

it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 1, for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2002, TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 4561, FEDERAL AGENCY PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary may have until midnight on Monday, September 30, 2002, to file a report to accompany H.R. 4561.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2002, TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 4125, FEDERAL COURTS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2002

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary may have until midnight on Monday, September 30, 2002, to file a report to accompany H.R. 4125.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2002, TO FILE REPORT H.R. 5428, CONSERVATION AND WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AUTHORIZATION

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure may have until midnight on Monday, September 30, 2002, to file a report to accompany H.R. 5428.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1945

APPOINTMENT OF HON. JAMES V. HANSEN TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH OCTOBER 1, 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PUTNAM) laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 26, 2002.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES V. HANSEN or, if not available to perform this duty, the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through October 1, 2002.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

STANDING FIRM FOR THE PEOPLE OF SUDAN

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, for nearly 20 years, the people of Sudan have been engaged in a civil war. The government in Khartoum, known as the National Islamic Front, has been ruthlessly terrorizing its own citizens in the south, killing and starving those who are not Muslim Arabs.

This religious hatred has evolved into genocide. Christians in southern Sudan are the subject of ethnic cleansing. Over 2 million people have died. Over 4 million people have been displaced. The war in Sudan is clearly one of good versus evil.

If this persecution was not bad enough, southern Sudan is a source of enormous oil reserves, causing the National Islamic Front to literally clear a path of black Christians in order to reap the benefits of this commodity.

Sudan is perhaps the most prominent purveyor of slavery, an atrocity of unspeakable proportions. Women and children are subjected to extreme cruelty. Men are removed from their families and given Arabic names before experiencing the worst of conditions.

There have been many prayers and vigils for the people of Sudan recently. I commend those who speak up for the persecuted and enslaved in the south of Sudan, and I urge the Sudanese government to resume peace talks with the Sudan People's Liberation Army. We must have peace, Mr. Speaker, in Sudan.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WELCOMING MEMBERS OF RUSSIAN DUMA AND FEDERATION COUNCIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to what has been a very exciting week.

Members of this body and the other body played host to four separate groups of our colleagues from the Russian Duma and Federation Council. These groups were involved in intense discussions involving cooperation on antiterrorism, on projects involving health care, energy, programs to improve the conditions of the people of Russia and the relationship between the U.S.

In fact, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) chaired one delegation, and we had Members of other groups in the Congress chair other delegations. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) was hosting a group that was focusing on veterans benefits and ways to construct housing support for the military in Russia. It has been a good week.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday a group of our colleagues, 12 to be exact, from both sides of the aisle played host to one of the rising young companies in Russia, an energy company known as ATERA and their CEO Igor Makarov. The members of the bipartisan delegation that traveled to Russia last May were hosted by ATERA as they had been hosted in previous delegations by the officials from GASTFIRM, LUKoil and other major energy companies, including Yukost and our friend Mikhail Korofko.

In response to the hospitality shown to us in Moscow, we agreed to host a dinner here in Washington for Makarov and the ATERA Corporation, and so on Tuesday evening in the Library of Congress almost 30 Members of this body from both parties and members of the other body assembled, along with diplomats from eight nations and approximately 18 members of the Russian Duma and Federation Council. In addition, we were joined by officials from various Federal agencies.

It was a very productive dinner, as we heard the progress of this young energy company, 10 years old, that now has an annual revenue approximating \$5 billion.

There were also some serious discussions because, as with other merging companies in Russia, there have been allegations and accusations, as there have been with other energy companies and other banks and institutions in Russia, that the companies are perhaps not transparent enough, perhaps they have items that we have to confront and ask them about.

In this case, what was absolutely refreshing was that the chairman of the board of the ATERA, Igor Marakov, a young 34-year-old champion bicyclist from Russia, openly in front of our entire assembled group offered to provide to us the complete list of all of the owners of this privately held corporation. That in itself was significant because they are a private corporation. They gave us the list at my request of not just the owners of the company but also the members and employees of their Esau who, in fact, were revealed to us so that we now know the true ownership of this corporation as they move to be accepted on the New York Stock Exchange.

Secondarily, because of concerns that we raised with them and concerns that we have had with other companies that are emerging in Russia, they announced that they have agreed to form an outside independent board that would monitor and review the board activities of ATERA, and they have announced that they are accepting, and I have provided to them suggestions for prominent Americans that can reflect upon the kind of work that this company is engaged in, and in fact, they had meetings this week with former CIA Director Jim Woolsey, former Energy Secretary and former CNO of the Navy Jim Watkins and, in fact, took their constructive suggestions and have agreed to put into place an aggressive effort to open up the inside operations of the company, the kinds of activities they are involved in, the extent of their operations and to have a formal process for these kinds of officials that will, in fact, come from America and perhaps other companies to bring true transparency to their company.

For these things I applaud ATERA. I am not saying that we have answered all the questions, but I am saying that we have made a good start, and this

company deserves to be given credit for coming to Washington and telling the elected officials of this body that it wants to be open, it wants to engage with American energy corporations. It wants to have the bipartisan look of not just Members of Congress and our agencies but also of those individuals in America that can help them chart a new course, a course of integrity, honesty and openness as they grow into a company that hopefully will become a true multinational organization.

I thank my colleagues for joining with me in hosting that event, in particular the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) from Jacksonville, who hosts the corporate headquarters of this company, and I applaud those other Russian companies that are looking to make the same strides in moving toward open ownership and openness and moving toward the kind of transparency that American companies must provide to get the investment from the people of this country and people from around the world who have confidence in the American free enterprise system.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH FOR RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRENSHAW). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to report to the staff that I will not take the full hour. That I am sure is good news because they work awfully hard, and many times the staff is here at 11:00 at night. I will keep my word to be not much longer than 20 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I am on the floor again, I have been every week for the last month, talking about an issue that, to me, if we are talking about September 11, we are talking about the war on terrorism, we are talking about our troops in Afghanistan. Part of the reason they are there is to protect our freedom. There is no question about it, and our national security.

The reason I come to the floor is because a year or so ago it was brought to my attention by a minister in my District that he was prohibited from talking about a political issue or candidate during the 2000 election in the months of September and October. So I took it upon myself to, along with my staff, to research this issue, and I found out that in 1954 Lyndon Baines Johnson had the H.L. Hunt family opposed to his reelection, and the H.L. Hunt family had established two 501(c)(3) think tanks.

So Johnson, being the majority leader and a very powerful man, and I think very arrogant man quite frankly, but anyway that is my opinion. He put an amendment on the revenue bill that was going through the Senate that was

never debated, no debate, and basically what this debate said that if a company is a 501(c)(3) then they may not have political speech.

Mr. Speaker, the reason that bothers me so greatly is that prior to the Johnson amendment, any pastor, priest or rabbi or cleric in this country had the right to talk about any issue that they and the congregation chose for that minister to talk about. The Johnson amendment put the IRS, because his amendment went on a revenue bill, into our churches, and they are what we call the speech patrol.

That is not what this great Nation is about. This great Nation is about freedom, and the first amendment is cherished by all of us, and I would always do any and everything I can as a Member of Congress and as a citizen to protect the first amendment rights of the people of this country, and that includes our preachers, priests and rabbis.

So we put a bill in as H.R. 2357, the Houses of Worship Political Speech Protection Act, and I am pleased to tell my colleagues, as of tonight, we have about 134 cosponsors. We are picking up some from the other side of the aisle, some Democrats. I am delighted that the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT) came on this week. He has joined us in this fight to return the freedom of speech to our churches and synagogues, and I want to read a couple of quotes at this time.

This is a quote from the former Congressman George Hansen from Idaho who served 12 terms, and this is his quote, "It is impossible to have religious freedom in any Nation where churches are licensed to the government." In my opinion, if the government is going to influence what a person can and cannot say within a church, then that is the government, in my opinion, that might as well as be licensed to churches, if they are going to stop them from talking about the moral and political issues of the day, because many of the biblical issues are today the political issues of the day. So the churches should be free to have those sermons and those discussions if the minister chooses to do so.

In addition, Martin Luther said, "The church must be reminded that it is neither the master nor the servant of the State but, rather, the conscience of the State."

Mr. Speaker, what happened in the year 2000 and actually throughout the election cycle in the year 2000, Barry Lynn of the Americans United for Separation of Church and State, he sends a letter to the religious leaders, both front page and back, and I am just going to read one paragraph because I want to make a point with this one paragraph. He says, "Dear Religious Leader, another election year is upon us, and questions about the appropriate role of houses of worship in the political process have arisen."

The second paragraph is the one that I really find intriguing quite frankly