



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 147

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2001

No. 85

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 19, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE PENCE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2001, 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.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

THE TIME IS NOW TO CONSIDER IMPACTS OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last week President Bush met with European leaders to discuss, along with other important policy issues, his dismissal of the Kyoto Protocol and the administration's minimization of global climate change.

I personally find it interesting that while the President feels we need to hold off taking action on global warming and instead need to study it more,

at the same time he was discussing with our European allies his willingness to advance a national missile defense system that is unproven, expensive, and diplomatically unpopular with less likelihood of destruction, frankly, than what we face with global climate change. Three thousand international scientists and the National Academy of Science have all agreed: global warming is real and we are beginning to see the impacts in the rise of extreme weather episodes that have struck the United States in the past few years.

Indeed, it was ironic that at the time the President was minimizing global climate change and heading off to Europe, his home State of Texas was visited by Tropical Storm Allison that hit with brutal ferocity. It killed 22 people in Houston. It rained 3 feet in less than a week, most of it in a single 24-hour period, an unprecedented flood, some would suggest.

Damages were estimated at \$2 billion in Houston alone, and 28 counties were declared Federal disaster areas. We saw what some scientists feel is a glimpse of the problem in the future, like the woman who was alone in an elevator when the power went out and they are programmed, of course, to go to the bottom floor. Unfortunately, in this case, the bottom 4 floors were flooded, causing the woman to drown. Or the man who was trying to save his television in the midst of a flood and was electrocuted when he touched the antenna, and his mother electrocuted trying to help him.

Now, it is inconvenient, it is dangerous, and it is beyond the notion of a few planes canceled, although Continental Airlines canceled 1,000 flights, while the Houston International Airport was closed. Mr. Speaker, a devastating example of the expected human and economic costs associated with global climate change.

Now, at the same time, we in Congress are pursuing policies that may

make the impact of tropical storms and hurricanes worse as far as our coastal communities are concerned. I was struck by an editorial article in this Sunday's Washington Post by geologist Orrin Pilkey urging Congress to work with the administration on pursuing smarter policies and investments along our Nation's thousands of miles of coastline.

He cited one particular area that needed special scrutiny, and the Federal Government has embarked upon what, in many cases, can be termed an ill-advised action of steadily nourishing these beaches. In some cases, we have seen examples where they appear for legislative authorization without extensive interaction on this Chamber floor; at the same time, in much the same manner where the Corps of Engineers over the years have reduced the size of flood plains and increased the potential of damage by building one dyke and dam after another. Non-engineering solutions for beaches are seldom considered, and have the potential of increasing the risk. As we have an artificially rebuilt beach, it encourages people to develop in areas that are ecologically not sustainable.

Already, more than 300 East Coast and Gulf Coast beaches have been nourished; and more are being added to the list all the time. Last year in WRDA, without extensive debate on this floor, we added a 14-mile long Outer Banks beach nourishment project in North Carolina that has a projected cost of almost \$2 billion over the next 50 years. It boils down to a subsidy of \$30,000 per year for 50 years for each beachfront property that is supposed to be protected by this new beach.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that it is time for the Members of the House of Representatives to consider the impacts of global climate change and to eliminate subsidies and government actions that will make the impacts and costs worse over time. Looking at

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.



Printed on recycled paper.

these existing policies at the same time we work towards global solutions for the impact of global climate change is the key to making our families safe, healthy, and economically secure for more livable communities tomorrow.

THE CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my concerns to the House to consider the children who will be left behind in H.R. 1 and S. 1.

As House and Senate conferees begin meeting to consolidate the House and Senate bills which will reauthorize the elementary and secondary education act, I urge the House to consider the reality that the children living in U.S. insular areas like Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will be left behind in this reauthorization bill.

The President's education plan to "Leave No Child Behind" is woven into the language of H.R. 1 and S. 1, which are our blueprints for elementary and secondary education in this country. While these bills give special attention to the needs of children living in rural areas, the needs of American Indian, native Hawaiian and Alaskan native children, the needs of children with limited English proficiency, the needs of children of military families, it fails to begin addressing the needs of children living in the insular areas.

Although the insular areas have a unique status under Federal law which requires special policies to serve the educational needs of children, there is no Federal educational policy that focuses on the specific and unique needs of insular area school systems.

It is difficult for insular area systems to compete for educational funding distributed by competitive grants because schools lack the personnel needed to prepare grant applications. They are also faced with unique challenges in hiring and retaining qualified administrators and certified school teachers. Insular area educational systems face other challenges such as geographical barriers, high unemployment rates, shrinking economies, aging buildings which are strained by the acceleration of weathering caused by an unforgiving tropical environment, the high cost of importing and providing equipment and supplies, and a host of other limited resources.

As the delegate from Guam to the U.S. House and a lifelong educator, I have always advocated for improvements in the manner in which the Federal Government in its treatment of the insular areas. Gratefully, the insular areas are included in most educational programs, but mostly as afterthoughts. As a result, educators in the insular

areas must follow a patchwork system of funding arrangements varying from State shares to special formulas for outlying areas in order to obtain needed and fair funding of Federal program resources. I am pleased to note that the territories are included in many of the increases, including the President's proposal to increase by \$5 billion reading programs from kindergarten to third grade.

But I am also concerned that H.R. 1 leaves out funding for parental assistance centers. In my home, the Guam sanctuary program has a program called Ayuda Para I Manaina, Help For Parents, which provides services for over 1,000 families on Guam each year. The Senate bill includes funding for this program, but the House does not, and I urge my House colleagues to recede to the Senate.

I have been a longtime advocate for establishing a Federal educational policy for the insular areas that would help bring consistency to their treatment throughout H.R. 1. In the absence of such a policy, I proposed an amendment which would require a Federal policy for the insular areas. Unfortunately, this amendment was struck down along with over 100 other amendments proposed for H.R. 1.

So I stand again before my colleagues today to urge consideration for the special needs of children in the territories. The Federal Government has recognized that special attention must be given to the challenging circumstances of insular area educational systems. Why should our educators be left searching for information in footnotes and obscure reference to find the policies which apply to them? We need to work in concert to level the playing field for all American children wherever they live, whether they live in a State or whether they live in a territory.

I hope my colleagues will join in supporting this proposed amendment to ensure that no American child is left behind in our national educational programs, no matter where they live.

I also would like, Mr. Speaker, to acknowledge the presence of Paulo Madlambayan, who is our congressional art contest winner from Guam. He came the furthest to be with us today with the other congressional art contest winners, along with his Uncle Jesse.

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 43 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 at 2 p.m.

The Reverend Joseph A. Escobar, Pastor, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Pawtucket, Rhode Island, offered the following prayer:

Let us remember that we are one Nation under God.

O God, our help, our justice, hear our prayer as we begin this session of the House of Representatives. Enlighten our deliberations by the light of Your law, so that our legislation may reflect Your divine wisdom. May we keep before our eyes the truth that we have been created in Your image, that each man and woman has a dignity which we have been empowered to preserve and to protect.

Help us to see that dignity in each other and in those who have empowered us to serve. May we build a society wherein we can live in a harmony which reflects the harmony in which You created our world. We place our confidence in Your saving help this day and every day, for in You we trust. Amen.

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 Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island 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.

THE REVEREND JOSEPH A. ESCOBAR

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Father Joseph Escobar of St. Anthony's Church in Pawtucket, Rhode Island as our guest chaplain.

Established in 1926, St. Anthony's has long served Rhode Island's English and Portuguese-speaking communities.

The large influx of Portuguese immigrants to Rhode Island resulted in the first Portuguese parish in the State, Holy Rosary Parish in 1885. Next was St. Elizabeth's, in Bristol in 1913. It was soon followed by St. Francis Xavier in East Providence in 1915; and St. Anthony's was added in 1926, along with its mission at Little Compton.

Father Escobar will soon be leaving to transition to be the pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Providence, his hometown. Father Escobar was educated in East Providence public