

May genuine faith which is more precious than gold tested by fire be proven in us. Then the great tasks we undertake in Your Name may truly give You praise, glory and honor now and forever. 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 Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS 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.

PAST AND FUTURE SUCCESSES

(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, last Friday marked the 39th anniversary of the first United States space exploration mission.

On May 5, 1961 Alan B. Shepard, Jr., became the first American space explorer when he was rocketed 115 miles above the Earth's surface into space.

This feat proved to the world that the United States had the potential to become the winner in this space race.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of us to take a moment to reflect on our past accomplishments and to celebrate how far we have come since that historic flight in 1961. There are enormous possibilities for future progress and for our progress still lying ahead of us.

The continued advancement of our space program, as well as the overall development of new and innovative technologies, demand and require our support.

With the assistance of this Congress, the United States can and will remain a world leader in technological development.

A NATION BANNING GOD

(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 courts started their assault on God by banning school prayer. The courts then banned the public display of the Christmas nativity scene. The courts then banned students from writing papers about Jesus.

Now, if that is not enough to say the devil perhaps made them do it, check

this out, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that Ohio's motto with God all things are possible is unconstitutional.

Unbelievable Congress, what is next? Will "In God We Trust" be taken from the House Chamber? "In God We Trust" be removed from our currency? Beam me up, I say these judges make decisions while sitting on their brains.

I yield back the fact that a nation that bans God I believe promotes the devil.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FOR SENIORS

(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, too many seniors and disabled people in this country cannot afford the prescription drugs their doctors say they need.

Seniors should never have to choose between food and medicine. This is an important issue that needs a meaningful solution, not the empty rhetoric that we are hearing from the other side.

House Republicans are proposing a plan to offer a fair and responsible drug plan that is affordable, available and voluntary to all seniors and disabled Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it will help folks to get prescription drug coverage at lower costs by creating group buying power without Washington interference or big government-style price controls.

We will reduce the runaway costs of medicine, but not with a Washington-based one-size-fits-all program that kills research and innovation of life-saving cures.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to modernize prescription drug coverage. We should all be working together on this important issue. Let us stop the partisan rhetoric and do the right thing for our seniors.

LET US WORK TO KEEP FRAUD OUT OF THE MEDICARE PROGRAM

(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, there are few things more important than taking care of our Nation's seniors. That means keeping the Medicare program healthy and solvent for the 39 million older Americans who depend on it.

Unfortunately, our efforts to improve Medicare will not work if we do not eliminate the waste and abuse that festers in the current programs. In FY 1998, Medicare's fee-for-service program made \$12.6 billion in improper payments. Part of the reason this waste, fraud, and abuse occurred was that the Clinton-Gore administration was careless in monitoring and oversight of Medicare payments. This neglect has created a troughful of Medicare money,

and crooks are glad to have it, to eat to their fill.

For example, a New York medical equipment company robbed Medicare of more than \$6 million. A Florida home health agency fraudulently billed Medicare for \$2.2 million.

Let us keep our seniors healthy. Let us work to keep fraud out of the Medicare program.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection and pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 89, 106th Congress, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies:

Mr. HASTERT of Illinois.

Mr. ARMEY of Texas.

Mr. GEPHARDT of Missouri.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 4, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 5, 2000 at 11:15 a.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2412.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

MARTHA C. MORRISON,
Deputy Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that it will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

NORTH SIDE PUMPING DIVISION OF MINIDOKA RECLAMATION PROJECT, IDAHO, AUTHORIZATION INCREASE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3577) to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated for the north side pumping division of the Minidoka reclamation project, Idaho.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3577

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. INCREASED AUTHORIZATION FOR MINIDOKA PROJECT, IDAHO.

Section 5 of the Act of September 30, 1950 (chapter 1114; 64 Stat. 1085), authorizing appropriations for the north side pumping division of the Minidoka reclamation project, Idaho, is amended by striking "\$11,395,000" and inserting "\$14,200,000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3577.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3577 is a bill to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated for the north side pumping division of the Minidoka reclamation project in Idaho.

A&B Irrigation is the contracting entity for the north side pumping division of the Minidoka project. The division, located on the southern portion of the State of Idaho, consists of some 80,000 acres. Construction of the division was completed in 1959 and control was transferred to the district in 1966.

Due to the lack of natural surface drainage outlets to the Snake River and constraints associated with the drainage onto the lower-lying Minidoka Irrigation District, most irrigation return flows and stormwater runoffs are injected into drain wells which are part of the original project design.

The drain wells pass the water directly into the underlying aquifer. In 1991, the United States Environmental Protection Agency designated the eastern Snake River plain aquifer a sole source of drinking water.

Under provisions of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, if a sole source of drinking water is contaminated it could result in a significant public health hazard. In an effort to comply with the Act, the district and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation developed a plan to dispose of this runoff.

The remaining work consists of constructing passive treatment and reuse systems at an estimated cost of \$2.8 million, of which up to \$1.3 million would be reimbursable to the district under a cost-sharing arrangement, 60 percent U.S. Federal Government, 40 percent irrigation, A&B irrigation.

As of now, 42 of the original 78 drain wells have been closed or abandoned,

but 36 wells are still active. This legislation would amend the original language to increase the authorization by \$2.8 million from \$11,395,000 to \$14,200,000.

In the energy and water appropriations bill for the fiscal year 2000, money was appropriated for the district to continue capping these wells in order to comply with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Unfortunately, the ceiling was hit and no further funding could be used. By increasing the ceiling, the district will be able to complete its project, which in turn will help prevent the main source of drinking water from south central Idaho from being contaminated.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all colleagues support H.R. 3577.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) has quite properly explained this legislation to increase the spending ceiling for the north side pumping division of the Minidoka project in Idaho by \$2,805,000. This increase would allow work already begun under the Minidoka north side drain water management plan to be completed.

We need to protect the underground drinking water supplies in this area of the Snake River plain because they are threatened by contaminated irrigation drain water. I would urge all members of the committee to support this legislation. The administration has testified in support of this legislation and it is not controversial.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3577.

The question was taken.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE HERMANN MONUMENT AND HERMANN HEIGHTS PARK IN NEW ULM, MINNESOTA, AS A NATIONAL SYMBOL OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICANS OF GERMAN HERITAGE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 89) recognizing the Hermann Monument and Hermann Heights Park in New Ulm, Minnesota, as a national symbol of the contributions of Americans of German heritage.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 89

Whereas there are currently more than 57,900,000 individuals of German heritage residing in the United States, who comprise nearly 25 percent of the population of the United States and are therefore the largest ethnic group in the United States;

Whereas those of German heritage are not merely descendants of one political entity, but of all German speaking areas;

Whereas numerous Americans of German heritage have made countless contributions to American culture, arts, and industry, the American military, and American government;

Whereas there is no recognized tangible, national symbol dedicated to German Americans and their positive contributions to the United States;

Whereas the story of Hermann the Cheruscan parallels that of the American Founding Fathers, because he was a freedom fighter who united ancient German tribes in order to shed the yoke of Roman tyranny and preserve freedom for the territory of present-day Germany;

Whereas the Hermann Monument located in Hermann Heights Park in New Ulm, Minnesota, was dedicated in 1897 in honor of the spirit of freedom and later dedicated to all German immigrants who settled in New Ulm and elsewhere in the United States; and

Whereas the Hermann Monument has been recognized as a site of special historical significance by the United States Government, by placement on the National Register of Historic Places; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Hermann Monument and Hermann Heights Park in New Ulm, Minnesota, are recognized by the Congress to be a national symbol for the contributions of Americans of German heritage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 89.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 89 introduced by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. MINGE) assures that Congress recognizes the Hermann Monument and Hermann Heights Park in New Ulm, Minnesota, as a national symbol of German heritage.

Although there are currently almost 60 million individuals of German heritage residing in the United States, there is no recognized, tangible national symbol dedicated to German Americans and their positive contributions to American culture, arts, industry, military, and government.

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The Hermann Monument was erected in 1897 in honor of the spirit of freedom