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No. 46

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 12, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVEN C. LATOURETTE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Chip Lingle, Faith Lutheran Church, Savannah, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, from the endless bounty of Your love for Your creation, You provide all that we need. As Your people, we confess our trust in You, believing that You care for our welfare.

"In God we trust" we proclaim on our currency. Yet the people of this Nation also put their trust in these elected representatives. We trust that they will do Your will and provide justice to ensure a quality of life that You provide.

Protect these honorable representatives, give them Your wisdom so that their decisions may reflect Your desire for Your people. Give them a quiet assurance and guide them in the difficult times. May Your will be reflected through them and may Your people be blessed by their leadership. 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 New York (Mr. MCNULTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCNULTY 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND CHIP LINGLE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I introduce the chaplain of today, the Reverend Chip Lingle.

Chip comes to us from Faith Lutheran Church in Savannah, the mother city of Georgia, founded in 1733. He has been there with his wife, Ruth, for 5 years.

Reverend Lingle grew up in North Carolina and did his undergraduate studies at the University of North Carolina in Raleigh. He received his master's from the Lutheran Theological Seminary of the South in Columbia, South Carolina and has served in churches in North Carolina, South Carolina, and in Georgia.

I have gotten to know the Lingle family over the past years and have become great friends with his son Ben, who also served as a page here. Ben goes to Jenkins High School and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is a member of the marching band and concert band. He is on the Mock Trial team and has been very active in Boy Scouts and church activities and plays in a rock and roll band called Sweet Pig.

Ben is also here with us today; and so is Reverend Lingle's mother, Isetta Lingle, who is with us in the gallery.

So please join me in welcoming Reverend Chip Lingle.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minute requests from each side of the aisle.

Members are reminded to refrain from references to those spectators in the gallery.

WAR AGAINST METHAMPHETAMINE ACT OF 2000

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that methamphetamine has reached epidemic proportions in our Nation. Last year alone, we saw almost 6,000 lab seizures affecting nearly every State in the Nation.

It is time we declare war against meth. This deadly drug has thousands of innocent victims. Ordinary families find their property ruined or health at risk by the deadly chemicals used to make meth. These chemicals destroy soil and plants, contaminate drinking water, and poison the air we breathe.

We know we have reached a crisis situation with meth. The statistics are there. Forty-four States reported nearly 6,000 meth lab seizures in 1999 alone. And most disturbing, over 1,200 children were found during these lab seizures.

We must face the problem head on. My legislation does just that. The War Against Meth Act ensures that we stop meth production but punish those who would put innocent victims and the environment in danger. Today we introduce this bipartisan legislation with over 60 cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to finally thank all the law enforcement men and women that are fighting this battle on

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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a daily basis as we declare, once again, war on meth.

TAX CODE IS UNAMERICAN

(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, the Tax Code is unAmerican. It is also so big it would give King Kong a hernia.

But the bad stuff is evident. The Tax Code rewards dependency, subsidizes illegitimacy, kills jobs, and chases companies overseas.

Now, if that is not enough to overload your hard drives, check this out: Experts say that the Tax Code is needed because it modifies economic behavior.

Beam me up.

If the Founders wanted to modify economic behavior, they would have contracted with Sigmund Freud to write the Tax Code.

I yield back the ego, the id, and the super ego of our kinky Tax Code.

WE NEED TO WAGE WAR AGAINST METH

(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 year an illegal meth amphetamine lab exploded on the 12th floor in a hotel in downtown Reno.

So today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for a bill which my colleague the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) just spoke about and will be introducing today. His Working and Reacting Against Methamphetamine Act will wage a full scale and meaningful war against the methamphetamine epidemic that has spread throughout America.

Mr. Speaker, last year, 1999, 44 States reported close to 6,000 meth lab seizures. Obviously, this is a growing problem that we must address.

The War Against Methamphetamine Act will increase the penalties for producing both amphetamine and methamphetamine. The bill will also provide law enforcement officials with the necessary tools and resources to effectively combat the meth epidemic.

We need to protect our children from the latest drug epidemic located in our open backyards. I encourage our colleagues to support the War Against Meth Act and its multifaceted approach to closing down meth labs nationwide.

WAR AGAINST METHAMPHETAMINE ACT

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

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the War

Against Methamphetamine Act introduced by my colleague the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

We have all heard the staggering numbers related to meth labs across the country. The most troubling figure, in my mind, is the number of children that have been found at the lab seizure sites, 1,252 children at the sites.

This legislation increases penalties related to amphetamine and creates new and additional penalties for the production of these dangerous drugs. This bill also establishes a national center that would be created in conjunction and coordination with the Drug Enforcement Agency, the L.A. Clearinghouse, and the El Paso Intelligence Center, which is, by the way, located in my district.

The National Center will collect, analyze, and distribute all seizure information sent in by law enforcement officials across the country. This National Center will allow law enforcement officials across the country to instantly access vital information on these kinds of seizures.

I urge all my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and support our local law enforcement.

WILL PRESIDENT AL GORE PARDON PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON?

(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 an editorial in today's Washington Post, we hear once again that the new Independent Counsel Robert Ray is serious about indicting the President after he leaves office.

The Post says that, "A plausible indictment of Mr. Clinton, who has never publicly acknowledged the extent of his wrongdoing, could surely be drawn."

It goes on to say, "Some opponents of impeachment argued during the congressional proceedings that Mr. Clinton's susceptibility to criminal prosecution after his term in office was a powerful reason not to remove him."

And the Post editorial continues in talking about disbarment and a \$90,000 fine, arguing in the end that Mr. Ray should exercise restraint.

Mr. Speaker, to me there is a more important question. The Associated Press reported yesterday the administration announced that the President will not pardon himself. But if the Vice President is successful in his bid to succeed his boss, would he then turn around and pardon him?

The real question is, will President AL GORE pardon President Bill Clinton? I think he owes it to the American people to explain.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all Members that

it is not in order to address the personality of the President or the Vice President of the United States.

FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS PARAMOUNT TO OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND THOSE OF CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

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

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to my friend, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD).

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would just make the point that, whether Republican or Democrat, a theme that our country is built on is the idea of free and fair elections. And if what is going on in Peru right now is able to stand, then the Fujimori government in Peru will be built on unfree and unfair elections.

Indeed, a lot of controversy is going on right now about a young boy and whether he should or should not go back to Castro because of freedom. If we look at what is going on, again, in Peru, a cancer will start to grow that America should be no part of.

So I would say that, if what stands, we need to look at stripping aid from the supplemental, we need to look at blocking aid with the drug war, we need to look at blocking access to international financial institutions. Because free and fair elections are paramount to our system of government and to governments throughout Central and South America.

PASS H.R. 1070 BY THIS MOTHER'S DAY

(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, despite education on preventive measures and early detection, the rate of cancer among women has continued to increase at an alarming rate. Every 64 minutes a woman is diagnosed with reproductive tract cancer. And just today, one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

Our colleague, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK), shared with us how she is among the fortunate who can afford life-saving treatment after her diagnosis.

We have encouraged low-income mothers and daughters to have mammogram screenings and early detection measures. But when these medical tests show an unfavorable diagnosis, who is there to ensure that they receive the life-saving treatment they so desperately need?

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's low-income women living with breast cancer cannot wait any longer. H.R. 1070 gives the States an optional Medicaid benefit