

□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend David Harmon, Big Emory Baptist Church, Harriman, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

Our Father: I wish I had the vocabulary of angels. I wish, my Father, that I could speak the words of Heaven today to express what I feel in my heart. We thank You so much for our great Nation. We praise You for the wonderful things that You have done for us down through these years.

My Father, our Lord, we need and seek Your face in our Nation and pray that Your kind hand be upon these men and women who represent this great Nation here today.

Soon I am sure that these folks will forget me, but I hope there is never a moment that we forget You, Lord.

My Lord, You know our major needs, so I will not attempt to pray for them specifically. However, I pray that Your will be done in this place today, as it is in Heaven.

My Lord, we indeed seek Your input and guidance in every decision. We also pray that You will bring harmony to our Nation and peace to our world.

Heal our land, heal our people and saturate our hearts with the greatest love and compassion the world could ever know in our Lord Jesus Christ. And it is in His precious and holy name that 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. Wamp 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on each side.

PROJECT EXILE

(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, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 4051, Project Exile, the Safe Streets and Neighborhood Act of 2000. This bill helps make neighborhoods and communities safer by implementing programs that ensure tough prison time for criminals who use guns.

H.R. 4051 will provide financial resources totaling \$100 million over 5 years to help States aggressively enforce their own laws, laws already on the books, laws already there to ensure that gun criminals are held accountable.

Qualifying States can use this money to strengthen their criminal and juvenile justice systems and promote effective and swift prosecution of violent criminals. Project Exile is a proven, common sense approach to fighting gun crime and making our neighborhoods safer. I call upon my colleagues to pass this important legislation so we can exile violent gun criminals to prison to do the hard time they deserve.

THE INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION OF REBECCA COLLINS' SON

(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, I rise today to talk about the continued problem that is of utmost importance, and that is the abduction of American children to foreign countries. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and I introduced legislation with 126 original cosponsors, a testament to the importance of this issue.

Rebecca Collins, a mother from North Carolina, was granted temporary custody of her son while her divorce was pending. In July of 1991, her ex-husband took her son to Germany during a scheduled visitation and the U.S. police filed charges against him.

In August of that year, Rebecca was awarded custody and the immediate return of her son was ordered. Despite the decision, a lower German court transferred custody to the father. Rebecca was granted access rights, but the German court refused to enforce these rights when the father failed to abide by them.

Rebecca's son was 7 months old at the time of the abduction. He is now 8 years old, and she has not seen him at all since the abduction. She spoke with him once on the phone in 1997, but her son has been told that his father's new partner is his natural mother.

Mr. Speaker, American children and their parents should not be kept apart by court systems that refuse to comply with the law. We must make sure that signatory countries of the Hague Convention of the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction abide by their agreement.

AIR HILLARY

(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, in 1991, White House Chief of Staff John Sununu was harshly criticized by the news media for using official aircraft for personal use. There seemed at the time to be a consensus on the part of the news media that despite his position, taking military aircraft on personal trips was inappropriate. But, Mr. Speaker, 9 years later, we have a First Lady whose use of official aircraft to run for political office has already cost the taxpayers more than \$182,000, and the election is still 7 months away.

Chief of Staff Sununu was criticized for using government airplanes for personal use. Is not using government aircraft to run for a political office in a political campaign even more questionable?

Every one of us in this body lives and works under strict ethics rules designed to prevent the misuse of official tax paid resources. Is it not wrong to charge 80 percent of your campaign travel costs to the taxpayer? The First Lady's campaign costs the taxpayer over \$3,700 for every hour she is in the air.

Mr. Speaker, I am amazed that this has gone on so long unquestioned by many in the media.

527 CORPORATIONS MUST DISCLOSE THEIR CONTRIBUTORS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, a 527 is not a bird or some new model of aircraft, but it is the Superman or super weapon of this political season. Operating under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code, these new political groups can spew out hate over the airwaves and fill our mailboxes with misinformation. These new political groups can take unlimited amounts of money, and they can take unlimited amounts of foreign money. The Iraqis, the Cubans, the Chinese can pour money into these secret Swiss accounts of the political season and use it to spew out more hate over the airwaves.

The favorite feature of those who rely on 527s is that they can hide every bit of any dirty money that they collect. They can keep their sources secret. Unfortunately, the House Republican leadership is so tied to these secret political accounts and so reliant on campaigns of hate that they will finance in the Fall that they are denying this House today the opportunity to require these groups to disclose their contributors. This is wrong, and the House should reject this tactic.

SENIOR HEALTH CHOICE PRESERVATION ACT

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Seniors Health Choice Preservation Act. This bill will protect Medicare Choice HMOs from additional payment cuts. Furthermore, the bill will assist Medicare HMOs that cover prescription drugs so that they can continue to provide this important benefit.

I believe we have a commitment to America's seniors to provide dependable health care through the Medicare program. I strongly supported giving seniors more options and flexibility when I voted for the Medicare Choice in the Balanced Budget Act.

Empowering consumers to choose their care is the best way to improve quality and affordability in the health care system. Unfortunately, more than 700,000 Medicare beneficiaries in the Medicare Choice HMOs nationwide will have had their coverage either disrupted or discontinued over the past 2 years.

In some Congressional districts, like mine, many seniors were forced to return to Fee for Service Medicare because there were no other options in their area. Even in areas that still have Medicare HMOs, seniors have been hit hard with increased out-of-pocket costs and reduced benefits.

Seniors in my district love their HMOs. They get things like prescription drug coverage, dental care, and eye glass exams.

At a time when HMOs are getting a bad rap in a lot of places, we want to keep our HMOs in Florida.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Seniors Health Care Preservation Act.

CHINA IS BUYING MISSILES WITH AMERICAN CASH AND THEN AIM- ING THEM AT AMERICAN CITIES

(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, this China-White House business bothers me. China's trade surplus with Uncle Sam will exceed \$70 billion this year and it is common knowledge that China is buying missiles with American cash and then aiming those missiles at American cities.

Beam me up. I recommend that any deal with China, number one, require a 5-year waiting period before China can fire a missile at America; number two, that China cannot sell stolen U.S. technology at missile shows; and number three, all Chinese missiles shall have trigger locks.

Now on a serious note, I yield back the greatest threat ever to America's national security: Communist China.

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT

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

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to return this week to continue my work in the House. I am rejoining my family, friends, colleagues and supporters in good health and I feel better physically and mentally. I am ready to resume my duties, including my legislative responsibilities, and serving the needs of my constituents. I look forward to the hard work necessary to successfully continue my service in the U.S. House of Representatives and to my country and to the Eighth Congressional District of Illinois.

This has been a deeply humbling experience for me as I continue on my road to recovery, but I want to thank everyone, including Speaker Hastert and my colleagues, for their understanding and the tremendous outpouring of support I have received on both sides of the aisle. God bless you all.

PROJECT EXILE

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this morning in strong support of H.R. 4051, the Safe Streets and Neighborhoods Act of 2000. It will be coming to the floor today under suspension.

This legislation seeks to build on Project Exile programs which started in Richmond, Virginia, in 1997 and using the existing law to go after criminals who illegally possess firearms or use firearms in the commission of a crime.

Since the incorporation of Project Exile in Richmond, the program has spread throughout the entire State. Other cities and States have also taken up similar initiatives to rid their communities of gun wielding criminals. In fact, my own State of Colorado started a Project Exile program back in September and already we are beginning to see a rise in the number of prosecutions against criminals in violation of firearms law.

H.R. 4051 would provide resources to the States that have sought to stringently enforce firearms laws and ensure a mandatory minimum sentence for criminals who violate such statutes. Likewise, these funds can be used to defray the costs associated with tougher enforcement stance, whether it be hiring more prosecutors or expanding jail space.

At a time when our society is grappling with the plague of violence, I encourage Members of this body to pass H.R. 4051.

□ 1115

JUDGE RULES AGAINST CONTROVERSIAL HISTORIAN

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, before I begin my 1-minute, on behalf of all of my Democratic colleagues, I want to welcome back to the House the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE), our colleague and friend. We are delighted to have him back.

Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the victory of history over hate. The pseudohistorian in England, David Irving, who denied the Holocaust, had his comeuppance in a British court yesterday. The great American scholar of the Holocaust, Professor Deborah Lipstadt of Emory University, called David Irving a Holocaust denier. Yesterday, British justice agreed. That is why we celebrate history over hate.

Steven Spielberg and others in countless documentaries have used film to show what the Holocaust was, that it resulted in the mass murder of 6 million people. Pseudohistorian David Irving, a racist and anti-Semite, has destroyed his own career. He is banned from Germany, Canada, and Australia. Today, I am introducing legislation to ban him from ever visiting the United States.

CELEBRATING YOUTH IN THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF OHIO

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

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, in the City of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, in the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, we celebrated that the Warrensville Heights Tigers won the State championship in basketball. We also celebrated that in Bedford, they were the runners-up, right in the 11th Congressional District of Ohio. It is wonderful to be able to celebrate that our youth are doing great things.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, this coming weekend in the 11th Congressional District, we will be hosting our Reclaiming Our Youth Empowering Yourself leadership conference. We are looking to build leaders in the 11th Congressional District. One of the workshops is called "I am so angry." Another one is called "Decision-making, developing your skills."

We will be doing a workshop on the media and, finally, solutions and impacts. A panel of high school students and college students will discuss issues and choices that they make. It is a wonderful opportunity to be with such wonderful young people in the 11th Congressional District. In fact, our art competition is on Sunday, and we had 99 people who submitted artworks for our competition.