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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 12, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JUDY BIGGERT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mrs. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 560. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at the intersection of Comercio and San Justo Streets, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the "José V. Toledo Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

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

H.R. 858. An act to amend title 11, District of Columbia Code, to extend coverage under the whistleblower protection provisions of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978 to personnel of the courts of the District of Columbia.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1567. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 223 Broad Street in Albany, Georgia, as the "C.B. King United States Courthouse."

S. 1595. An act to designate the United States courthouse at 401 West Washington

Street in Phoenix, Arizona, as the "Sandra Day O'Connor United States Courthouse."

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Parents Advisory Council on Youth Drug Abuse—

Robert L. Maginnis, of Virginia (two-year term); and

June Martin Milam, of Mississippi (Representative of a Non-Profit Organization) (three-year term).

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 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

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

CALLING FOR MORATORIUM ON ANTHRAX VACCINE UNTIL LONG-TERM SAFETY IS DETERMINED

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, for the past several months, I have taken a strong interest in the Department of Defense's mandatory anthrax vaccine program. The Third District of North Carolina, which I am proud to represent, has a large military presence that has increased my awareness to the anthrax vaccine. As a result, it has also raised my level of concern about the safety, the efficacy and necessity of the vaccine for our men and women in uniform. Given the lack of information we have about

the shot, it is not surprising that a growing number of our Nation's Reserve, Guard and active duty members are choosing to leave the service rather than take a potentially unsafe vaccine. The harmful effects this issue is having on the readiness of our Nation's military is the driving force behind my efforts to change the mandatory nature of the program.

Recently the Washington Post featured an article about the overdue anthrax inoculations intended for our reserve force. The paper reported that these delays might threaten the effectiveness of the anthrax vaccine. However, even if the shots are administered on schedule, there is little, if any, evidence supporting an exact number of shots that are needed to reach immunity.

Despite the lack of information, the anthrax vaccine is currently being administered to our troops in a series of six shots followed by an additional shot each year the individual serves. A man or woman who serves our Nation for 20 years must receive over 25 separate anthrax vaccinations. As the Post reported, only 350,000 of the 2.4 million military personnel scheduled to take the vaccine have received their first shot. Current figures indicate that less than 1500 have received all six shots.

Madam Speaker, the Department of Defense reports that it has evidence of only 300, 300 adverse reactions and 200 personnel refusing the vaccine, but there are still millions of vaccines left to be administered. While we wait for every member of the military to receive their full course of shots, we risk losing even more military personnel who resign to avoid their anthrax vaccine date.

Madam Speaker, it costs millions of taxpayers' dollars to train each of our men and women in uniform to defend this Nation. We cannot afford to lose even one soldier, sailor, airman, or marine to a vaccine that has many questioning its safety and efficacy; but it

□ 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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seems that the more time passes, the more troops we lose and the more questions surface about the current program.

The relationship between the Department of Defense and BioPort, the only company that produces the anthrax vaccine, is beginning to draw concerns. BioPort is not even licensed by the Food and Drug Administration to manufacture the anthrax vaccination. Now despite its financial failings, the Department of Defense has doubled the amount of its original contract with BioPort. This aspect of the program alone has caused concerns among those who must take the shot.

Madam Speaker, the need to protect our United States military from potential chemical and biological warfare is critical, but we cannot accept the risk of exposure as the only reason to mandate the shot and ignore the lack of information on the long-term safety of the vaccine. If the anthrax vaccine is safe and can effectively combat the threat of anthrax for our military, the Pentagon has failed to convince the very people it is trying to protect. The questions being raised are serious, legitimate questions that must be addressed in order to ensure our military receives the answers it needs.

I introduced legislation this summer to make the current anthrax vaccine program voluntary. My colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), introduced a bill to institute a moratorium on the program until more testing can determine it is long-term safety.

Madam Speaker, we are becoming more reliant upon our reserve force to help defend the security and interests of this Nation. If these men and women are concerned that the shot is unsafe, the morale and readiness of our military is severely threatened. Then we stand to lose more of the bright, capable, and trained individuals who represent the very strength of the country. I cannot stand by and watch this happen.

Let me assure our men and women in the military that I will continue with my colleagues to pursue the issue until we can be sure that the anthrax vaccine is safe, effective and necessary.

THE POST OFFICE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased by the national attention to ways to make our communities more livable by this I mean our families safe, healthy, and economically secure; and ways to give our citizens a real voice in the decisions that impact their communities; and a special emphasis on simple, low-tech, low-cost but high impact solutions.

The Federal Government can make a huge difference in the liveability of our

communities without new rules, regulations, fees and taxes for Americans and business. We can do so by having the Federal Government simply lead by example; work that is being done by the General Services Administration, for instance, and how they manage over 300 million square feet of office space in our inventory. Another area with tremendous potential is the Post Office which touches over 40,000 different areas across the country and most Americans six times a week.

Momentum is growing with over 100 House cosponsors for H.R. 670, the Post Office Community Partnership Act. Last week before the Senate Government Affairs Committee, there was a hearing, and I could not agree more with the testimony provided by the National Association of Home Builders. They stated, and I quote: As home builders, our members abide by local zoning, permit, and building code laws in order to develop responsibly and preserve the integrity of communities. The United States Postal Service, however, is currently not required to adhere to State or local codes when relocating, closing, consolidating, or constructing facilities.

This noncompliance undermines the economic and social well-being of communities by permitting the Post Office to build new facilities or modify existing facilities without regard to local plans for growth or traffic management, environmental protection, and public safety. The National Association of Home Builders strongly believes that the Federal Government should follow the same rules as it expects the American public. That is why we support the Post Office Community Partnership Act.

I could have quoted from similar testimony from the Sierra Club, sort of a strange partnership that we do not see too often between the home builders and the Sierra Club, or a coalition composed of the National Association of Counties, League of Cities, Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, Conference of Mayors, Preservation Action, American Planning Association and the International Downtown Association, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. They stated as recently as last year the Post Office attempted to evade local clean water standards in Tallahassee, Florida and ignore local laws put in place in Ball Ground, Georgia, which were an attempt to meet Federal clean air standards. These actions would be criminal if they were attempted by a private company but are merely shameful when pursued by the Postal Service.

Comedian Lilly Tomlin's annoying and sadistic telephone operator, Ernestine, made popular the notion we do not care because we do not have to, we are the phone company. Well, the laughter that that provided was a bit bittersweet in part because of the grain of truth that was embedded. In today's competitive world with higher citizen expectations, it is time for the Post Of-

fice to care because they want to and because they have to start leading by example.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me and over 140 House cosponsors of H.R. 670, the Post Office Community Partnership Act.

SAY NO TO COMMUNIST CHINA'S ENTRY INTO THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, who is watching out for America? That is the question of the day. Supposedly that is our first responsibility as elected officials, watching out for the United States of America. Today, however, too many Americans with power and influence do not consider watching out for our country's interests and the well-being of our people to be their priority. Today we constantly hear about globalism, and we constantly hear the words world economy as if the development of this new world order is the goal of America's leadership. Madam Speaker, that is their goal, and sometimes that goal is antithetical to the best interests of the people of the United States. But our leaders move forward blithely as if they are part of an altruistic historic movement in which leaders throughout the planet are shepherding all of human kind into a homogenous world.

It is not working according to plan. The world is not becoming this one world place where idealism reigns and people are acting together in a peaceful manner and an honest manner. It just does not seem to be acting according to their plan. The dream of our globalists is becoming a nightmare, especially for the national security interests of the American people and the potential for the spread of real democracy and individual liberty throughout a substantial portion of this planet.

One of the problems the globalist dreamers in the United States refuse to acknowledge is that leaders of most of this world's power blocks are not playing the game. Surprise, surprise, surprise; those people, those leaders in other parts of the world, are basing their decisions on what is best for their own countries and their own peoples and not with some overall view of the planet.

America's relations with Communist China, with the Communist Chinese dictatorship, is a disgrace. It is a total rejection of the ideals upon which our country is founded, but again reflect the ideas that are the basis of our decision-making towards China. The fact that we have treated China in a way in order to harmonize our relations with the world with a new world order in order to make China part of a world