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No. 89

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 12, 2000

I hereby appoint the Honorable GIL GUTKNECHT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: All powerful God, may we prove ourselves responsible for the task You set before us this day as Your servants.

We accomplish Your holy will when, as we persevere in doing good, we put to silence the idle chatter of the foolish.

May great works of justice rise from us to drown out all negativity and discontent.

Let us live as free people never using our freedom as a pretext for evil.

Rather, as servants of God, may we honor all people, love the communities we serve and fear—only You, 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.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. TERRY 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.

REA REDIFER

(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, today I would like to congratulate a constituent of mine, Mr. Rea Redifer, an artist of the Brandywine tradition, on a lifetime of artistic accomplishment.

Mr. Redifer, who comes from Chester County, Pennsylvania, is a watercolorist, but he is also a writer and filmmaker who has focused his work around the life of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. He has won literary awards and even an Oscar nomination for his work.

His portraits of Lincoln are favorites of mine. A print of one hangs in my of-

fice. His paintings capture not only the likeness of Lincoln, but also the soul of the man. In Mr. Redifer's images we can see both the sadness and moral fortitude of the President.

I am glad to have arranged an exhibit of Mr. Redifer's work to be displayed in the Capitol for the next couple of weeks in the Rotunda of the Cannon House Office Building. I encourage all of my colleagues, congressional staff, and tourists to take a few moments to stop by and enjoy Mr. Redifer's fine artistic accomplishments.

Again, I congratulate Mr. Redifer on his wonderful artworks, and thank him for sharing them with us here at the Capitol.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

(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, on June 29 and July 6 two articles appeared in the Washington Post about Joseph Cooke and his fight to regain custody of his two children.

Both articles, in error, stated that Joseph Cooke, whose children have been held in German foster care for over 8 years, was recently allowed a 2-hour visit. Unfortunately, Joseph did not get to see his children. However, his mother, Patricia, did get to see her grandchildren, but did so at a drastically limited time.

For 8 years this family struggled silently, attempting to bring about justice on their own. In February, Joseph joined me at an event where for the first time he spoke publicly about the abduction and wrongful retention of his children. It was a difficult day, but one that led to the outpouring of support and attention from the media and the American public that this issue deserves.

The retaliation by the German Youth Authority and the Weh family, and

□ 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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their attempts to control the behavior of wronged American parents, is exactly why we need to continue pressing for action on this issue. We cannot let American parents be bullied into keeping their mouths shut. The German Youth Authority should be ashamed of itself for using access to one's children as a means to avoid bad press.

THE MEANING OF THE TERM "A DO-NOTHING CONGRESS"

(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, I have been wrestling with the phrase of "a do-nothing Congress." If by "doing nothing" the Democrats mean that we are protecting the social security trust fund from being raided to pay for other big government programs, then they are right.

Or if they mean we have stopped racking up the national debt and borrowing money from our children, yes, I guess they are right there, too.

If they call us "the do-nothing" Congress because we have worked to lower taxes on married couples and our Nation's seniors, then I guess they are right there.

But if the Democrats' best argument for saying that we do not do anything is that we have worked to restrain Federal spending, to protect the retirement security for seniors, stop increasing taxes on hard-working Americans, then I am willing to take that as a compliment from my friends on the other side.

UNCLE SAM GIVES MONEY AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH CHINA USES TO THREATEN AMERICA

(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, let us see if this makes sense: Uncle Sam gives billions to Russia, Russia uses our money to build missiles and warships, Russia then sells those missiles and warships to China, China then aims those Russian-made missiles, built with American cash, back at Uncle Sam.

Now, if that is not enough to ignite our plutonium, Uncle Sam is about to give more billions to Russia. I ask, is Uncle Sam a masochist or what, here?

The truth is, the policy "Trust but Verify" has turned into "Pay and Pray." Beam me up. I yield back China's buying and spying and Russia's crying and lying.

AMERICA MUST PERSEVERE IN DEVELOPING A MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM

(Mr. WICKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, perseverance is a good thing, especially when it comes to national security. When our children fall off their bikes, we teach them to try again. When the Wright Brothers moved to Kittyhawk with a dream of flying, it took them 3 years of effort before their first flight. When President Kennedy set the goal of putting a man on the moon, it took us 8 years before Neil Armstrong took one giant leap for mankind.

We must now have the same perseverance toward developing a missile defense system. We have had three tests, the most recent of which was a disappointment, but the need to defend ourselves has not disappeared. Iran and North Korea are not going to stop developing nuclear weapons, and we should not stop developing a defense for a missile attack.

With determination and American ingenuity, we can develop a national missile defense system. I urge the President not to tie the hands of future administrations. We must persevere because the safety of Americans is at stake.

POLITICS OVER POLICY IN THE PRESIDENT'S OIL RESERVE STRATEGY?

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, this administration has now proposed stockpiling 2 million barrels of heating oil for the Northeast. He justifies using our Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which is our Nation's national security emergency oil reserve, because of a "national emergency facing the Northeast."

Mr. Speaker, I believe the national emergency seems to be that a certain senatorial candidate cannot get above 43 percent in the polls.

There is no arguing that the oil reserves are low, but at the same time, the price of natural gas has doubled across this Nation, which is the primary heating source in my State of Nebraska. The President has never visited Nebraska, but let me assure this administration that it is also cold in Nebraska.

Mr. Speaker, the American people can decide if this is another example of politics over policy.

THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY, AN INJUSTICE IN OUR TAX CODE

(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, I am here today to talk about an injustice that exists in our current Tax Code. Mr. Speaker, I am referring to the marriage penalty tax. This insensitive pro-

vision actually increases taxes by up to \$1,400 on working Americans like Ron and Judy Kingman out in rural Nevada, taxes on them simply because they chose to get married. How unfair can it be?

Mr. Speaker, over 25 million American couples are currently subjected to this tax. We can do better and we will do better. These couples should be able to use that tax overpayment toward a downpayment on a home, child care expenses, or investment for their own retirement. This money does not belong to the IRS, it belongs to our families and they deserve to get it back.

This week we have the opportunity to ease the marriage tax burden for married couples in this country. I urge my colleagues across the aisle to join in our Republican efforts to end the marriage tax penalty.

Let us do the right thing. Let us reform this tax. Let us eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

URGING MEMBERS' SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE SCIENCE AND MATH EDUCATION IN AMERICA

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, America is a wonderful country. I am very proud of the U.S.A. We are the best country in so many different ways. And I believe we should be the best in everything. We have the resources, the knowledge, and the energy to achieve it.

Today I want to mention one thing in which we are not the best. In fact, we are letting our kids down. The majority of jobs available today in our economy are jobs in science, math, engineering, technology, and, of course, computers. Yet, our science and math education in this country is among the worst of the developed countries, as demonstrated by test after test. Ninety-three percent of Americans are aware of this and say that they want better math and science education.

I happen to be a nuclear physicist. I have also worked in elementary school science education. Because of this, and because of my concern about education in this country, I have sponsored three bills which will improve math and science education in this country. I urge my colleagues to join me by co-sponsoring these bipartisan bills; I guarantee they will help to improve math and science education in this country, and should make us the international leader in this category, just as we are in so many others.

I urge Members' support of these bills. Join with me and Governor George Bush in advocating improvement of math and science education in this country.