

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCARELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PASCARELL 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

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

THE NEED TO ADDRESS OIL PRICE FIXING

(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, recently gasoline prices have increased at rates not seen since the 1970s. While the Clinton-Gore administration vows that it will not tolerate companies who fix prices here at home, it remains reluctant to get tough on foreign countries that simultaneously receive U.S. aid and engage in oil price fixing that affects every American.

Although it is almost too late, it is time that the administration begin working for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, many Americans are seeing their family vacation plans evaporate as prices rise. I call upon the administration to adopt a national policy with other oil-consuming nations to take steps towards reducing, suspending, or even eliminating assistance or arms sales to exporters engaged in price fixing.

The hard-working American families deserve more than just a vacation. They deserve national leadership that is concerned about their future rather than the hollow rhetoric and empty promises of the Clinton-Gore White House.

FIREFIGHTER INVESTMENT AND RESPONSE ENHANCEMENT ACT

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

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I am the proud sponsor of the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act, better known as the Fire Bill. It has almost 280 sponsors.

The bill will provide competitive grants directly to over 32,000 paid, part-paid, and volunteer fire departments across America.

On April 12 of this year, we had a hearing on this legislation before the Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations and Emergency Management of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. At this hearing, a colleague from across the aisle stated that my legislation does not have the support of the administration. He challenged me to get it. Today I am here to present the administration's unwavering support of H.R. 1168 to the House.

I have a letter from Jack Lew, who is the Budget Director for the White House. This letter expresses, and I quote, "the Administration supports passage of the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act."

We owe it to the firefighters of America, Mr. Speaker, who put their lives at risk every day to save ours, to bring this legislation to the floor. It is about time we took care of the other side of the public safety equation, our firefighters.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell my colleagues the story of Anthony and Timothy Azarmgin. Anthony and Timothy were abducted from Missouri by their noncustodial father, Mr. Tony Hossein Azarmgin, during their father's visitation period on January 2, 1991.

By August of 1991, both warrants for kidnapping and unlawful flight to avoid prosecution were in place. In 1992, Ms. Lewis, the boys' mother, was contacted by Mr. Azarmgin when he insinuated that he and the boys were in another country. In 1994, the Interpol developed reason to believe that Mr. Azarmgin, Anthony, and Timothy were in Tehran, Iran.

In 1994, Ms. Lewis established phone contact with Mr. Azarmgin, but it has been irregular at best. Mr. Azarmgin is not willing to return to the United States unless the charges are dropped.

Mr. Speaker, there are 10,000 American children just like Anthony and Tim who have been abducted to foreign countries. I urge this House to continue to work with me and help bring our children home.

MOVE FORWARD WITH BROWNFIELDS LEGISLATION AND CLEAN UP COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, there are almost half a million pieces of property in the United States that are polluted and useless because people are afraid to buy them to clean them up.

We have seen these properties. Many of them are fenced with chain-link or

have signs that say "hazardous material, keep out." The problem with that is individuals will not buy these properties, because when they do, they accept the historical problems that go along with that, and they accept the liability with EPA and likely to be sued because of that.

We need to change the law. We need to say that individuals and businesses can buy these properties and clean them up and put them to a useful purpose without being concerned about EPA taking them to court and suing them because pollution occurred 40 years ago.

We have done nothing on this. We need to move forward rapidly with Brownfields legislation and help clean up our communities throughout the United States and help put these properties that are polluted, that are continuing to pollute our environment to a good purpose.

WORLD'S FIRST CANINE TRAVEL AGENCY

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

Mr. TRIFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the world's first canine travel agency opened in Austria. No joke. A company advertises health spas for Rottweilers, massage parlors for Dobermans, beauty parlors for poodles.

If that is not enough to throw up one's Alpo, they offer a frequent flier program for doggy owners who vacation with Fido. Unbelievable. What is next, Mr. Speaker, fire hydrants on all 747s?

Think about it, with children starving all over the world, doggy discos are popping up like beagle patties. Beam me up.

I yield back all the rabies and fleas that have evidently constipated the minds of these rich canine owners who have simply gone to the dogs.

AMERICA NEEDS ENERGY POLICY TO PROTECT AMERICA'S INTERESTS AND FAMILIES

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

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, driving is not a luxury to most Americans, it is a necessity, especially in the mountain West where I live where one might have to drive 100 miles to go see the doctor.

Americans need their cars, and they need their cars to get to work, to school, to church, and to the grocery store. Truckers need their rigs to deliver food, clothing, and other goods across the Nation.

When gas prices get out of hand, it is more than just inconvenient, it is a considerable financial problem. Truckers across the country are having their livelihoods threatened because they

cannot afford the price of fuel. Families are curbing their long-anticipated summer vacation plans. This is simply wrong.

The gas prices that plague our Nation represent a complete failure of the energy policy or lack of energy policy. I should say, of the Clinton-Gore administration. It is time for Mr. Clinton and Mr. GORE to wake up. America needs an energy policy that will protect America's interests, help our families and our national security.

GIVE OUR SENIORS SIMPLICITY AND CHEAPER PRICES FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago Paul and Judy from Warwick, Rhode Island, retired hoping that they would have a great retirement with a great pension. They are now spending about \$8,350 a year for prescription drugs. They want a plan that will cover them under Medicare that will be simple, effective, and reduce the cost for them, but all seniors.

Over the next few days, we are going to address a plan that the Republican leadership will offer that will simply put more money back into the insurance companies, provide a prescription drug plan that will be nothing more than another boondoggle.

We ask for simplicity. We ask for universal coverage. We ask for our seniors to be given cheaper prices for prescription drugs.

ADMINISTRATION BLAMING GAS COMPANIES FOR FUEL CRISIS

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, rising gas prices are a serious concern to Americans everywhere.

The hike in fuel prices has hurt the truckers who deliver our food and clothing. It has hurt our farmers who need gas to run their farm equipment. It has hurt the average American who just wants to get to and from work.

The Clinton-Gore administration has often claimed it feels the pain of the American people. But instead of working with OPEC to increase oil production or moving to temporarily suspend expensive regulations, the administration is choosing to play the blame game.

The administration's new claim is that gas companies are engaging in price gouging. Gas companies are not to blame for our fuel prices, the Clinton-Gore administration is. While they are focusing their efforts on shifting the blame, the American people are the ones paying the price.

This is not price gouging, it is "price-Gore-ging."

CONCERN FOR LACK OF ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in expressing my concern for a lack of an energy policy in the country over the last 7 years.

Really, there are three areas that we should have been watching and three areas where we failed to take the necessary steps. We have not done what we should have done to maintain our relationships with the countries we buy oil from.

At the same time, we have allowed our country to become more and more dependent on those countries. Somewhere between 56 and 58 percent of all our oil is now imported. We have done everything we could during that same period of time to discourage domestic supply, and we have not done anything to encourage alternative use.

Now suddenly, at the end of 7 years of no policy, the Secretary of Energy says we were caught napping. Well, it seems to me the Secretary of Energy has been napping a lot. Whether it was involving our nuclear codes at Los Alamos or our dependence on foreign oil, we cannot afford to have an Energy Department napping. We need to look and see what happened at the same time we need to do everything we can to provide relief to the families that are being caught in this crisis right now.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10:25 a.m.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 15 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10:25 a.m.

□ 1025

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) at 10 o'clock and 25 minutes a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he 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 vote on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

PLACEMENT OF STATUE OF CHIEF WASHAKIE IN NATIONAL STATUARY HALL

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 333) providing for the acceptance of a statue of Chief Washakie, presented by the people of Wyoming, for placement in National Statuary Hall, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 333

Whereas Chief Washakie was a recognized leader of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe;

Whereas Chief Washakie contributed to the settlement of the west by allowing the Oregon and Mormon Trails to pass through Shoshone lands;

Whereas Chief Washakie, with his foresight and wisdom, chose the path of peace for his people;

Whereas Chief Washakie was a great leader who chose his alliances with other tribes and the United States Government thoughtfully; and

Whereas in recognition of this alliance and long service to the United States Government, Chief Washakie was the only chief to be awarded a full military funeral: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. ACCEPTANCE OF STATUE OF CHIEF WASHAKIE FROM THE PEOPLE OF WYOMING FOR PLACEMENT IN NATIONAL STATUARY HALL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The statue of Chief Washakie, furnished by the people of Wyoming for placement in National Statuary Hall in accordance with section 1814 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (40 U.S.C. 187), is accepted in the name of the United States, and the thanks of the Congress are tendered to the people of Wyoming for providing this commemoration of one of Wyoming's most eminent personages.

(b) PRESENTATION CEREMONY.—The State of Wyoming is authorized to use the rotunda of the Capitol on September 7, 2000, at 11 o'clock ante meridian, for a presentation ceremony for the statue. The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board shall take such action as may be necessary with respect to physical preparations and security for the ceremony.

(c) DISPLAY IN ROTUNDA.—The statue shall be displayed in the rotunda of the Capitol for a period of not more than 6 months, after which period the statue shall be moved to its permanent location in National Statuary Hall.

SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL TO GOVERNOR OF WYOMING.

The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this concurrent resolution to the Governor of Wyoming.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

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

As visitors move around the Capitol, one of the most striking examples of State representation is, in fact, the ability of each State to send two statues to the Capitol. It is fascinating to look at the regional and especially the historical differences of who States recognize as appropriate figures to memorialize by statue in the Capitol.