



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 148

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2002

No. 38

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 10, 2002.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SWEENEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord, our God, springtime invites us to look at all creation anew and rejoice in its freshness. It inspires all of us to reflect on: "What are we creating?"

In partnership with You, as Your people, we desire to accomplish Your holy will.

Help the Members of this House in the 107th Congress to look at themselves, their politics, priorities, and the Nation's interests with new vision in the light of Your Spirit.

By Your Word, plant deep within their hearts personal integrity. Strengthen Your people with convictions born of truth and experience.

In selecting only good seed, may the leaders of government cast freely new growth across this Nation.

Help them to be wise and patient planters seeking not immediate results, but a productive future which will feed the stability of our homeland and reap a harvest of peace in the world.

It is You, O Lord, who grant the increase 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 his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. McNULTY 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.

WELFARE REFORM

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, Republicans in the House have been leading the charge on the issue of welfare reform. In 1996, overcoming vehement opposition and tremendous obstacles, the Republican majority passed groundbreaking welfare reform that cut case-loads in half.

This year, as Congress is scheduled to reauthorize welfare reform, I would like to share the four principles being promoted by welfare proponents, proponents of welfare reform.

Promoting work: Our plan strengthens the path toward independence. We will continue to support strong work requirements as a centerpiece of our plan for reauthorizing welfare reform.

Improving child well-being: Our plan aims to lift millions more out of poverty. We are developing new initiatives to reduce child poverty and enhance opportunities for a brighter future.

Promoting healthy marriages and strengthening families: We will con-

tinue to promote policies that reduce illegitimacy and divorce, while encouraging healthy marriages.

Fostering hope and opportunity: Boosting personal incomes and improving quality of life, we will build on these successes by developing additional plans to place recipients on long-term career paths, promoting self-esteem and improved quality of life.

These are our guiding principles. They are worth fighting for. Strong families are worth fighting for. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join in this noble cause.

RETURN LUDWIG KOONS

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am here again. That means that Ludwig Koons is still in captivity in Rome, Italy. A 9-year-old boy, abducted by his pornographer mother, lives in a compound where there is prostitution. We cannot get the United States Government to help us, nor can we have get the Italian Government to help us. Psychologists in both countries have said the child needs to be removed from the situation that he is living in.

Where are our consciences? Why cannot we make something happen with this case?

I need Members to be as absolutely outraged as I am. Please do something to help this child, a 9-year-old United States citizen. Yes, he is living with a parent. That parent does not have custody. She is in the business of doing erotic sex shows around the world. She has a pornographic Web site. Psychologists have said the child is in danger if he continues to stay there, and his father has spent millions of dollars trying to get the child back home to the United States, unquestionably away from the circumstances in which he is

□ 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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living. We need help. My colleagues, please respond and bring Ludwig Koons home.

SUPPORT WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the bill of the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) on welfare reform that was introduced yesterday. The bill strongly supports the President's priorities on welfare reform.

Welfare reform has been a tremendous success. The best welfare program for families and children is a good-paying job. Since welfare reform was passed in 1996, more people are off welfare and working, and child poverty is down significantly. But there is still more we can do. This bill will continue building on the successes we have had. It will strengthen families and protect children. It will help most people get off welfare who are in that condition today and back to work. It will encourage States to be innovative so they can help more families.

This is a good bill and I urge my colleagues to support it.

LOOPHOLE EXPLOITATION ACT

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon the House will vote on a piece of legislation that has been named the Taxpayer Protection Act. It would be more properly described as the "Loophole Exploitation Act" because it is designed to undermine the new bipartisan campaign finance law before that law can even take effect.

It will encourage the development of a new form of political committee that will not have to disclose its activity at either the Federal or State level. This will be a type of committee for which Federal officials are encouraged to raise funds, and yet no one will know the full extent of such a committee's activities.

That is why Public Citizen, Common Cause, and the Campaign for America have said "there is only one way to oppose the fatally flawed 527 provisions, which open a gaping loophole in our campaign finance disclosure laws, and that is to vote 'no' on H.R. 3391." I hope my colleagues will do that. We must maintain the bipartisan spirit of reform and reject this very unfortunate piece of legislation.

HONORING MAURICIO J. TAMARGO

(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, on August 30, 1961, a young Cuban boy named Mauricio Tamargo fled the Castro tyranny with his family, in search of freedom and liberty here in the United States. His belief in the American dream gave him the strength to persevere during the harsh winters of Wisconsin, as he stood for hours at the corner selling newspapers to help his parents with his seven brothers and sisters.

Today, Mauricio will be officially sworn in as the chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission.

For over a decade, Mauricio has been my most valuable advisor and confidant. As a result, I hated the thought of his leaving, but when the President nominated him for this distinguished post, I knew for the good of the country he had to go.

Mauricio is not only an excellent jurist, he is someone who embraces and cherishes law as a compass for his life. He is not only intelligent and dedicated to the service of our country, he is a man of integrity and honor. His journey from refugee child to his current post is a testament to our great country and a vivid example that the American dream can indeed become a reality for all of us.

May Mauricio serve as an inspiration to future generations. Godspeed, my friend. Felicidades, Mauricio.

NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE

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

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, today across the country, thousands of students on our college campuses are silent. They are silent as a sign of solidarity of persons who, because of their sexual orientation and gender identification, cannot speak for themselves. They are silent as a form of protest against a society that silences persons who are different, persons who do not meet main street's definition of proper.

They are silent, but we in Congress should not be. We should shout and raise our voices and call for an end to discrimination and prejudice against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons. We should affirm loudly that by this day of silence, America has the capacity and the heart to say to all persons are just that, persons; and all persons are deserving of fair treatment. In closing, I would like to thank two gentlemen from my district, Bruce Carlson and Matt Friday, for their dedication to such causes, and recognize the instrumental role they play in creating a nation free of prejudice.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN BY THE NUMBERS

(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, today I rise to share with you some disturbing numbers regarding the shipping of high-level nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

First, let me tell you it will take over 96,000 truck and rail shipments for this material to get there. These shipments will go through 44 States, 703 counties, and at least 109 major population cities. More than 7 million people live within one-half mile of the nuclear transportation routes. Close to 50 million people live within 3 miles of these shipping routes. And contrary to what the DOE espouses, nuclear waste currently stored at 77 reactor and storage sites in 39 States, is not just going to magically appear at Yucca Mountain. These shipments will come through your communities for over 38 years.

The cost associated with cleaning up just one accident in your community is over \$13.7 billion taxpayer dollars, not counting the health care costs associated with those affected.

That is the story, Mr. Speaker, by the numbers. The sad truth is these numbers just do not add up to a plan which protects the safety and security of all Americans. I urge my colleagues to oppose the Yucca Mountain bill.

EXPANDING EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we approach April 15, the deadline for filing income tax, I have introduced a bill, H.R. 3742, legislation to expand the earned income tax credit for childless workers.

This bill would significantly strengthen the credit's ability to reward and encourage work for millions of low-income people.

H.R. 3742 would improve the EITC for childless workers in two important respects. First, it would double the credit percentage to 15.3 percent and extend it to apply to the first \$7,000 in wages that a worker earns. This would provide workers with new relief from the substantial payroll tax burden they currently bear.

While we await enactment, I would also encourage low-income people to make sure they file for their earned income tax credit.

ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE THROUGH WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I have been looking forward to today for quite some time. Today we are introducing the welfare reform bill that will build upon the successes of our historic 1996 reforms.