

□ 1031

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 10 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.

(Thereupon, the Members sat for the official photograph of the House of Representatives for the 107th Congress.)

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 10:45 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 34 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 10:45 a.m.

□ 1045

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 23, 2002, and Friday May 24, 2002, I was absent for several rollcall votes. Had I been here, I would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 199, "yes" on rollcall vote 200, "yes" on rollcall vote 201, "yes" on rollcall vote 202, "no" on rollcall vote 203, "no" on rollcall vote 204, "yes" on rollcall vote 205 and "yes" on rollcall vote 206.

FINISH INS REFORM LEGISLATION

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

Mr. FOLEY. Madam Speaker, in the last several days, there has been a lot of finger pointing and accusations about our agencies, the FBI and CIA. There is no question, we will do a thorough and complete review of what was known and what could have been done to thwart the terrorists on September 11. But the kind of cynical sniping at these fine agencies has to stop.

Our collective resolve against terrorism must remain united. We must stand beside our President and our leaders in order to extradite and remove these terrorists from our soil.

I strongly support major restructuring of the INS. We have passed a bill in this Chamber and sent it to the other end of the hall. That bill languishes on the Senate desk, and I urge the majority leader to start proceedings to hold a hearing or at least have a vote on that bill.

This past week in New York City, four Syrians arrested who had deportation orders against them, were released because they were not available to process them on Memorial Day. What a tragedy, that these criminals were in

our country and were not sent back to their own native country. They had the orders. They should have been deported.

I urge the Senate to adopt the INS reform bill and do so urgently.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members that they should not urge the other body to take any actions.

PROVIDING CRITICAL INFORMATION TO PREVENT ABDUCTIONS

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I generally give my 1-minute each day on the issue of missing children, whether it is to talk about Ludwig Koonz, who has been abducted by his noncustodial mother to Italy, or whether it is talk about the Missing Children's Day, which we observed only a couple of weeks ago.

During that time, there was a survey that was done, it was done by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and ADVO, and it showed that many parents lack information critical to recovering children who have been abducted. The survey results show that many parents are missing opportunities to help prevent abductions.

Law enforcement tells us that information such as height, weight, eye color, and a recent photograph are critically important when searching for a child. However, the survey shows that 22 percent of parents do not know the height, weight, and eye color for all of their children; and in the event of an emergency, it is critical for parents to have readily available their child's accurate physical description and a recent photograph so that law enforcement can act immediately and effectively.

So, parents, take the time to get a good portrait ID-type photograph of each child, not just a low-quality snapshot. Parents need to take the responsibility of knowing about their children and being able and ready to respond in the event that something terrible happens such as that. Let us work to take care of our children.

DEATH TAX AND FARMERS

(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, in my district in Pennsylvania we have some of the most productive farmland in America. In fact, it is known as the "Garden Spot" of America. Many of these farms have been in the same family for generations. A few of them date back to William Penn.

But these farms are in trouble. Taxes on the land are simply too high. Part of the problem lies right here in Washington. The estate tax, what some of us like to call the "death tax," takes as much as 60 percent of the farm's value when it passes from one generation to the next. Many times families have to sell half of the farm just to pay the death tax. That is not right.

Last year we voted to repeal the death tax; but unless we vote to get rid of it permanently, it will come back in 10 years.

Let us vote to kill the death tax for good and help Pennsylvania's and America's family farmers and small businesses stay in business.

CREATING A MEDICARE
PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the pressing need to create a prescription drug benefit under Medicare.

For almost a decade, Congress has been talking about a Medicare prescription drug benefit, and every time this issue comes up, excuses are made that it is just too expensive and we cannot afford it. Meanwhile, seniors are struggling every day to find ways to afford their life-saving medicines. They pay some of the highest prices in the world for their prescriptions; but because Medicare lacks a prescription drug benefit, 40 percent of the seniors pay for their prescriptions entirely out of pocket.

Last year, the Congressional Budget Office was projecting surpluses well into the next decade. We had the opportunity to do something about this. But instead of using the surpluses to create a Medicare drug benefit, we passed a bloated tax cut that eroded these surpluses and sent us back into an era of deficit spending.

This week we are going to take another vote to further extend these tax cuts. We have deficits as far as the eye can see, but the majority wants to dig that hole even deeper and pass tax cuts that will cost almost \$1 trillion over 10 years and will benefit less than 2 percent of the American people. Yet we tell seniors we cannot afford a prescription drug benefit.

COMMENDING SUNSET OF OUR
MEMORIES EXHIBIT

(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. Madam Speaker, today I recognize the students of Sunset High School's Holocaust Studies class and their instructor, Mr. Irv Madnikoff. Their hard work and dedication in remembering the Holocaust

through their class's exhibit "Sunset of Our Memories" should be commended.

This amazing class is one of its kind in Florida and has brought to our community this important presentation so that we can always remember the brave victims of the most deplorable time in the world's history. Over the past 3 years, 9,000 people have visited Sunset High School's interactive exhibit. One visitor commented that it was the best exhibit, next to the one in Washington, D.C., that he had ever seen.

I again want to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Irv Madnikoff and his students at Miami's Sunset High School for taking an active role in keeping alive the memories of innocent Holocaust casualties.

CONDEMNING TERRORIST MURDERS IN ISRAEL

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

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, while America slept, another suicide bomber hit in Israel. Sixteen innocent people were killed, over 50 people were wounded, many of them critically. Our population is 50 times that of Israel. On a comparable scale, this would be like reading in our morning paper that 800 American citizens were massacred overnight, with some 2,500 wounded, many critically.

In his speech at West Point, the President clearly stated, "The only way to deal with terrorists is by preemptive action." We will have to do this wherever terrorists are planning to hit us, and the Israelis have to do it to protect their own citizens. This pattern of murder must come to an end.

ELIMINATING THE UNFAIR DEATH TAX

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

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, 2 decades ago Ronald Reagan reminded America that government does not tax to get money it needs, but will always find a need for the money it gets.

The death tax is an unfair burden designed to punish families that work to leave a better future for the next generation, and it is a tax the government can do without. Despite the class warfare being waged by some in this Chamber, eliminating the estate tax is not a tax cut for the rich; it is a desperately needed reform to save thousands of family businesses, farms and homes.

Madam Speaker, death should not be a taxable event. I urge my colleagues to abandon the gains of class warfare and send the Grim Reaper home empty handed this year by eliminating the death tax.

PROVIDING A FAIR PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN FOR SENIORS

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

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, the Bush administration wants to give seniors a prescription drug card that may save you 15 percent on your prescription drugs. "May save you."

Prescription drug charges are manipulated by the pharmaceutical companies. Take a look at this chart here in my district. When they bought their drugs with their card, they saved 12 cents. They advertised 30 to 40 percent savings, but actually saved 12 cents. When they came down here to buy their Combivent and their Diltiazem, if you take a look at it, with their card, they paid \$81.43. The cash price was \$47.49. There was no savings. The actual out-of-pocket increase was \$33.94. The drug companies manipulate these prices with or without a card.

The Democrats have a real plan. We believe every senior should have a prescription drug plan covered underneath Medicare and lower prices of the prescription drugs that we all need and use. So I would urge this body to reject any of the other plans that provide a card which is manipulated by the pharmaceutical companies and actually costs us money.

CONGRATULATING THE U.S. MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

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

Mr. WALSH. Madam Speaker, early this morning while most Americans were sound asleep, about 1 billion people from all over the globe, myself included, watched a group of talented young American athletes do something truly remarkable.

Against all odds, the U.S. Men's Soccer Team defeated Portugal in the first game of the 2002 World Cup. The Portuguese were one of the favorites to win the World Cup outright, but our team prevailed 3 to 2. And it was no fluke. We took them apart in the first half with slashing attacks, and wore them down with tough defense in the second half. It was a balanced effort with everyone contributing under Coach Bruce Arena's guidance.

The win gave the U.S. the opportunity to move into the quarter finals, but they have more work to do. They play the host team Korea and then Poland, with the two best teams from the group moving on.

These young men have already exceeded expectations. They are off to the best start for any American team in history. Please tune in. Set the alarm clock for an early rise, brew some strong coffee and enjoy a great spectacle. They deserve our support.

SALUTING THE CITY OF CLEVELAND ON NEW SCHOOL

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

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, this morning I rise to salute the city of Cleveland; the CEO of the Cleveland Municipal School District, Barbara Byrd-Bennett; former mayor, Michael White; current mayor, Jane Campbell, because yesterday we broke ground on the first brand new school in the city of Cleveland in more than 20 years, AJ Rickoff Elementary School.

□ 1100

It will not only be a school center, but it will also have a library, and hopefully opportunities for parents to train from CCC College or Kiowa Community College.

It is just a wonderful thing, after Issue 14 passed last year, that we were able to break ground on a new school. We anticipate that we will build more than 40 new schools in the city of Cleveland over the next 5 years. Here is for education, here is for the Cleveland Board of Education, the Cleveland School Board, and here is for the children of the city of Cleveland.

I am thankful for the opportunity to be supportive. Let us build more schools.

OPPOSING RESURRECTION OF THE DEATH TAX

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak out against resurrecting the death tax. This tax allows the Federal Government to take up to 55 percent of the assets of an individual or small business when the owner dies, and this simply is not fair. These people have already paid taxes on everything they own. The death tax is simply a double taxation at the rate of nearly 50 percent higher than the highest income tax.

Countless farmers and small business owners in Kansas have urged me to do all I can to end this unfair tax. Who can blame them for wanting to leave their hard-earned businesses to their children?

I am proud that last year we voted to phase out the death tax, but this will become a hollow victory if a Senate provision allowing the death tax to be resurrected at the end of 7 years is allowed to stand. I am forced to tell my farmers and small businessmen that the death tax will not affect them, but only if they die in the year 2010.

Death should not be a taxable event. Let us finish what we started and kill the death tax once and for all.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House