

□ 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:

Lord God, the decline of trust in government and other institutions in the United States over the past 30 years has long been documented.

Young people float through an age of disillusionment while older people survive on comparisons with yesterday.

The credibility gap affects Americans of all ages and divides generations, while mistrust infects a virus in marriage, friendship, as well as business and international relations.

The psalmist tells every believer it is better to place our trust in You, O Lord, than to trust in our own strength or trust in weapons or people of power.

Since You alone are eternal faithfulness, send forth Your spirit and renew this Nation, that we may again become trustworthy people, bringing hope to a fearful world.

Let the rebuilding of trust begin here. Lord, touch the Members of the House of Representatives, that they may be men and women of renewed integrity and solidarity.

Step by step, may human vulnerability be turned into virtue as all work to strengthen relationships that will bind people in solid faithfulness both 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 Florida (Mr. JEFF MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida 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 PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

CORPORATE AND AUDITING ACCOUNTABILITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

(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, the economy is on the rebound. Most of our key economic indicators are showing good news, but one thing is hanging heavy on the economy. The collapse of Enron has shaken America's faith in American corporations and accounting practices. Even the stock market is suffering because of this.

Congress needs to address this. This week we will be voting on the Corporate and Auditing Accountability, Responsibility, and Transparency Act. This bill will improve corporate responsibility, reform accounting oversight, and increase corporate disclosure.

Americans need to know that the companies they are investing in are reporting their finances honestly. Americans need to know that their finances will be protected, and Americans need to know that they can diversify their 401(k)s so they can protect themselves from investments that do not do as well as expected.

Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues to pass this important bill and tell every American that we care about honesty and integrity than we care about their retirement.

SHIPPING NUCLEAR WASTE TO YUCCA MOUNTAIN

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, Congress will soon vote on whether to send nuclear waste to a scientifically unsound and leaky repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The Department of Energy has tried to hide how they plan to ship at least 77,000 tons of toxic nuclear waste through 45 States. There may be more than 108 shipments, not to mention as many as 3,000 shipments by barge.

The real dirty secret that the DOE has tried desperately to ignore is the immense vulnerability of these transports. More than 123 million people live in the 703 counties along DOE's proposed highway routes and 106 million people live in counties along DOE's rail routes. Even routine radiation from the casks, given off while passing on the highway, would be a health risk for people living and working in the vicinity of the transportation routes.

The threat of terrorism is more real for Americans more now than ever. At every stage of transport, nuclear waste would be vulnerable to a devastating terrorist attack that would result in massive civilian casualties and severe financial loss.

The risks associated with transporting nuclear waste are clear. The question is, are we willing to play nuclear roulette with our Districts? Say no and oppose Yucca Mountain.

PENSACOLA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the students and faculty of Pensacola Catholic High School. For 7 years, students at Pensacola Catholic High have embraced Make A Difference Day. Make A Difference Day was created by USA Weekend Magazine and is one of the most encompassing national days of helping others, a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors.

They have achieved the astronomical participation rate of 80 percent. They have made it their annual mission to help the elderly in Pensacola maintain their homes and to pitch in around the community. On October 27th, 2001, 450 students fanned out around Pensacola and painted four houses and an elementary school, built nine picnic tables, cleaned two neglected cemeteries, weeded a community rose garden, spruced up a homeless shelter's playground, and made \$1,300 at a car wash for the school's Make A Difference Day scholarship fund.

The students were recognized as one of the ten national honorees by the USA Weekend Magazine's Make A Difference Day. The students will receive a \$10,000 Make A Difference Day award, funded by Newman's Own, and have selflessly donated it to Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida.

I commend these selfless students for all they have done to the betterment of Northwest Florida.

LUDWIG KOONS

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, about 1,000 children a year are taken outside the borders of the United States. These are noncustodial parental abductions. We have thousands of them across our country, and I urge each of my colleagues to help join that fight to bring them home.

One such case is that of Jeff Koons, who I have been talking about now for several months. The last time I talked about it, he had been awarded custody by the courts in New York, but soon thereafter his ex-wife filed for custody and a divorce suit in Italy. Well, he went along with that.

He argued the matter in Italy that New York laws should be followed. He even went along and hired psychiatrists to evaluate both himself and his ex-wife to see who would be fittest of the parents. Lo and behold, after a year of investigation, the Italian court-appointed psychiatrist determined that custody should be granted to Mr. Koons.

On February 28, 1998, a panel of judges of the First Section of the Rome

Tribunal found that Jeff Koons should have custody and granted that custody. That custody was to commence on August 1, 1998; and as I look, we are now in April of 2002. Four years later, Mr. Koons still does not have his son.

Father Coughlin spoke of trustworthy people bringing hope to a fearful world. Where are the trustworthy people? Bring our children home.

TRAIN DERAILMENTS PROVE NUCLEAR WASTE SHOULD NOT BE SHIPPED ACROSS AMERICA

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, this morning our Nation witnessed yet another tragic train accident. A commuter train collided with a freight train in southern California with at least one dead and hundreds injured. This latest accident follows two other serious train accidents, one in northeast Florida killing four and injuring hundreds, and one yesterday when a freight train derailed in Wells, Nevada.

Madam Speaker, these events are not just isolated incidents. Instead, they show that accidents can and do happen. While these recent accidents certainly are unfortunate and tragic, the death toll and environmental damage that could have occurred if the freight train was shipping high-level nuclear waste would have been absolutely devastating.

We should not take that risk. We should not ship nuclear waste across our entire country to a hole in the ground that will not even solve our nuclear waste problem. It is time to prevent a disaster.

For the good of our country, it is time to stop the Yucca Mountain project.

SUPPORTING BULGARIA'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the expansion of NATO to include the Republic of Bulgaria and to welcome Bulgarian Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to America.

An April article in The Washington Times notes that U.S. Ambassador to NATO, Nicholas Burns, was impressed by Bulgaria's reforms during his visit to Sofia. A recent Washington Post editorial noted Bulgaria has already assisted America and Afghanistan and can make substantial contributions for Europe as a member of NATO.

I commend the efforts of patriots like Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Ambassador Elena Poptodorova, Foreign Minister Solomon Pasi, Defense Minister Nikolai

Svinarov, Deputy Chief of Mission Emil Yalnazov, and Ambassador Stefan Stoyanov for continuing important reforms.

I was an observer of Bulgaria's first democratic elections in 1990, and I have witnessed the progress of Bulgaria's democracy. Bulgaria is strategically located, and would enhance NATO for the mutual defense of southeastern Europe.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such record votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 6:30 p.m. today.

HONORING UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE NEW YORK FIELD OFFICE FOR EXTRAORDINARY PERFORMANCE DURING AND IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. OTTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 384) honoring the men and women of the United States Secret Service New York field office for their extraordinary performance and commitment to service during and immediately following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 384

Whereas the United States Secret Service New York field office located in 7 World Trade Center was destroyed on September 11, 2001, as a result of terrorist attacks;

Whereas, throughout the day of the attacks and subsequent days, the men and women of the New York field office continually and knowingly placed themselves in exceptional danger in their efforts to save life;

Whereas, in selfless dedication to others, Master Special Officer Craig Miller was lost in the collapse of the World Trade Center;

Whereas, subsequent to the terrorist attacks, the men and women of the United States Secret Service New York field office worked tirelessly to re-establish critical field office operations and assist State and local public safety officials; and

Whereas the United States Secret Service performs a critical role in the protection of freedom, and these acts represent a dedication to duty in the highest traditions of the Department of the Treasury and the United States of America: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the continuing service and commitment of the men and women assigned to the United States Secret Service, New York field office;

(2) recognizes the critical importance of the United States Secret Service to our national security; and

(3) supports providing the necessary resources to ensure the full operation of the

New York field office and the mission of the Secret Service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OTTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 384.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. OTTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time that I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have the House consider House Resolution 384 introduced by my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK). I commend him for sponsoring this important resolution.

This resolution honors the men and the women of the United States Secret Service New York field office for their extraordinary performance and commitment to service during and following the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

Madam Speaker, Building 7 of the World Trade Center housed a number of Federal Government offices, including the IRS, the EEOC, the Defense Department, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the New York field office of the United States Secret Service. The field office was destroyed on September 11 and, tragically, Master Special Officer Craig Miller lost his life when the building collapsed.

Master Special Officer Miller was at the Marriott Hotel that morning when the hotel was evacuated. Master Special Officer Miller had a military background and extensive emergency medical training. It is believed that he went back into the towers to help the wounded.

His courage in the face of danger was extraordinary and typifies the hundreds of men and women who put themselves in danger to help others on that horrific day. Master Special Officer Miller and his actions reflect a proud tradition of selfless service to our Nation by the United States Secret Service.

Madam Speaker, our Nation will never forget the horror of September 11, but neither will we forget the heroism of so many on that terrible day. Today we recognize the commitment of the men and women of the Secret Service New York field office.

Within 48 hours of attacks, this New York field office was fully operational. A remarkable achievement, Madam Speaker. The office was completely destroyed, but within two days it was up and running again and fighting the war on terrorism. The Electronic Crimes Task Force, a division of the New York