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No. 97

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 24, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JUDY BIGGERT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTER, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

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, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 208. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow for the contributions of certain rollover distributions to accounts in the Thrift Savings Plan, to eliminate certain waiting-period requirements for participating in the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4810) "An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 103(a)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2001."

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

S. 2812. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide a waiver of the oath of renunciation and allegiance for naturalization of aliens having certain disabilities.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Our God and Savior, at times we seem to be like sheep gone astray. Yet here we are now gathered together. Called by Your voice, make us attentive to Your word. Being restless in our world, grant us Your peace.

Gathered as representatives of the people in this Nation, we ask You to be present in our midst. We come here to serve Your purpose today.

We pledge ourselves to serve Your people that they may see themselves as one Nation held by You and guided by Your spirit. For You are the shepherd and guardian of our souls, 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 her 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

On July 24, 1998, at 3:40 p.m., Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John W. Gibson of the United States Capitol Hill Police were killed in the line of duty defending the Capitol against an intruder armed with a gun.

At 3:40 p.m. today, the Chair will recognize the anniversary of this tragedy by observing a moment of silence in their memory.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE SENATOR PAUL COVERDELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of House Resolution 558, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the committee to attend the funeral of the late Paul Coverdell:

□ 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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H6721

Mr. LEWIS, Georgia;
 Mr. HASTERT, Illinois;
 Mr. BISHOP, Georgia;
 Mr. COLLINS, Georgia;
 Mr. DEAL, Georgia;
 Mr. KINGSTON, Georgia;
 Mr. LINDER, Georgia;
 Ms. MCKINNEY, Georgia;
 Mr. BARR, Georgia;
 Mr. CHAMBLISS, Georgia;
 Mr. NORWOOD, Georgia;
 Mr. ISAKSON, Georgia; and
 Mr. GRAHAM, South Carolina.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, Social Security is a solemn promise from the United States to its citizens, a promise that this Republican-led Congress is dedicated to keeping.

For more than 30 years, the Social Security Trust Fund was used as a slush fund for government spending by the Democrats and their leadership. However, this Republican Congress stopped this dangerous practice by implementing a fiscally responsible budget; and we passed the Social Security Lockbox Act, which protects the Social Security Trust Fund permanently.

This Republican-led Congress is dedicated to ensuring that all Americans can rely on Social Security, now and in the future.

I call upon the administration to follow our lead and help assure all Americans, young and old, that Social Security will be there for them when they retire.

I yield back the administration's irresponsible tax-and-spend policies that only jeopardize the future of Social Security.

TIME TO STOP THE CASH COW FOR RUSSIA

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, the CEO of the Bank of New York has admitted to laundering \$7 billion; and bingo, surprise, surprise, \$5 billion of it is expected to be Russian dollars that they got from the International Monetary Fund.

Now, if that is not enough to barf up your vodka, the investigators say, in addition to that, Russian politicians have secretly stolen \$15 billion, diverted them to bank accounts all over the world, and most of the money came from Uncle Sam.

Unbelievable, Uncle Sam giving billions to Russia to dismantle their nukes. They do not dismantle their nukes. They sell their nukes to Iran and China. China then aims them at us. Russia comes back, asks us for more money, the White House gives more billions.

Beam me up. I say it is time to stop the cash cow for Russia.

Madam Speaker, I yield back all the cash the Russian politicians have been stealing from the American taxpayers.

UTAH PIONEER DAY CELEBRATION

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

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Utah's pioneer heritage. The State of Utah is celebrating the arrival of the first company of Mormon pioneers in the Salt Lake Valley today.

These pioneers and the many wagon and handcart companies that followed on the trek from Nauvoo, Illinois, believed that they could build a better way of life in the West. They were tough. They suffered blistering and freezing temperatures. Many succumbed to the limited food supplies. They walked more than a thousand miles from Illinois to Utah, and many died along the way.

Those that survived had the strength necessary to thrive in the desert and harsh climates of the West. Evidence of their toils surrounds us today. There is a ditch in Wayne County, Utah, that brought water 5 miles from a mountain lake to the farms in the valley.

The amazing thing about this simple irrigation ditch is that it was built by hand. More water would disappear into the sandy soil than could be used for the crops at the end of the ditch. But all their hard work, in the words of Isaiah, made "the desert blossom like a rose."

There are several dams in my district that need repairs. The discussions about those repairs are centered around the roads needed to be built to bring the equipment in. The dams had been built over 100 years ago by Mormon pioneers by hand. Hand repairs were not an option now because the builders "were much tougher back then."

These dams, as well as countless landmarks, buildings and cities stand today as evidence of the Mormon pioneers' strength and determination. They were central to the westward expansion, providing a place of rest and resupply for travelers heading to the gold fields of California and the Oregon territory.

Their strengths, self-sufficiency, and determination have become the cultural foundation of the West. I am proud to be the descendant of the Mormon pioneers and to live with the fruits of their labors. I am proud to join my fellow Utahans in honoring and celebrating our pioneer heritage. The desert truly has blossomed like a rose.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

announces that she 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.

Such record votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 6:00 p.m. today.

□ 1415

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS WHILE TRAVELING IN MEXICO

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 232) expressing the sense of Congress concerning the safety and well-being of United States citizens injured while traveling in Mexico, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 232

Whereas hundreds of United States citizens travel by automobile to Mexico every day;

Whereas United States automobile insurance is not valid in Mexico and travellers may purchase additional insurance to cover potential liability or injury while in Mexico;

Whereas in cases where additional insurance is not purchased and a United States citizen is involved in an automobile accident, the American will be subject to a bond requirement before being permitted to return to the United States; and

Whereas in a recent incident, a United States citizen injured in an automobile accident in Mexico was not transferred to a United States hospital for 18 hours, even after medical personnel in Mexico recommended his immediate transfer to the United States for emergency treatment, until the family posted the bond set by Mexican authorities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That it is the sense of Congress that, in order to protect the safety and well-being of United States citizens travelling in Mexico, the President should continue to negotiate with the Government of Mexico to establish procedures, including a humanitarian exemption to Mexican bond requirements, to ensure the expedited return of United States citizens injured in Mexico to the United States for medical treatment, if necessary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 232.

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

There was no objection.

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