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No. 37

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 29, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM NUSSLE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, source of life and all inspiration, breathe Your spirit upon this House, its Members and its guests.

As You breathed upon the waters and brought all Your creatures out of nothingness, as You redeemed Your people, leading them out of darkness into light and out of slavery into freedom, breathe now Your spirit upon us.

Make all in this assembly strong with convictions of justice, wise in judgment, and patient in the service of others.

The breath of life within us finds expression in joy and laughter, in deeds of kindness and generosity, in words of understanding and encouragement.

Help us to know we are temples of Your presence here on Earth. Empower us to bring peace and freedom to our brothers and sisters throughout the world. We pray to You, the living God, who lives and reigns forever and ever. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York 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 a concurrent resolution of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 99. Concurrent resolution congratulating the people of Taiwan for the successful conclusion of presidential elections on March 18, 2000, and reaffirming United States policy toward Taiwan and the People's Republic of China.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 10 1-minute speeches from each side.

CONGRESS MUST PASS A VICTIMS' RIGHTS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NOW

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, Congress must follow the lead of 32 States, including my home State of Ohio, and pass the "Victims' Rights Constitutional Amendment."

This amendment will empower crime victims by allowing them to confront their assailants in a courtroom and at sentencing and parole hearings. It will also protect victims by requiring that they be notified about the release or escape of the perpetrator from custody. Finally, the amendment will restore victims by guaranteeing them the right to seek restitution from their attackers.

For far too long, victims of crime in this country have had to stand on the courthouse steps with meaningful justice just beyond their reach: not allowed to view proceedings in person sometimes, not permitted to speak out on behalf of a murdered loved one, not even notified when a violent abuser is turned loose.

Crime victims deserve to be treated better. They deserve to be treated with dignity in our criminal justice system.

With the adoption of this amendment, we will finally fortify an important truth, that victims must have their own inalienable rights under our Constitution.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTIONS: BRING OUR CHILDREN HOME

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

□ 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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minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue my 1 minute on internationally abducted children.

In December 1997, Rosana Wayson, at 3½, was abducted to Germany by her mother. The German court overturned the U.S. court order guaranteeing Rosana daily visitation with her father, Mark, and made no provisions regarding future contact.

Mark Wayson has not had any contact with his daughter since August of 1998. He has traveled to Germany 13 times in the last 2 years attempting to gain access to the legal system. The family court has refused to allow him to testify or to present evidence. In Rosana's case, the German government first refused to accept the Hague Convention application and later dismissed it summarily.

Last Thursday I joined my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), and introduced a concurrent resolution urging signatories to uphold the Hague Convention on the civil aspects of international child abduction. This resolution was introduced with 126 original cosponsors, a powerful statement on the importance of this issue.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to put pressure on other countries that are Hague signatories that are not abiding by the Hague treaty. I urge my colleagues to join me in getting the message out and help bring our children home.

AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN 25TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the American Freedom Train departed Cameron Depot, Virginia, on its inaugural run 25 years ago today. The American Freedom Train headed for Wilmington, Delaware, to make its premier to the American public and help mark our country's bicentennial.

During 21 months of travel across our great land, the American Freedom Train traveled more than 24,000 miles and visited 138 cities where it became the focal point of local 200th birthday festivities. Nearly 700 million people toured the train's 10 exhibit cars and saw 510 historical documents, works of art, and items of memorabilia that portrayed our country's heritage.

The American Freedom Train, the idea of Mr. Ross Rowland, became one of the greatest events of America's bicentennial. My deepest thanks to my constituents, John and Mary Jayne Rowe, of Covington, Virginia, for the work they have done to preserve the memories of the American Freedom Train.

The sign at the train's exit is as appropriate today as it was 25 years ago: "And now let us celebrate America, its heritage and strength, and together let us build a meaningful tomorrow."

SUPPLEMENT SHOULD INCLUDE FUNDS FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING AND DRUG TREATMENT

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today the House will take up the first supplemental of the 21st century.

There are two problems with this supplemental. There is \$1.6 billion for Colombia, who is the biggest trafficker of heroin and cocaine to our country, and no dollars for treatment for those in our country who need it.

Also, there is nothing in the bill for Mozambique. We have a commitment from the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN) that the money will be forthcoming, and I believe them. We need the President to ask for the money.

Mr. Speaker, there is \$135 million in the International Disaster account. Spend the money. Send it to Mozambique. Do the assessment and replenish the International Disaster account.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against the rule. We need money for drug treatment. We must have it now.

EDUCATION SAVINGS AND SCHOOL EXCELLENCE ACT

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

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, the most important gift parents can give their children is a quality education. This precious gift will open doors of opportunity, and it will ensure that a parent's wish is fulfilled: that the next generation will enjoy a better quality of life than the last.

Educating a child is not easy. It is expensive, too often bureaucratic and much too often out of a parent's control.

For the moms and dads who are struggling to give the gift of education to their children, help is on the way.

The Education Savings and School Excellence Act will help families save for their children's educations and give parents control over where their children are educated.

On behalf of the 90,000-plus children in the district I represent in Washington State, those children heading to college, I urge the United States House to pass this important legislation. We must do all we can to assure that no child is left behind.

PRAYER IN OUR SCHOOLS

(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, once again, the Supreme Court is considering a school prayer issue.

Beam me up. The founders are rolling over in their graves. The founders never intended to separate God from our schools; the founders simply intended to ensure that there would not be one, one State-sponsored religion, period. My colleagues know it, I know it, and the American people know it. The truth is, an America without prayer is an America without God, and a school without prayer is a school without God.

I yield back the utter stupidity of the America political system that continues to rationalize, debate, and deny the importance of God and why our founders placed it in our Constitution.

AMENDMENT TO SUPPLEMENTAL REGARDING EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR METHAMPHETAMINE LABS

(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, this House will vote today on a supplemental spending bill. It will help maintain peace in Kosovo and fight narcoterrorists in Colombia. However, there is one emergency that is not addressed.

For that reason, I will be offering an amendment to help our States and communities pay for the cleanup of methamphetamine labs, those dangerous and deadly meth labs. It is truly an emergency.

The Drug Enforcement Administration is currently out of money to help our States on meth lab cleanups. My colleagues hear it in their States; I hear it in my State.

My amendment will give the DEA \$15 million to get through this year in helping our States and our local police. It is not new money, but it is a reallocation of the COPS program. It will make a difference to our communities; but more importantly, it will keep our police moving forward on reducing the production of meth that is tearing apart our families, our communities, and destroying lives.

Mr. Speaker, for that reason, I would ask my colleagues to support that amendment when it is offered.

CENSUS 2000

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, census day is 3 days away, and so far, the census is going very well. The Federal response rate is at 44 percent. Everyone can go to the census Web site at census.gov and get a daily update on how their localities and States are responding.

I know that some Members on the other side of the aisle have urged their constituents not to fill out the long form. This will only hurt people and localities and their districts. The information we gather on the census enables us to understand who we are as a