



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 146

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2000

No. 148

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT).

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DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.
December 5, 2000.

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.

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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 not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 9:50 a.m.

□

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

The prophet Isaiah had a vision that helped people to see through the darkening days of winter.

"In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. All nations shall stream toward it; many people shall come and say: 'Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths.'"

Give direction, Lord God, to each step we take these days. Let us not be fearful of the heights; our eyes fixed on You. Free us to be led to Your dwelling place. Then we will be light to the world and an example to other nations.

By being truly present to one another and unafraid to address every need, we will establish true dialogue and soon find ourselves in a lasting house of justice and integrity where You live now and forever.

Amen.

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THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MURTHA 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.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is Private Calendar day. The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

□

ALEXANDRE MALOFIENKO, OLGA MATSKO, AND VLADIMIR MALOFIENKO

The Clerk called the Senate bill (S. 199) for the relief of Alexandre Malofienko, Olga Matsko, and their son, Vladimir Malofienko.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

□

TO DO THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE

(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, as we prepare for the 107th Congress, I call upon my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work with this Republican-led Congress to do the work of the people.

On November 7, the people of this country entrusted us with many responsibilities, including passing tax relief, implementing education reform, and ensuring quality and affordable health care for every American.

It is time that our hard-working families receive a break from the overwhelming tax burdens preventing many from saving for their child's education or even for their own retirement. It is time that our seniors be able to afford both food and medicine through a voluntary prescription drug benefit under Medicare. And it is time that our teachers and parents, not the Washington bureaucrats, are empowered to

□ 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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provide a quality education for America's children.

Working together, in a bipartisan fashion, we can accomplish these goals and many more.

It is my hope that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will put political partisanship aside and join with me to do the work of the people.

□

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION HAS REINVENTED COMMUNISM

(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, America's trade deficit for September hit \$35 billion for one month, \$35 billion. America is heading for a \$420 billion, 1-year trade deficit.

Unbelievable. If this continues, America will have a crash that will make 1929 look like a fender-bender.

What is even worse, China is now taking \$100 billion of cash out of our economy, buying missiles, and pointing them at us.

Beam us up, all of us.

We must be stupid. Ronald Reagan almost destroyed Communism, and the Clinton administration has reinvented it, is now subsidizing it, and is now stabilizing it.

I yield back any common sense left and any patriotism left in this Congress.

□

AN ERA OF BIPARTISANSHIP

(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. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have returned fiscal responsibility and discipline to Washington. When House Republicans became a majority in 1994, there were deficits as far as the eye could see. Today, because House Republicans held the line on spending and reined in President Clinton and House Democrats, there is boundless prosperity. And because of this, America has re-elected a House Republican majority for four consecutive elections.

It is now time to work together across party lines. The American public has a right to expect their elected officials to work together to address the people's business. The next Congress, America's 107th, will have a unique opportunity to do this, making a fresh start with a new President in the White House.

Mr. Speaker, even in this time of prosperity, our Nation faces real challenges. There are challenges I know that we can meet by working together. And I am confident that I speak for all the Members of the new Congress in pledging to put people ahead of politics.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 126) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the joint resolution, as follows:

H.J. RES. 126

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 106-275, is further amended by striking the date specified in section 106(c) and inserting 'December 7, 2000'.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Monday, December 4, 2000, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and that I may include tabular and extraneous material on H.J. Res. 126.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

(Mr. YOUNG of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the continuing resolution that we bring to the floor this morning is a 2-day extension to the current continuing resolution that will keep the remaining elements of the Government operating that have not yet had their regular appropriations bills enacted.

As our colleagues know, we really have only one appropriations bill that has not been concluded and most of the issues relative to not concluding that bill have been non-appropriations issues. They have been policy issues, legislative issues. Nevertheless, that bill is not completed.

There was a meeting at the White House yesterday between the bicameral leadership of the House and Senate, Republican and Democrat. We hope that that will produce some beneficial results. I believe that I speak for at least most of the Members of the House when I say that it is time to conclude the business of the 106th Congress, and it is time to begin preparation for the 107th Congress, which will convene in January. And the way to accomplish that is to conclude the business on this final appropriations bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me simply say hello to you and to my good friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing very complicated about this resolution, but I think there is something very troubling that lies underneath it.

Up until yesterday, I had been fairly confident that the House, if it wished, could come to a conclusion on this year's appropriation bills and finish our work this week, our left-over work from the previous session.

I now am feeling much more pessimistic than I was, largely based upon conversations which took place at the White House last night and based upon newspaper accounts of people's comments after that meeting last night.

I was originally optimistic because I thought that, when we left, we had had very few differences that actually remained. They were largely focused on two appropriations bills, the Labor-Health bill and the State-Justice-Commerce bill.

On State-Justice there was the immigration controversy. And on the Labor-Health, the focus of objection to that bill, which was negotiated on a bipartisan basis and a bicameral basis, the principal objection that we heard when we came back was the language with respect to ergonomics. And that issue has now become moot because those regulations have been published.

So at this point, what I think we really face is the question of whether or not there is, as a price for getting our work done, we are going to be asked to in a major way pare back the level of appropriations for items such as education that are now contained in the Labor-Health education conference.

Mr. Speaker, we have the votes in both Houses for that Labor-Health and Education conference if the leadership will ever allow it to come to the floor. But so far, it is being prevented from coming to the floor by the leadership.

I would simply say that some may remember around here what happened over the past year. For the first 9 months of the year, it was apparent that the majority was intending to provide education numbers which were significantly below where those of us on this side of the aisle felt they ought to be. Then, with the putting together of the conference report of Labor-Health and Education in the closing days of the session before the election, everyone walked out of here and most people on both sides of the aisle campaigned for the funding levels that were provided in that bill.

Now, apparently after the election, we are seeing a reversion to form and once again we are being asked to make major reductions in education as a price for having a convenient end to the session.

I think that is a price that many of us are not going to want to pay. And that is why I am much more pessimistic that we will, in fact, get the work done that we should be able to get done this week.