 1987 census numbers are what we are living with.

Mr. Speaker, people keep moving to Florida, and we have got to keep allowing the money to follow the seniors, and that was the only real problem with that bill. Otherwise it is a very good bill, and I hope it is brought back to the floor with the correction.

THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT NEEDS MORE WORK

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, actually H.R. 782, the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act which we have been awaiting for 4 years, had many other problems; and it is best that it was pulled. This is legislation that is vitally needed so we can better fund and prioritize programs for senior citizens.

But the bill was going to take money from the Older American Employment programs, away from the efficient, the private nonprivate providers and dump it on State bureaucracies that have no track record and in fact where they do have a track record, one that is less effective and less efficient. It also was going to cut congregant meals for seniors under the theory that they should just stay home; it is cheaper to serve them there than to have them come to congregant meal sites, missing out on the vital socialization function and others things that go on there.

It was a bad bill, and it is best that it was pulled. It needs more work before it comes to the floor of the House, and it should come under open rule so amendments can be offered. We have waited 4 years. It should not be under a closed procedure.

PROTECTING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, PART OF RONALD REAGAN'S DREAM

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

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, back in the 1980's I had the honor of being one of Ronald Reagan's speech writers and worked with him closely in developing some of the ideas that were under attack then but nowadays seem to have come to fruition. And it is difficult for me to come here today and to just especially in light of what Edmond Morris has written about the President and is writing about the President, saying about President Reagan, but I think we should all remember that Ronald Reagan had a vision and set America in motion to do things that have put us in an era of prosperity and an era of peace.

I was there when Ronald Reagan, for example, launched the program aimed at developing a missile defense system for the United States of America. Everybody said that it could not be done. He was ridiculed. He wanted a system that, if someone were shooting a missile at us were armed with an atomic bomb, a nuclear warhead, that we could have protected from that, thus saving millions of Americans. And they said it could not be done. They ridiculed him, and of course this weekend I am proud to announce that we have had another successful test of an anti-missile system to protect the American people, part of Ronald Reagan's dream.

DEMOCRATIC CALLOUSNESS

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, the do-nothing Democrats are at it again.

This morning the Census Bureau announced that the ranks of the uninsured have grown by one million people in this last year. How did the do-nothing Democrats respond to that news? Well, essentially, Mr. Speaker, they told the uninsured to drop dead. That is right. They scheduled a press conference for this afternoon to denounce our access bill for the uninsured. On the very day we learn that 44.3 million Americans went without health insurance last year, the Democrats announce that they are standing in the hospital door to make sure that no Republican gets credit for helping the uninsured.

How callous can they be?

And where are their solutions for the uninsured? Nowhere to be seen.

Meanwhile, they are calling our access bill for the uninsured a poison pill. How dare they.

Now I ask you, Mr. Speaker, what is poisonous about expanding community health centers for the poor? What is poisonous about giving the cashier at the hardware store the same tax deduction for health care that now a corporate CEO gets? What is poisonous about letting every American have a medical savings account? What is poisonous about letting small business band together to buy cheaper coverage for their workers? What is poisonous, Mr. Speaker, about giving hard-working families special relief for providing long-term care for their aging parents?

Mr. Speaker, there are 44.3 million Americans that do not think access to affordable health coverage is a poison pill. The only poison in this debate is the callousness of the do-nothing Democrats. They ought to be ashamed, Mr. Speaker.

REPUBLICANS DO LITTLE OR NOTHING ON ISSUES THAT CONCERN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this term, do-nothing Democrats, is a curious term to me. As best I remember, the Republicans have a majority in this House, the Republicans have a majority in the United States Senate; and yet they have been unable to complete their work. We have begun this new Federal fiscal year without the necessary appropriations acts and they have yet to even present one of the largest of those appropriations acts for our consideration. Likewise, they have produced so far this year, perhaps, the most unique set of legislative accomplishments largely centering on naming a few places and buildings and memorial coins and doing little or nothing on the real issues that concern the American people.

One of those real issues is having a true patients' bill of rights for those in managed health care. With consideration of important consumer legislation delayed this month after month, week after week, we will finally this week have an opportunity to provide Americans some real protection with a genuine patients' bill of rights. That is what Democratic efforts, joined with a handful of Republicans who were willing to buck their leadership to stand up for the rights of ordinary Americans against mismanaged care, can accomplish.

Give us a Democratic majority, and my colleagues will really see what Democrats can do to address health care and other concerns of American Families.

UNDERSTAND THE FACTS ABOUT THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

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

Mr. GOODLING. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would tell the gentleman that I just read in the newspaper last week where the minority leader said that the Democrats are determining what the legislation is on the floor of the House, so that is kind of interesting. But that is not why I wanted to speak.

I have heard a lot of people, many, talking about the Older Americans Act, and unfortunately they do not know what they are talking about. The Older Americans Act, which we worked on for 6 months, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BARRETT), as a matter of fact does more than it has ever done before in an authorization as far as employment programs are concerned, as far as States are concerned. If my colleagues only understood the way the legislation is now and has been for years, says that 45 percent of all of the money will stay in Washington, 55 percent will go back to the State. That is not the way it has been appropriated. It has been appropriate 78 and 22. But that is not the way it is authorized. We improved that, and we said just reverse, 55 percent will stay here, 45 percent will go back.

So be sure to understand the facts about what it was we wanted to present which we will not present during this session of Congress again.

NEVER AGAIN

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

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, my good friend from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) has a very short memory. He tells the House and the American people to give us a Democratic majority and we will show them what we can do. Mr. Speaker, I remember the last time there was a Democratic majority and the Speaker from Texas, and the House passed no appropriations bills at all by the 30th of September, and all 13 appropriation bills ended up being put in one huge massive and continuing resolution that the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, plunked on that desk there, stack after stack after stack, and said no way will I ever sign one of those continuing resolutions again.

Now that is what happened the last time there was a Democratic majority, and I hope that we never have that happen again under either a Republican or Democratic majority.

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EARNING THE RESPECT OF AMERICA

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the best thing to do, to sum up all of this, is let us get past the partisan rhetoric, get down to business, and do our jobs, and maybe then America will respect what we are doing here.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any rollcall votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 1999

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2607) to promote the development of the commercial space transportation industry, to authorize appropriations for the Office of the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation, to authorize appropriations for the Office of Space Commercialization, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2607

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Commercial Space Transportation Competitiveness Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) a robust United States space transportation industry is vital to the Nation's economic well-being and national security;

(2) a 5-year extension of the excess third party claims payment provision of chapter 701 of title 49, United States Code, (Commercial Space Launch Activities) is necessary at this time to protect the private sector from uninsurable levels of liability;

(3) enactment of this extension will have a beneficial impact on the international competitiveness of the United States space transportation industry;

(4) space transportation may eventually move into more airplane-style operations;

(5) during the next 3 years the Federal Government and the private sector should analyze and determine whether a more appropriate and effective liability risk-sharing regime can be achieved and, if so, develop and propose the new regime to Congress at least 2 years prior to the expiration of the extension contained in this Act;