

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Douglas Tanner, Faith and Politics Institute, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we gather on this rainy afternoon in Washington aware that it is springtime. There may be a chill in the air, but there are blossoms on the cherry trees. Some of us have begun to work in our gardens, digging, planting, pruning. We are familiar with the springtime tasks, and at least when we have time, we welcome them as paths to new vitality and beauty and fruitfulness.

Grant us, we pray, a similar awareness of the tasks that lead to healthy politics and sound policy. Help us to know where to dig, what to plant, when to prune. And lead us to take up those tasks together. 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTS 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.

HOUR OF MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2000

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on tomorrow, Wednesday, March 22, 2000.

THE SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(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, every American contributes to Social Security, hoping one day that that investment will help him or her to retire comfortably. We expect and hope that those dollars will one day come back to us with interest.

For generations, this program has worked fairly well, but we now have a younger generation that is not so confident about the Social Security system. Most young people in their 20s with whom I speak do not count on getting a dime from Social Security when they retire, and they know how much better their own investments perform compared to the low rates of return earned by the Social Security Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, the Social Security system is a good program, millions of Americans depend on it; but it is time that we allowed Americans to invest a small portion of their FICA taxes into an authorized group of funds, like a 401(k) or a pension plan, an individual retirement account, to get the benefit of compound interest. It is time we made some changes, reform that will save and strengthen Social Security in the long run.

CORRUPTION IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

(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, 19 years ago, I defended myself and was found innocent of RICO violations. Forensic tests proved that the Justice Department used a fraudulent confession against me. What is even worse, at my trial the FBI admitted they had evidence that the agent-in-charge of the Youngstown FBI office, Mr. Stan Peterson, was on the payroll of the Mob, and when he retired, was appointed the chief of police of Youngstown at the direction of the Mob.

Now, if that is not enough to shred the Constitution. The FBI further testified they never investigated Stan Peterson. Enough is enough. I am announcing formally today that I am once again a target of the Justice Department.

Listen, I plan to fight like a junkyard dog, and if I die in that courtroom, bring it on; but I want to thank every Member for their encouragement that they have given me and for their good concerns.

In America, the person governs. We should not fear the IRS. We took care of that.

I will be submitting legislation this week that will provide for outside investigations into wrongdoing in the Justice Department. Right now, the Justice Department investigates the Justice Department.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the corruption in the Justice Department.

DEADLY CARGO

(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, this week we will have an opportunity to once again protect our Nation, our citizens, and our environment by voting no on S. 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act.

If passed, Mr. Speaker, S. 1287 will launch the largest nuclear waste shipping program in human history.

A no vote will send a clear message that we do not support transporting the world's deadliest material, nuclear waste, through our Nation's cities, near our children's schools, and through our rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation reported that in a 10-year period there were almost 100,000 transportation accidents releasing hazardous materials; 100,000.

Just imagine the consequences of a transport accident involving nuclear fuel containing massive amounts of radioactivity occurring as it travels through the most congested cities of 43 States.

Mr. Speaker, let us not put millions of our Americans or our environment at risk. Vote no on S. 1287.

I yield back S. 1287, a plan to transport nuclear waste that only serves to jeopardize the health and the welfare of every American.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GEKAS) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 20, 2000.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on March 20, 2000 at 3:00 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits a proposed Agreement with Bangladesh on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

MARTHA C. MORRISON,
Deputy Clerk of the House.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-213)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together

with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153 (b), (d)) (the Act), the text of a proposed Agreement Between the United States of America and the People's Republic of Bangladesh to extend the Agreement for Cooperation Between the United States of America and the People's Republic of Bangladesh Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy signed at Dhaka, September 17, 1981 (the Agreement for Cooperation).

The proposed Agreement to extend the Agreement for Cooperation (the "Extension Agreement") was originally approved and its execution authorized by President Bush based on his written determination that the performance of the Agreement for Cooperation for an additional period of 20 years would promote, and would not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. A copy of President Bush's written approval, authorization, and determination is enclosed. Also enclosed is a copy of the unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) prepared at that time by the Director, United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

The proposed Extension Agreement was effected by an exchange of diplomatic notes at Dhaka on January 5, 1993, and February 6, 1993. The terms of the Extension Agreement condition its entry into force on each State notifying the other of the completion of its respective legal requirements for entry into force. However, before the proposed Extension Agreement could be submitted to the Congress in 1993 for review pursuant to section 123 of the Act, the Government of Bangladesh asked to consult with the United States regarding a possible modification of the term of extension. These discussions proved to be very protracted, but both Governments have now agreed that their original intention to extend the Agreement for Cooperation for an additional period of 20 years from the date of the original Agreement's expiration (i.e., to extend its until June 24, 2012) should stand, and that the Extension Agreement should be brought into force as soon as each Party has notified the other in writing that it has completed its legal requirements for doing so.

Section 123 of the Act, as amended by Title XII of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277) now also provides that each Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement prepared pursuant to the Act shall be accompanied by a classified annex prepared by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Director of Central Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information. The

Secretary of State is submitting to the Congress under separate cover such a classified annex. It contains, *inter alia*, the Secretary of State's reaffirmation of the conclusions reached in the original unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (a) that continued implementation of the Agreement for Cooperation is consistent with all requirements of the Act, and (b) that the safeguards and other control mechanisms and the peaceful-use assurances contained in the Agreement for Cooperation are adequate to ensure that any assistance furnished under it will not be used to further any military or nuclear explosive purpose.

I am pleased to reconfirm President Bush's approval of the Extension Agreement and authorization of its execution and implementation. Bangladesh is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and is fully in compliance with its nuclear nonproliferation commitments under that Treaty. In my judgment, continued performance of the Agreement for Cooperation between the United States of America and the People's Republic of Bangladesh Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy will promote, and not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Apart from the proposed extension, the Agreement for Cooperation will remain in all other respects the same as that which was favorably reviewed by the Congress in 1982. The Department of State, the Department of Energy, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission have reconfirmed their favorable views regarding the original NPAS as well as the conclusions contained herein.

This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House International Relations Committee as provided in section 123 b. Upon completion of the period of 30 days of continuous session provided for in section 123 b., the period of 60 days of continuous session provided for in section 123 d. shall commence.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 20, 2000.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of 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 in under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate is concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 7 p.m. today.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN IN UNITED STATES AND EXPRESS- ING SUPPORT FOR GOALS AND IDEAS OF NATIONAL FAMILY DAY

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 288) recognizing the importance of families and children in the United States and expressing support for the goals and ideas of National Family Day.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 288

Whereas national evidence indicates that America's kids are faced with oppressive issues such as violence, drugs, abuse, and even family stress, causing the future of the children of the United States, and therefore the future of the Nation, to be at risk;

Whereas families in the United States, regardless of their economic status, ethnic or cultural heritage, or geographic location, are experiencing the pressures caused by contemporary society while trying to raise and nurture emotionally healthy and physically safe children;

Whereas Americans realize the challenges of spending quality family time together amidst today's busy lifestyles and balancing work schedules and kids' activities to regularly share a family meal;

Whereas it is imperative that the people of the United States act willfully and purposely to secure a positive future for the Nation by devoting time to family bonding, sharing traditions, and communicating values to children in an effort to sustain the importance of family;

Whereas KidsPeace, one of the Nation's oldest, most comprehensive not-for-profit organizations dedicated to helping children attain the confidence and courage needed to face and overcome crises, has established National FamilyDay to focus unified attention on nurturing family relationships and improving family communications thereby helping to build strong families which give kids peace;

Whereas National FamilyDay will be celebrated annually on a Sunday in March; and

Whereas National FamilyDay will provide opportunities for families to reclaim the family mealtime which fosters trust and builds better communication, and will encourage parents, grandparents, and caregivers to recognize the importance of being involved in the physical and emotional lives of their children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the importance of children and families to the future of the United States;

(2) expresses support for the goals and ideas of National FamilyDay as established by KidsPeace;

(3) encourages the people of the United States to participate in local and national activities honoring National FamilyDay; and

(4) believes that families who communicate and spend time together create stronger families which give kids peace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GEKAS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.