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No. 103

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 23, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DARRELL E. ISSA 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 30 minutes, and each Member, other than majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S FIRST 180 DAYS

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, we are in our busiest legislative session in July; and it is important to go back and consider all of the accomplishments we have had in the last 6 months. All of us have worked alongside with the President in tackling some very tough issues, and I think it is important that we remind everybody of the important victories that I think are a great benefit to the American people.

When thinking about the first 180 days of President Bush's service to our

Nation, there are many accomplishments across a broad spectrum, both national and international issues, that I think are clearly evident; and I wish to bring to my colleagues' attention. From education and the environment, to health care and national security, the President has taken an active stance in promoting an agenda that has received both public and bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, let me be specific here. For example, the President's budget, with bipartisan support, funds essential priorities, pays down a historic level of debt in this country, while, of course, simultaneously providing tax relief to every taxpayer in every tax bracket.

The President inherited a faltering economy. He signed into law the largest tax cut in 20 years. This was important because it provided a needed boost while simultaneously proposing measures to increase trade and stabilizing energy prices.

President Bush's efforts to expand the quality of health care for all Americans has led to the largest increase in medical research funding, the development of 1,200 new community health care centers for rural and low-income Americans, as well as immediate assistance to seniors in the form of a prescription drug discount card that will reduce their bills by 10 to 15 percent or more.

While working to improve health care for American seniors, the President has also taken action to increase access for disabled Americans for better housing, transportation, greater employment opportunities, and overall access to community life. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, his appointment of a bipartisan commission to improve Social Security reveals his deep concern for working Americans and the effect Social Security will have for them long after retirement.

While working to protect the interests of American citizens at home, the

President has also worked diligently in order to protect American interests throughout our global community. The \$8 billion increase of defense spending that we passed will improve the quality of life for all men and women who have committed their lives to military service. President Bush's commitment to those in the armed services was no more clearly seen than in his efforts to ensure the safe and expedient return of the U.S. crew that was detained in China. That was no small feat, a diplomatic coup; and I think this is a great success that we, as a Nation, can be proud of.

His efforts have also led to the development of a comprehensive review of all areas of the military while also carrying out a successful missile defense test.

President Bush's agenda also focuses on strengthening the ties with the global community. His travels to Europe reflect his efforts to promote key foreign policy tenets that aim to assist developing nations in fighting poverty and improving global health care while also promoting an international awareness for environmental conservation. These can be clearly seen in his efforts for partnership with the African nations on issues ranging from the fight against HIV/AIDS to the greater development of international trade.

Mr. Speaker, his commitment to the international treaty that will reduce the worldwide use of 12 dangerous chemicals exemplifies his concern for the global environment. The President's foreign policy efforts also reflect a sincere commitment to strengthening the young independent democracies of Eastern Europe. Moreover, as the first President to give a radio address in Spanish, the President has also worked to strengthen the alliance of the North American nations through active participation during the Summit of the Americas.

President Bush has successfully strived to replace Washington culture

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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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of gridlock with several notable bipartisan accomplishments on very tough issues, ranging from economy to education to defense spending.

Mr. Speaker, I believe his first 180 days have revealed to us an active and committed Presidential agenda that spans both domestic and international concerns while also protecting the interests of America and expanding freedom, trade, prosperity, and hope. I wish to congratulate the President this afternoon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning hour debates, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 37 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:

Stir our spirits, O Lord, that we may praise You with full attention and be whole-hearted in all the tasks You set before us this day.

Over the weekend You have renewed us in faith and love. With others who see Your deeds unfolding in our history and in every act of justice and kindness we have gathered and offered You praise. With family and friends we gathered at table and You renewed us in the bonds that hold us faithful and fill us with gratitude. Bless those who have blessed us. Be close to those most in need of Your compassion and love.

Fear of You, O Lord, is the beginning of wisdom. Make us truly wise. As we begin our works of truth and justice guide us to grow in understanding, for our hearts are fixed on Your faithful promise that You will be with us 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 Indiana (Mr. PENCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PENCE 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. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2311. An act making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insist upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2311) "An Act making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes" requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. REID, Mr. BYRD, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. STEVENS, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill on Friday, July 20, 2001:

H.R. 2216, making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2001.

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U. S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 20, 2001 at 3:32 p.m.

That the Senate agreed to conference report H.R. 2216.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

MARTHA C. MORRISON,
Deputy Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2001.

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed please find copies of resolutions approved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on July 18, 2001, in accordance with 40 U.S.C. §606.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

There was no objection.

RAILROAD DISASTERS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, last weekend downtown Baltimore was shut down due to the derailment of a freight train carrying hazardous chemicals.

Madam Speaker, just imagine what could have happened if that train was carrying high-level, highly radioactive nuclear waste, the world's most toxic, deadliest material known to man. Thousands of people would have been exposed to not only heavy smoke and soot but to invisible radiation that can kill them as well as any livestock or other crops within the area.

This scenario is not science fiction. The CBS news show "60 Minutes" detailed that train accidents due to track failure are happening at a rate of nearly one every 24 hours. That is a train accident once every day.

The Department of Energy wants to ship nuclear waste on our railways, past our schools, past our hospitals, through our neighborhoods and communities, and past schools and farms.

Madam Speaker, our responsibility is to protect the American public, not endanger them. We cannot allow the DOE to threaten the lives of our constituents.

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, as the debate over using Federal funds to support embryonic stem cell research goes forwards, I would urge my colleagues in this Chamber to consider the clear words of Pope John Paul II spoken to our President today, who said in Rome, "Experience is already showing how a tragic coarsening of consciences accompanies the assault on innocent life in the womb, leading to the accommodation and acquiescence in the face of other related evils such as euthanasia, infanticide, and, most recently, proposals for the creation for research