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No. 108

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

Priest Venkatchalapathi Samuldrala, Shiva Hindu Temple, Parma, Ohio, offered the following prayer:

O God, You are Omnipresent, Omnipotent, and Omniscient. You are in everything and nothing is beyond You. You are our Mother and Father and we are all Your children. Whatever You do is for our good. You are the ocean of mercy and You forgive our errors. You are our teacher and You guide us into righteousness.

Today, in this great Hall, are assembled the elected Representatives of the people of this Nation. They are ready to perform their duties. God, please guide them in their thoughts and actions so they can achieve the greatest good for all.

We end this invocation with a prayer from the ancient scriptures of India:

May all be happy
May all be free from disease
May all realize what is good
May none be subject to misery
Peace, peace, peace be unto all.

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.

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

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

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

Mr. BALLENGER. 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. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio 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 without amendment bills and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1729. An act to designate the Federal facility located at 1301 Emmet Street in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the "Pamela B. Gwin Hall".

H.R. 1901. An act to designate the United States border station located in Pharr, Texas, as the "Kika de la Garza United States Border Station".

H.R. 1959. An act to designate the Federal building located at 643 East Durango Boulevard in San Antonio, Texas, as the "Adrian A. Spears Judicial Training Center".

H.R. 4608. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 220 West Depot Street in Greeneville, Tennessee, as the "James H. Quillen United States Courthouse".

H. Con. Res. 394. Concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make technical corrections in the enrollment of S. 1374.

The message also announced that, pursuant to sections 276h-276k of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) as Chair of the Senate Delegation to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Union during the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

WELCOME TO PRIEST VENKATCHALAPATHI SAMULDRALA

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day for Indian-American relations. For the first time, a Hindu priest has given the opening prayer at a session of Congress, and the Prime Minister of India later this morning will address a joint session of Congress.

India and the United States share the bonds of history and culture. Our two great nations share a commitment to both the ideals and the practice of democracy. The close ties between the world's oldest democracy and the world's largest democracy are invaluable to encourage free and fair elections throughout the world.

The United States is also home to an Indian-American community of 1.4 million people. I requested the House Chaplain and Speaker to invite Mr. Samuldrala to give today's prayer as a testimony to the religious diversity that is the hallmark of our great Nation.

I want to thank Mr. Samuldrala for his thoughtful prayer that reminds us that, while we may differ in culture and traditions, we are all alike in the most basic aspiration of peace and righteousness.

I thank the House Chaplain for inviting Mr. Samuldrala and look forward to future efforts to strengthen the bonds between our two great nations.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. After consultation with the majority and minority leaders and with their consent and approval, the Chair announces that during the joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Atal Bihari Vajpayee, only the doors immediately opposite the

□ 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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Speaker and those on his right and left will be open. No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House.

Due to the large attendance which is anticipated, the Chair feels that the rule regarding the privileges of the floor must be strictly adhered to. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is required.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, September 7, 2000, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

During the recess, beginning at about 9:52 a.m., the following proceedings were had:

□ 0945

JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Richard Wilson, announced the President pro tempore and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of India, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY);

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS);

The gentleman from California (Mr. COX);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN);

The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER);

The gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE);

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ);

The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON);

The gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN); and

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The President pro tempore of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as a committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of India, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT);

The Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS);

The Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK);

The Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL);

The Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN);

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY); and

The Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Kingsley Layne, Ambassador of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

□ 1007

At 10 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m., the Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The Prime Minister of India, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, and stood at the Clerk's desk.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, it is my great privilege and I deem it a high honor and a personal pleasure to present to you the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

Prime Minister VAJPAYEE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. President pro tem, honorable Members of the United States Congress, it is with a deep sense of honor that I speak to you today. I would like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the Members of the Congress, for giving me this opportunity.

In November 1999, a remarkable event took place in the House of Representatives. By a vote 396 to 4, the House adopted a resolution congratulating India and my government on the successful elections completed in October 1999. This display of broad-based bipartisan support for strengthening relations with India is heartening. It is a source of encouragement to both Presi-

dent Clinton and to me, as we work together to infuse a new quality in our ties. I thank you for the near-unique approach that you have adopted towards my country.

Those of you who saw the warm response to President Clinton's speech to our Parliament in March this year will recognize that similar cross-party support exists in India as well for deeper engagement with the United States of America.

I am also deeply touched by the resolution adopted in the House 2 days ago welcoming my visit and the prospect of close Indo-U.S. understanding. I am equally encouraged by the resolution adopted by the Senate yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, American people have shown that democracy and individual liberty provide the conditions in which knowledge progresses, science discovers, innovation occurs, enterprise thrives, and, ultimately, people advance.

To more than a million and a half from my country, America is now home. In turn, their industry, enterprise and skills are contributing to the advancement of American society.

I see in the outstanding success of the Indian community in America a metaphor of the vast potential that exists in Indo-U.S. relations, of what we can achieve together. Just as American experience has been a lesson in what people can achieve in a democratic framework, India has been the laboratory of a democratic process rising to meet the strongest challenges that can be flung at it.

In the half century of our independent existence, we have woven an exquisite tapestry. Out of diversity we have brought unity. The several languages of India speak with one voice under the roof of our Parliament.

In your remarkable experiment as a Nation state, you have proven the same truth. Out of the huddled masses that you welcomed to your shores, you have created a great Nation.

For me, the most gratifying of the many achievements of Indian democracy has been the change it has brought to the lives of the weak and the vulnerable. To give just one figure, in recent years it has enabled more than a million women in small towns and distant villages to enter local elected councils and to decide on issues that touch upon their lives.

□ 1015

Two years ago, while much of Asia was convulsed by economic crises, India held its course. In the last 10 years, we have grown at 6.5 percent per year. That puts India among the 10 fastest growing economies of the world.

Economic activity gets more and more diversified by the year. President Clinton and many among the friends gathered here have had occasion to glimpse our advances in information technology.

We are determined to sustain the momentum of our economy. Our aim is to