



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 147

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2001

No. 91

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 27, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable E. CLAY SHAW, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

Bishop Michael Tyrone Cushman, General Overseer, National Association of the Church of God, West Middlesex, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Dear Kind and Gracious Heavenly Father, it is with praise and adoration we bow before You on this wonderful day. It is with awe and honor we worship Your holy presence and invite You to dwell in the midst of these men and women who were made by Your hands and fashioned for this very moment.

We acknowledge that all wisdom comes from You. We confess this morning that You are our eternal Father and You are the very essence of love itself, and that we are created in Your loving just and merciful image, and that Your ultimate will is that we love each other unconditionally as we are loved by You.

Please, Kind Sir, bless us this day with the spirit of reconciliation. Endow us with a fresh anointing of grace and tolerance. Empower us to deliberate through the dilemmas and conflicts of purpose and opinion. Equip us to accept what we cannot change. Embolden us to change the unacceptable and enlighten us with uncanny wisdom to

strike the compromises that glorify You and dignify every human being.

Now, My Father, bless this House, O Lord we pray. Keep it safe by night and day. In the strong name of Jesus we trust and pray. 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. McNULTY. 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 Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. McNULTY. 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, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas 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.

WELCOME TO GUEST CHAPLAIN, PASTOR MICHAEL TYRONE CUSHMAN, SR.

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join you in welcoming today's distinguished guest chaplain, Pastor Michael Tyrone Cushman, Sr., and thank him for leading the House in prayer. As first General Overseer of the National Association of the Church of God, Pastor Cushman is responsible for more than 400 churches in the United States, Caribbean, and Africa.

For 22 years, Reverend Cushman served at the Pasadena Church of God in Pasadena, California, one of the most thriving churches in our region. Pastor Cushman distinguished himself as a force for racial reconciliation and more harmonious human relations in southern California. In his new position, his mission is to unify the black and white branches of the Church of God.

I am proud to say, that although Dr. Cushman will travel the world in his new position, he and his wife, Jacqueline, will maintain a home in Altadena, California, which I am proud to represent. Although we will sorely miss his influence in our community on a daily basis, I am happy to note that he will maintain an advisory role at the Pasadena Church of God.

I am proud to welcome Chaplain Cushman here today as our guest chaplain.

AMERICA'S ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, while California experiences blackouts, and respirating equipment that is needed

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.

for those critically ill goes silent, Gray Davis is hyperventilating and pointing fingers at Washington.

Let us review the Democratic energy policy over the last 8 years under the past administration. Let me see: Hazel O'Leary, Secretary of Energy, goes to the Taj Mahal and spends \$1 million of taxpayer money to beautify it before she arrives.

Let me see: Bill Richardson, while on his watch, loses our Nation's energy secrets, and we become vulnerable to outside influences.

During the last campaign, when energy prices were skyrocketing, the Clinton White House's brilliant idea was to reduce and use the oil from the strategic reserves.

Sound bite politics from their side, sensitive politics from ours. We are working on the energy needs of America. We are seeking a plan that will revolutionize the way we are dependent on oil. We are looking at a conservation model. We are looking at new technology. We are coming up with answers, not rhetoric.

I admonish the Democrats to start participating and stop finger-pointing. And Gray Davis could lead the parade by stop spending \$30,000 of taxpayer money a month for political consultants and start working with energy consultants to save his State.

SIGN DISCHARGE PETITION ON COST-BASED ENERGY PRICING

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, last week, in California, three former employees of generators of electricity testified that they turned off their equipment at the demands of their bosses that resulted in driving up electrical prices on the west coast. This House should do something about that.

What I urge my colleagues to do is to come to the well of the House and sign a discharge petition for a bill that will create cost-based pricing for 2 years as a short-circuit to stop the meltdown of the energy market on the west coast. I do that on behalf of the small business people who are losing their businesses today, last week, next week, because of the thousand percent increases in wholesale electrical rates on the west coast, which are unprecedented, wrong, unconscionable, and should be illegal.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, finally, because we dragged them kicking and screaming for the last 4 months, finally did something a few days ago, but it is clear it is not enough. We need to keep their feet to the fire. I urge my colleagues to sign the discharge petition in the well of the House today.

TAX REBATES

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I remember energy going up that Texas provided for California because the Environmental Protection Agency charges them fines to run their plants. Ridiculous.

But today, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of hardworking American taxpayers who will receive a \$600 check in the mail this summer courtesy of George W. Bush. That is right. Americans do not want, do not need, and do not deserve higher taxes. That is why President Bush fought hard to make sure to give them back some of their money.

If an individual paid taxes last year, they will receive a \$300 check, if they are single; \$500 if they are a single parent; or a \$600 check if they are a married couple filing together. All this because President Bush knows that Americans can spend their own money better than we can here.

What can a person buy with \$600? Well, this is the buy-a-new-washer, a-new-dryer, or buy-a-new-fridge bill. What about that? The beauty of this summer refund is that George W. Bush knows that Americans can spend their money better than the Federal Government. So let us give it back to them.

SEND MARGARET HARGROVE OF FLORIDA TO THE IRS

(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, the pit bull is the most ferocious dog in the world, but nobody told that to Margaret Hargrove of Florida. When a pit bull clamped his massive jaws around her small Scot terrier's neck, Margaret ferociously bit the pit bull back.

Now, if that is not enough to sanitize your fire hydrant, folks, the pit bull then turned on Margaret and attacked her. Margaret then attacked the pit bull so ferociously that she drove him away.

Beam me up. Do not take this woman to a drive-in movie. Do not forget to feed her terrier. My colleagues, never bite Margaret Hargrove of Florida.

I yield back the need to hire Margaret Hargrove at the Internal Revenue Service to straighten those people out.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARTHA DE NORFOLK OF FLORIDA

(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. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Martha De Norfolk, a single mother from my congressional district who is working to found the Arthrogryposis Foundation to help her disabled son Bryant Amastha, and other local children who suffer from this rare disease.

One in every 3,000 babies is born with this disease, which limits motions in their joints, usually accompanied by muscle weakness. In the classic case, hands, wrists, elbows, shoulders, hips, feet and knees are affected. In some cases, even the central nervous system. Most people with arthrogryposis are of normal intelligence and are able to lead productive lives as adults. However, if not treated through surgery and physical therapy, this disease can become terminal, as the body deforms so that internal organs cannot function properly.

Nine-year-old Bryant recently completed his 36th operation, enabling him to use an electric wheelchair to move about in home and in school. With the help of the foundation that Bryant's mother, Martha De Norfolk, is working to establish, parents of these children will soon have the financial assistance and the support groups on which to depend; and local doctors will have access to education on this debilitating illness and its treatment.

We congratulate Martha and Bryant and many others.

ENERGY

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

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, with the continuation of rolling blackouts and skyrocketing energy costs, we need to address our country's energy problems now. In the short term, we need a solution that provides much-needed price relief for consumers to outrageously high energy costs, particularly now that we are in the summer.

The Bush administration's energy plan does virtually nothing to address these issues. The leadership in this Congress has wiped out the raising of the fuel efficiency standards and continues to do nothing in the area of research in renewables and other long-term benefits in improving energy efficiency. The administration has tried to address this in the previous years but was unable to do it with the leadership of this Congress.

We need a plan that does not relax environmental standards, does not propose drilling in sensitive environmental areas of this country, such as the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve and off the coast of Florida's shores. That plan only benefits large oil companies at the risk of all Americans. Our approach to our country's energy problems is a balanced plan that addresses both supply and demand. The plan proposed by Democratic leadership increases refining capacity and helps America use energy more efficiently.