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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 10, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES H. TAYLOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Joe F. Hayes, Jr., Brevard First Baptist Church, Brevard, North Carolina offered the following prayer:

Father God, who spoke the heavens and earth into existence, thank You for first loving us and sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, that we might have a full and meaningful life. Forgive our many sins against You and against other people. Help us live at peace with our neighbors and in obedience to Your will as set forth in the Bible.

Gathered here today are leaders who have given their lives to serve others. Help them to love You first, their families second, and other people third, because without You first in our lives, without loving families, and without love for all peoples, we cannot expect this Nation to be great.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ 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 Florida (Mr. STEARNS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STEARNS 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 amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H. Con. Res. 277. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

H. Con. Res. 314. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for a bike rodeo to be conducted by the Earth Force Youth Bike Summit.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1198. An act to establish a 3-year pilot project for the General Accounting Office to report to Congress on economically significant rules of Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 1-minutes on each side.

WE SHOULD NOT TRUST CHINA

(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, once again I rise to discuss the serious national security concerns associated with granting Permanent Normal Trade Relations status to China.

Just yesterday, it was reported that only 2 years after President Clinton allowed the sale of civilian nuclear technology to China, the Chinese government now refuses to keep its promise that it will not resell the nuclear technology to rogue nations. Instead, China has and continues to actively assist Pakistan and other nations with their nuclear programs using U.S. technology.

Mr. Speaker, these are actions that are unacceptable. We cannot and should not allow U.S. nuclear technology to be simply given away to rogue nations. And yet the Clinton administration wants to reward China for this conduct by expanding their trade status. Mr. Speaker, let us not make this same mistake twice. It is obvious that we cannot trust China.

I yield back the administration's PNTR request, which jeopardizes our national security and the security of all peace-loving nations.

TRIBUTE TO THE CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM CREATED BY BAYSTATE HEALTH SYSTEM, SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, this is National Hospital Week, when communities across the country celebrate the people that make hospitals the special places they are. This year's theme sums it up nicely, Touching the Future With Care. It recognizes the health care workers, volunteers, and other health professionals who are there 24 hours a day, 365 days

□ 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 year curing and caring for their neighbors who need them.

An example of this dedication is the Correctional Health Care Program created by Baystate Health Systems of Springfield, Massachusetts. The program won the National Hospital Association's prestigious NOVA award, which recognizes hospitals' innovative and collaborative efforts to improve the health care of their communities.

The Correctional Health Care Program is a joint effort by Baystate Health Systems and the Hampden County Correction Center to improve the state of inmate health care. Inmates serve an average of 14 months and then return to the community with whatever disease or problems they had when they entered. Failing to improve this health care, puts the inmates, their families, and the public at risk once they are released.

Baystate and Hampden County saw this public health care opportunity and developed a model which has had amazing results. Recurrence of incarceration at the Hampden County Correctional Center is only 4 percent, dramatically below the national average of 40 percent. Program supporters say this extremely low rate is a direct result of correctional health care programs like this.

The program gives inmates the chance to control their own health, helps them gain an element of self-respect and, in most cases, keeps them from returning to a life of crime in jail. In addition, it helps save public health dollars while fighting the spread of communicable diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Baystate Health Care System and the Hampden County Correctional Facility for this award-winning program.

CONGRATULATIONS ON OPENING OF JUVENILE RESIDENCE

(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, I would like to congratulate Here's Help on the grand opening of the Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, Alex Villalobos, and Ron Silver Juvenile Residence.

This facility, named after the Florida State legislators who pushed for its establishment, will help teenagers overcome their difficult struggle with substance abuse.

The ravages of dependence too often destroy the lives of young people. And future leaders are often cast aside or lost under a pile of social service paperwork.

Special thanks go to Miami's Y-100's "Footy," also known as John Kross, for his efforts as CEO of Here's Help. And to Dave Ross, manager of Clear Channel.

Others helped: Florida Governor Jeb Bush, who provided funding to furnish this home and renovate older facilities. Thanks also to Dan Marino and Emilio and Gloria Estefan.

I am heartened to see organizations like Here's Help trying to stem this tide of human suffering with community efforts, especially with the Friday opening of its new juvenile residency facility. I ask my congressional colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Miami Y-100's "Footy" and to Here's Help for the wonderful work they have accomplished and for the lives they have saved in this new juvenile residency hall.

EDUCATION

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we celebrated National Teachers Day and paid tribute to some of our Nation's most important citizens, our teachers. Today, I rise to discuss school construction, an issue which is very important to the teachers in my district.

In my hometown of Las Vegas, Nevada, we have the fastest growing school age population in the United States. We have to build a school a month in order to keep up with the unprecedented growth. We have 1,200 students for every school in southern Nevada. That is twice the national average.

We have 210,000 people in our school district. Too many of these students, as many as 22,000, are being educated in trailers, being educated in portables. This is not an appropriate place for our students to be educated in. It is not an appropriate environment for our teachers to teach in.

The teachers in my district need school construction so that they can teach smaller classes and help their students learn better. I urge my colleagues to pass fair, common sense legislation that will help our teachers and benefit all of America's students. Let us pass school construction.

WHISTLEBLOWERS

(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, why does the media seem to like some whistleblowers and dislike others? I will mention three names, three of the most famous whistleblowers from recent history.

In 1974, Karen Silkwood blew the whistle on the Cimarron Nuclear Facility in Oklahoma, claiming unsafe practices. Karen Silkwood died in a car accident that November while on her way to meet with a New York Times reporter. They say her death was not an accident and that documents she had in the car with her disappeared from the scene of the crash.

In 1995, Dr. Jeffrey Wigand broke with a big tobacco company to criticize that industry's practices. In a famous

episode, his interview with 60 Minutes was taken off the air because of pressure from tobacco company lawyers.

Karen Silkwood and Jeffrey Wigand have both been lionized by Hollywood in movies starring Meryl Streep and Russell Crowe. Both names are synonymous in the media with persons who have been punished for telling the truth.

How about the third whistleblower? Linda Tripp blew the whistle on the most powerful person in America. She told the truth, a truth we might never have known had she not spoken up. And, yet, instead of a movie contract, Ms. Tripp faces the possibility of being the only player in the scandal to be convicted of a crime.

How is that for American justice?

CHINA

(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, something does not add up. China is taking \$80 billion a year out of our economy now in trade surpluses, and reports say that China is buying tanks, planes, submarines and missiles with our cash. There are also reports that further say, my colleagues, that with our cash they are pointing their missiles, that we bought, at America.

And after all this, if that is not enough to bust your balsam, Presidents Ford and Carter endorsed President Clinton's plan to grant China Most Favored Nation trade status, now called normal. Normal, my two pairs.

Beam me up, my colleagues. Ford, Carter and Clinton will not get it until there is a Chinese missile shoved right up their assets.

I yield back whatever they are smoking at their press conferences.

OPENING DOORS TO THE PEOPLE OF CHINA

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity to encourage change in China. PNTR for China will provide the Chinese people with access to western influence and ideas by forcing China to open their society to bring about positive economic and social changes.

George W. Bush recently commented on Ronald Reagan's "forward strategy for freedom." The Reagan adage, as espoused by the Texas governor, is that "the case for trade is not just monetary, but moral. Economic freedom creates habits of liberty. And habits of liberty guarantee expectations of democracy. There are no guarantees, but there are good examples from Chile to Taiwan. Trade freely with China and time is on our side."

I also agree with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who predicts that