



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 146

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2000

No. 34

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE).

□

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 23, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD A. PEASE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

□

PRAYER

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

We are grateful, O merciful God, that You are with us wherever we are and whatever we do. We know that Your spirit gives us forgiveness for the ways of our past, direction for the path ahead, and the comforting assurance that we are never alone.

We gain strength from the words of the Psalmist:

"Be still, and know that I am God,
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the Earth.

The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge."

May Your good word, O God, be with all Your people, and give them the peace and confidence that You alone can give. In Your name we pray. Amen.

□

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.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote

on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON 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 Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5. An act to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the earnings test for individuals who have attained retirement age.

□

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minute speeches per side.

PASS THE COLOMBIAN AID PACKAGE

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, each week that we delay the passage of the Colombia aid package costs America the lives of 1,000 of its children. That means every day we sit here and do nothing about the drug trade from Colombia, 143 of our young people will die from drug-related causes. In the time it takes us to debate and vote on the aid package, 12 children will succumb to drug addiction.

In 1998, 5 million young people in this country required treatment for drug addiction, and nearly 600,000 required an emergency room visit. In the United States, there are 1.6 million drug-related arrests annually, and over half of our prison population has committed drug related crimes. Even more disturbing, while the average age of marijuana users is increasing, heroin abusers are getting younger.

Seventy-five percent of all the heroin entering this country comes from Colombia. Delaying this aid package will only bring in more.

Mr. Speaker, we have worked hard to stop the genocide in other countries. We now have the duty to stop the senseless slaughter of a generation of young Americans. If we love our children as much as we claim, then we must pass the Colombia aid package, and soon.

□

PACT: PARENTS OF ABDUCTED CHILDREN TOGETHER

(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, today I rise to talk about Lady Catherine Meyer, wife of the British Ambassador

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H1287

to the United States and mother of Constantin and Alexander, and the organization she has formed called PACT, Parents of Abducted Children Together.

Constantin and Alexander left for a summer holiday with their father in Germany in 1994, and their father has kept them in Germany ever since. In the last 6 years, Lady Meyer has only seen her sons for a total of about 24 hours. Lady Meyer formed PACT to help American parents gain at least basic access rights to their children.

Today I will join my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), in introducing a concurrent resolution urging signatories to uphold the Hague Convention on the civil aspects of international child abduction. This resolution was introduced today with over 90 original cosponsors, a powerful statement on the importance of this issue. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and I may be the legs and the feet to move this legislation through the House, but Lady Meyer is truly its heart and soul.

Mr. Speaker, children should be a nonpartisan issue, and I urge the House to pass this resolution and bring our children home.

□

UPHOLDING THE CONSTITUTION

(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, earlier this week the United States Supreme Court ruled that the President had illegally exceeded the power granted to him under the Constitution. In his quest to regulate every aspect of American life and society, the President issued an executive order in 1996 granting the Food and Drug Administration the power to regulate tobacco marketing. However, Congress never gave the President, this administration nor his agency the authority to issue these regulations.

Mr. Speaker, I am relieved that the United States Supreme Court has upheld the Constitution and the basic tenets of our democracy. But, Mr. Speaker, I am also worried, worried that what the Clinton administration will continue to do is usurp the powers granted to this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we need to ensure that the balance of power as envisioned by our Founding Fathers is maintained.

I yield back the monocratic attempts of this current administration to govern by edict and executive order, rather than by democratic principles.

□

REFORM OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT NEEDED NOW

(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, after 80 Americans were killed at Waco, the

Justice Department investigated the Justice Department. When half of the Weaver family was shot down and killed, the Justice Department investigated the Justice Department. When serious charges concerning top government officials accused of doing business with Chinese nationals to influence our election was brought to the Justice Department, they looked the other way and did not investigate.

Unbelievable. The hen house fox in America investigates the hen house fox.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we reformed welfare, the IRS, and I am submitting a bill to reform the Justice Department. I am asking Rush Limbaugh to read it carefully, Michael Reagan, Tom Pope, Blanquita Cullum, Ron Verb, Tom Joyner, and help me from the outside like you did with the IRS.

I yield back the lack of oversight on the Justice Department of the United States.

□

AMERICANS FACING LOSS OF PERSONAL PRIVACY

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, each day in the newspaper we read or hear of the news of yet another account of how Americans have a growing concern about invasions of their own personal privacy.

Today in the USA Today, the headline reads, "Filesafe, health records may not be confidential." It says, "Most patients assume that what they tell their doctor is confidential, but it might not be. Blame the loss of privacy on the Internet or on the growing use of computer records."

Mr. Speaker, more and more Americans are voicing their concern about the loss of their own personal privacy. They are alarmed at the accessibility of medical records, their financial information, how it is being used. They want to know how they can get on the Internet without strangers downloading personal information about them. In today's information society, all of these issues are hopelessly interwoven.

This Congress should adopt privacy legislation. The best approach is the bipartisan Privacy Protection Commission, which I introduced along with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN). A Supreme Court Justice said the most cherished right of civilized man is the right to be left alone. In this Congress, we need to address that, and I urge my colleagues to consider that legislation.

□

PROPOSED BUDGET NEGLECTS CHILDREN AND SENIORS

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, every policy decision we make here in the

House affects our children, and today we are going to consider a Republican budget resolution that does not consider the needs of our children.

Their budget resolution increases the national defense budget by over \$17 billion in the year 2001, while increasing education spending by only \$2 billion. That is \$15 billion less. What a disgrace.

We spend billions of dollars each year on nuclear weapons, but we have to scrape together money for new schools, we have to scrape together money for critical school breakfast programs. It is wrong. It is wrong for our children, it is wrong for our Nation.

Our children need us to invest in their future. They need us to invest in education, they need Social Security and Medicare protected for their future, and they need the national debt paid down. By the way, this works to help our seniors also.

The Republican budget resolution takes care of millionaires and their risky tax breaks, but it does not take care of our seniors and our children.

□

PORNOGRAPHY: A CANCER EATING AWAY AT THE AMERICAN FAMILY

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

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I stand this morning appalled at a cancer that is eating away at the American family. That cancer is illegal pornography.

Federal law prohibits interstate transportation and distribution of this material. Through the Internet, the family rooms and home offices of our Nation have turned into the worst porn shop you can imagine. The fact is that America's children and families have been assaulted by more obscene, lewd, and disgusting material than imaginable just 8 years ago. For instance, when a child doing research types in whitehouse.com, what do they see? Illegal pornography.

The revenues that illegal pornography rakes in are more than all the money generated by rock and country music combined. And how has the Department of Justice responded? We have seen a drop in the rate of prosecutions of illegal pornography of nearly 75 percent since 1992.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to call on the Department of Justice to begin aggressively prosecuting illegal pornography for the long-term health of our children and the soul of our country.

□

AMERICA DESERVES A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, once again the Republican leadership has designed a budget that is completely out