

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 one-minute speeches.

CALL TO PAY OFF OUR DEBT

(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, a call to action has been given. The Clinton-Gore administration has been called upon to join this Republican Congress in protecting the future of the younger generations of Americans.

The Republican leadership has called upon the President to make a real commitment by joining our effort to use up to 90 percent of the surplus to pay off the national debt.

Yet, what has been the President's response to this call to action? Well, so far it has been ambivalence. He has said, well, that depends on "what the various spending commitments are."

Well, Mr. President, that simply is not good enough. It is time to stop wasteful Washington spending and pay off our national debt.

This fiscally responsible Republican Congress is protecting the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds; and now it is time to pay off the public debt so that our children will not be burdened by it in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the administration to join with us and my colleagues on this fair, middle ground to pay off our national debt and to protect the future of our Nation and of our children.

CHILDHOOD CANCER MONTH

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

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, September is Childhood Cancer Month.

Unfortunately, today cancer is the number one disease killer of children. This devastation knows no boundaries. It cuts across all social, economic and ethnic groups.

This year alone, an estimated 12,400 children will be diagnosed with cancer and 2,300 will die from the disease.

Despite the advances in early detection and treatment, only two-thirds of children diagnosed with cancer survive. And data shows that the incidence of cancer among children has increased 20 percent over the past 20 years.

So this must stop.

Even though the majority of children's leukemia are now curable, mortality is still substantial among children with solid tumors.

The progress in medical research in childhood cancer should be celebrated, but much more work needs to be done in pediatric cancer research.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, childhood cancer still remains an underrecognized and underserved need.

The time to change is now. Our children are our future.

DISPUTE OVER KASHMIR

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the refugees and others who suffer as a result of the dispute over Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

We heard earlier in joint session about the suffering on the Indian side. Well, earlier this year I visited a camp on the Pakistani side that was filled with Kashmiris who were wounded or who had relatives who were wounded or dead from fighting. Several had their limbs cut off by their Indian adversaries.

These Kashmiris pleaded with me to urge the U.N. to get involved and somehow bring an end to the bloodshed and suffering of the Kashmiri people and relief to the refugees. They are called displaced persons, not refugees, so they are ineligible for relief.

Some reports suggest that over a million people have become refugees since 1947 as a result of the conflict.

Madam Speaker, I urge Secretary General Kofi Annan to appoint a special envoy to help bring an end to this conflict to get the two sides to the negotiating table. I urge the governments of Pakistan and India to dialogue with each other, find a solution to this long, drawn out conflict.

And why not allow the Kashmiris to hold a referendum for self-determination? India is the world's largest democracy. What is wrong with letting people in Kashmir vote on their future?

In the meantime, forces should pull back from the line of conflict and relief should be provided to the suffering refugees of Kashmir.

"IN GOD IS OUR TRUST"

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Madam Speaker, on this day, 186 years ago in 1814, Francis Scott Key penned the Star-Spangled Banner. Key was both a prominent attorney and a man of strong Christian faith and convictions. In fact, he was one of the early leaders of the American Sunday School movement. And while a U.S. Attorney under President Andrew Jackson, Key carried on significant discourses about faith with leading Members of the United States Congress.

It is no surprise, then, that the fourth version of Key's Star-Spangled

Banner sets forth the religious language of our national motto years before it was officially adopted. Recalling the language of that fourth verse:

"Blest with vict'ry and peace may the Heaven rescued land

"Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!

"Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,

"And this be our motto, 'In God is our trust.'

"And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave.

"O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

"In God is Our Trust" was penned by Francis Scott Key as our national motto on this day in 1814; and the truth of that motto is as real today as it was 186 years ago.

NFL HOUSTON TEXANS

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, it has been 3 long years and Houston once again has a professional football team, an NFL team. That name last week was decided to be the Houston Texans.

Since 1997, when the Oilers left Houston to go on to Tennessee, football fans have hoped and dreamed for this moment. In Houston it was a long and hard road. Even though it is only 3 years, it seems like many more.

I want to thank the owner who brought the NFL back to Houston, Bob McNair. Without his hard work, dedication and effort, we would not have this possible, but also to the people of Houston and Harris County who voted to build the new stadium right next to the eighth wonder of the world, the Astrodome.

As any Texan can tell us, football is more than just a sport or game, it is a religion in Texas. Texans are crazy about football, and Houstonians are now crazy about the Houston Texans.

Professional football has a long history in my hometown. In the early days of the AFL, the Houston Oilers were a powerhouse, winning the championships in 1961 and 1962; and when they merged the AFL and NFL, Houston was competitive each year.

Such great players as Dan Pastorini, Earl Campbell, and Billy "White Shoes" Johnson led our team to the brink of the Super Bowl.

Houstonians continue to stand by their team in good times and in bad, and now we are ready for the professional Houston Texans.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to the on-field debut of the Houston Texans in 2002. I am eager to resume our annual Governor's Cup with a victory over the Dallas Cowboys.

CHILDHOOD CANCER MONTH

(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. Madam Speaker, when we think of a day in the life of a child, we may immediately think of toys, playgrounds, and laughter. Rarely, if ever, do chemotherapy, hospitalization, and blood transfusions come to mind.

Yet, the harsh reality is that they will become just a routine part of the day for the well over 12,000 children who will become victims of cancer this year.

Cancer is the number one killer of children, and its incidence has been rising every year for the past 20 years.

Alexander Zimmerman, the 4-year-old son of my district director, is currently fighting a rare form of a brain tumor.

And we cannot forget Caroline, the daughter of our colleague the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE), who recently passed away from her battle with neuroblastoma.

Pediatric oncology remains underrecognized and underserved, which is why Congress should fund what could be the largest children's oncology facility in the Nation, the University of Miami's Batchelor Children's Center.

We believe that if Congress does its part, things like playgrounds, toys, and laughter will once again become the daily routine.

We should also fund graduate medical education for pediatric hospitals, such as Miami Children's Hospital, which trains our Nation's leading pediatric oncologists.

This September, as we commemorate Childhood Cancer Month, I urge my colleagues to fund efforts toward pediatric cancer research because every child's life is precious.

TRAGIC PASSING OF ENSIGN KRISTOPHER KROHNE

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

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I come to the well of the House floor to talk about a very sad case, the tragic death of a former intern of mine, Kris Krohne.

Kris was an honorable and ambitious young man who died pursuing his dream of serving this country as a Naval aviator. Last Wednesday, Navy Ensign Kris Krohne was performing his second solo flight at Vance Air Force Base when his plane crashed. Kris was only 24 years old.

As a parent who has lost a son, my heart goes out to his parents, both retired Naval officers, Theodore and Kay, and his brother Karl. I extend my sympathies from those of us in the entire San Diego community to them.

I remember Kris as a bright and personable student who worked hard while interning in my office in D.C. in the spring of 1998. I was saddened to hear of his sudden death.

Kris' spirit will live on in the hearts and minds of everyone he touched. We

will never forget the great contribution he made to our office and what a great and dedicated American he was to want to serve his country.

Our thoughts and our prayers go out to his family, and we will all be praying for them in their time of grief.

□ 1115

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISTOOK. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material during further consideration of H.R. 4942.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to House Resolution 563 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4942.

□ 1116

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4942) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, with Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, July 26, 2000, pending was amendment number 23 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

The gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) has 9 minutes remaining in debate and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) has 11½ minutes remaining in debate.

The gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, Members will recall that the matter involving contraception turned on when a veto would take place. The mayor had promised a veto. He believed that a pocket veto was the appropriate way to proceed because, as this body well knows, if a veto is straight out that is a declaration of war. There may be a compromise thereafter, but it is a little more difficult.

So my amendment addressed the notion that the mayor should be allowed to pocket veto and we should respect his word that a pocket veto would take place. That pocket veto has taken place.

The chairman knows that he had written language that was otherwise acceptable to me. It is perhaps not the exact language I would have written with respect to contraception, but I had discussions with him concerning his language. I understand his concern on his side of the aisle. I have asked my own Members on this side of the aisle to consider that what we are trying to do is to get some kind of understanding that we can all live with to get this bill passed. I am not prepared to ask for anything further now that the bill has been vetoed, except that I would like to ask the chairman if that is satisfactory to him and, if so, if he would accept my amendment.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, as the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) correctly states, we were in a situation where her amendment was simply trying to strike language from the bill which would disapprove pending legislation in the District of Columbia. That legislation, since we were here last on this bill, has been pocket vetoed by the mayor of the District of Columbia. Therefore, there is no need to have the language in the bill whereby Congress disapproves that local legislation because, indeed, it has already been disapproved by the action of the mayor. Therefore, there is no need for the language in the bill and certainly I am ready to accept, and I believe our side is ready to accept, the amendment from the gentlewoman.

For clarification, for anyone, lest there be any confusion, the amendment that is under consideration right now offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) simply says that Congress is not taking action to disapprove this legislation by the District. However, there remains intact, it is not affected by the amendment, the congressional instructions to the District that any legislation regarding mandatory coverage of contraceptives and insurance must include a conscience clause. The amendment of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) does not touch that language in the bill. That language remains.

I think that is what she is referring to as far as the good faith concerns of a great many Members. Since the item in the bill is moot, there is no need for the language in subsection (a) and I certainly agree to accept the amendment of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), and if the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is agreeable, I would like to ask that we both yield back the remainder of our time so we may be done with this item.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Norton amendment.