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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 15, 2002.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JACK QUINN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Lenny Stadler, Weddington United Methodist Church, Weddington, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, I come to You in the matchless name of Jesus Christ. I give thanks to You for our great Nation. I thank You for the vision You gave to our forefathers and the divine plan by which to govern our Nation.

I pray for these representatives who have been placed in authority by the people of our Nation. May they seek Your guidance in all deliberations. May they invoke Your wisdom in making the right decisions concerning the social welfare, the economics, and the protection of our Nation.

I pray that You would instill within this gathered body the desire to be motivated by Your just cause rather than by political or partisan causes.

Finally, I pray that You will help all of us realize that the cost of inconvenience is a small price to pay for the safety of our families and of our Nation in a time of uncertainty. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Montana (Mr. REHBERG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. REHBERG 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 1-minute speeches per side.

WELCOMING DR. LENNY STADLER

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

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to welcome Dr. Stadler from Weddington, North Carolina, to the House of Representatives. He is one of those people who is very dynamic and a true leader in our city and our area today.

It may be hard to believe, but he used to be a rock musician. That was before he decided that ambition left him spiritually empty, and he decided to pursue the call of Christ in his life.

He graduated from Duke University Divinity School and Asbury Theological Seminary, and he served in the Western District of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church for 23 years.

He is joined in his ministry by his wife, Shanna, and their children, Shalen and LenPaul. He has been a senior pastor in Weddington since 1989. Under his leadership, the church has become one of the fastest growing Methodist churches in the southeastern part of the United States.

He is very straightforward and powerful in his preaching, and he always is challenging his parishioners to rediscover the joy of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I thank him for being here with us today.

WELFARE REFORM IS ROUSING SUCCESS

(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, the welfare reform bill we passed in 1996 has been a rousing success. Republicans should be proud that we helped welfare recipients achieve independence through work. We should be proud that we have protected children, strengthened families, and helped millions achieve success. If Members do not believe me, let me define success in the terms of the Republican-led welfare reform legislation.

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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Mr. Speaker, nearly 3 million children have been lifted from poverty. Work among mothers most likely to go on welfare has risen by 40 percent. Nine million people left welfare, a 60 percent drop. That, Mr. Speaker, is the definition of success.

Welfare reform is working, but in order to get more people from welfare to work, we must continue to improve the system. In the past 6 years, we have seen welfare cases fall by 14 million to just 5 million people. By reaching out to Americans in need, we have changed our society for the better, and have changed the lives of millions of Americans forever. We are making progress. Let us not rest on our laurels. Let us strengthen the path towards independence by empowering people to support themselves. Vote yes on H.R. 4700.

SPACE FLIGHT PROGRAM IS ADRIFT

(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 rise every day to talk about Ludwig Koons and our need to return him from Italy to the United States, and I want to digress from that story, but please remember how important it is that we concentrate on bringing our children home.

Today's message is about human space flight. America's human space flight program is adrift with no clear vision or commitment to any goals after the completion of the International Space Station.

Today I will be introducing the Space Exploration Act of 2002 to provide a vision and a concrete set of goals for the Nation's human space flight program after the International Space Station. This legislation sets forth specific incremental goals that are exciting, challenging and that build capabilities and infrastructure needed for an ultimate human mission to Mars.

Once America gets started on achieving the first of the human space flight goals listed in the bill, we have gotten over the highest hurdle to success in the entire initiative. We will once again be moving outward beyond low Earth orbit, and in the process, we will revitalize our space program, energize our industrial and academic sectors, create new opportunities for international cooperation, and inspire our young people.

MARRIAGE IS SAFEST PLACE FOR WOMEN

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, we live in a world that has changed drastically since the 1950s. Couples are getting married later in life, and almost 40 per-

cent of first marriages end in divorce. And yet every day, men and women all over the country pledge to spend their lives together.

Despite what some people believe about marriage, the facts say one thing: Marriage is still the safest place for women.

Mr. Speaker, studies from the Department of Justice show that never-married women are twice as likely to be abused by their partner than married women. Violence occurs more often in homes where the couples are unmarried compared to wed couples, with unmarried women three times more likely to become victims of violence than married women.

Mr. Speaker, these are disturbing statistics. As we consider welfare reform in the coming days, we must encourage and support programs that will provide safety and security for women. It is clear that a society that promotes marriage promotes women.

AMERICAN FAMILIES NEED TOOLS TO BREAK WELFARE CYCLE

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

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, we need to pass a welfare reform bill that allows American families to have respect and hope for the future. The goal of the original welfare reform bill was to move people permanently off the welfare rolls and into good-paying jobs. However, the bill proposed by our friends on the other side of the aisle does not accomplish that goal. If we really want to support the dignity of American families and support family values, we need to give families the tools through education and training to get off welfare and break the welfare cycle.

The States need flexibility to address these goals for themselves, not unfunded mandates that violate States rights. Let us stand up for the dignity of American families and support education. Let us support job training. Let us support States rights to address their own problems, and the problems of their State citizens. Vote no on H.R. 4735.

WELFARE REFORM OFFERS SELF-SUFFICIENCY

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, with the passage of welfare reform back in 1996, we moved from a welfare system that bred dependency to one that offers self-sufficiency, and probably even more important, allowing those individuals to regain some of their self-respect. Rather than just being given something for nothing, now they are working.

Since 1996, Michigan, like the Nation, has reduced its welfare caseload by 60

percent. I have been inspired and encouraged by the many success stories in my congressional district of individuals going from welfare to work. Darryl Grubbs is one, and Kendra Norton is another that I have met with whose lives have been turned around thanks to the encouragement of the 1996 welfare reform. These people now have a better life for themselves, and very importantly, better lives for their kids. They tell me that their children are now more proud of their parents, that they are actually doing better in school than they did when they were on welfare.

In conclusion, as the House takes up welfare reauthorization, we should be continuing a system that helps people. I urge Members to make a good program even better by supporting this bill today.

H.R. 4700 WILL TURN BACK CLOCK ON WELFARE REFORM

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

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, do Members hear the children crying? We will surely hear them cry if we vote to support the administration's proposal to reauthorize TANF. The primary goal of most Democratic Members of Congress has been to reduce poverty and to ensure the well-being of children in the welfare system.

The proposals in H.R. 4700 would adversely affect hundreds of thousands of welfare recipients. The administration's welfare reform proposals are restrictive, and will severely limit the State of California's ability to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of its welfare recipients. The long-term fiscal impacts of this legislation will cost California \$2.8 billion over a 5-year period because these proposals do not include increases in the TANF block grants. California's options for funding the projected costs will be limited to using State resources. This will essentially mean deep reductions in the TANF programs, and this is not right.

Quite simply put, H.R. 4700 will turn back the clock on welfare reform. Please vote no.

WELFARE REFORM IS ABOUT REAWAKENING SPIRIT OF AMERICAN FAMILY

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, in 1996 Congress acted to fundamentally reform America's welfare system from the broken entitlement program it had become into the streamlined temporary assistance program we now have today.

Since the historic Republican-led reforms of 1996, more than 3 million children have been lifted out of the depths