



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2003

No. 111

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, Your people lived in security from all their enemies for a long time when Joshua summoned all the people, their elders, heads of families, their judges, and representatives together, and he said, "You have seen for yourselves all that the Lord our God has done for you. It was the Lord who fought for you in time of war. It was the Lord who granted you the gift of peace. Be resolute, therefore: Observe and perform everything written in the book of the Law without swerving to right or left."

May the words of Joshua pierce the hearts of all in Congress and all Americans today. Having seen You, Lord, guiding our history in the past, help us to be resolute today. In the formulation of law and national policy, let Members of the House hear Your voice. In their adherence to the law, let all citizens be Your people of promise and bring Your kingdom to reality. Free Your people from labels or postures that dictate right or left; rather, may they be so in tune to Your living word and Your dynamic spirit that they may be the fulfillment of Your law, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 285. An act to authorize the integration and consolidation of alcohol and substance abuse programs and services provided by Indian tribal governments, and for other purposes.

S. 650. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to authorize the Food and Drug Administration to require certain research into drugs used in pediatric patients.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 2761 of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader, appoints the Honorable PAUL SARBANES of Maryland as a delegate of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group conference during the One Hundred Eighth Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 101-549, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints Dr. Bernard Coldstein, of Pennsylvania, to the Board of Directors of the Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxics Research Center, vice M.M. Key.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 5 1-minutes on each side.

IMPORTATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS BAD FOR AMERICA

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today the House will be considering legislation that would allow for the importation of prescription drugs from foreign lands, H.R. 2427. The supporters of this bill will tell us that this legislation will give millions of Americans access to safe, cheap drugs from foreign countries. I believe them to be wrong. Instead, this bill will only serve to undercut important safety protections and place foreign price controls on American businesses.

We are all concerned about the cost of prescription drugs, but this bill is not the way to go about holding down prices.

This bill is not about free trade. In other industries, we do not permit the imposition of foreign price controls on American businesses, and we should not in this case, either.

This bill is not about safe drugs. In Operation Safeguard, the U.S. Customs agency determined that 80 to 90 percent of pharmaceuticals that enter the United States via mail violate FDA and DEA requirements.

We all want cheaper drugs, but not at any cost. But that is the question the supporters of this bill put to this body: At what price we are willing to make sure cheap drugs are available to our constituents? I do not think that price should be their safety.

Let us work on constructive solutions to bring down the cost of health care in this country, not promote ideas that will do more harm than good.

SCHOOL READINESS ACT ADVERSELY AFFECTS MINORITIES

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning

□ 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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to discuss how the School Readiness Act will adversely affect minority children. What we are talking about here is Head Start. Of the 900,000 children in Head Start, 300,000 are Hispanic. This is something very near and dear to my heart. I am a former Head Start child.

The Republicans argue that the School Readiness Act will not allow States to supplant Federal funding, but, in fact, CRS, the Congressional Research Service, indicates that that is just the case.

Why should we care? I will tell my colleagues that every kindergarten, first grade and second grade teacher in my district that I have visited in every school, and I have gone to all of them, has told me that the number one thing that the Federal Government can do at the education level is to fund Head Start, to give our children the ability to start even at the starting line of education.

So why, why would the Republicans take a program that is working and try to change it, to put more barriers in front of our minority children?

OPENING AMERICAN MARKETS TO IMPORTATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Mrs. EMERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, today we may be voting on a measure to open American markets to the reimportation of prescription drugs. I say we may be voting because, as a Member of this House, I have never seen an issue so important to me, to our colleagues, and to the American people treated so unfairly.

Access to affordable prescription drugs is too important an issue to only be debated on the House Floor for 1 hour.

Under the rule formulated for the debate on reimportation, the Speaker may pull this bill at any time. If that happens, Americans may remain under the thumb of the pharmaceutical industry for the foreseeable future.

In America, breast cancer kills over 40,000 people, especially women, each year. Mr. Speaker, a bottle of Tamoxifen used to fight breast cancer costs \$360 in the United States. It costs \$60 in Germany. How long will American women who cannot afford Tamoxifen continue to subsidize those in Europe who can? And if the drug companies have their way in this debate, Mr. Speaker, the sorry status quo will persist. Lives will be shortened, lives will be lost. This is bad process, bad form, and a bad rule. Our seniors deserve better.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF NEW YORK CITY COUNCILMAN JAMES DAVIS

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

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as New York City lost a true public servant yesterday in a violent shooting at City Hall.

Councilman James Davis of Brooklyn was an intelligent, passionate, and energetic young man who had an extremely bright future. He worked very hard and took his duties as a public servant very, very seriously.

With James, it was always about the community. He was dedicated to his community, having served as a police officer and district leader before being elected to the city council. One could always see the love he had for his community.

I met James through the Youth March Against Violence that he organized. He was only 41 years old and had served almost one term in the New York City Council at the time of his murder. But he had already made his mark. I will miss him greatly, as will the entire city and Nation, especially those of us from Brooklyn.

My sympathies and prayers go out to his family, to his staff, and friends. Farewell, James. You fought a good fight. Farewell, farewell.

A GRATEFUL NATION HONORS JEFF ALLEN AND SHANE HEATH, BRAVE IDAHO FIREFIGHTERS

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

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn humility to remember Jeff Allen and Shane Heath, two young Idaho firefighters who were killed on the afternoon of July 22 while battling a wildfire in Idaho's Salmon-Challis National Forest.

The loss of life is always tragic. The deaths of people working to protect our lives, property, and resources are especially painful; and I extend my heartfelt condolences to the families of these brave Americans.

Those with the skills and the courage to defend us against the ravages of nature and the folly of man are among the best and the brightest, and we must do all we can as a Nation to ensure that their lives are not put at unnecessary risk and that their sacrifice is never forgotten.

My own son, John, once served with a hotshot first strike crew for the Sawtooth National Firefighting crews, so I can empathize with the fear and the pain that comes from incidences like this that these families now face.

Today we pause to remember that wildfire does more than just damage our economy and our environment. It kills. May the loved ones of Jeff Allen and Shane Heath take what comfort they can in the sure knowledge that a grateful Nation honors them today and all those who follow them into the forests on our behalf.

AMERICANS NEED TO KNOW THE TRUTH

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the death toll in Iraq of the United States military has now reached and will exceed the number of deaths in the Persian Gulf War. I stand again to acknowledge and respect the brave young men and women who stand for justice and freedom and fight for our beliefs in the war in Iraq. But as Ambassador Bremer has made his rounds in Washington, there is still a missing element: a lack of a plan.

It is now time for the administration to announce a collaborative and understandable plan for Iraq, for the aftermath of Iraq; a similar plan to the Marshall concept that brings together all of our allies, not whispering and suggesting that these allies are with us, but a pronounced plan where we know who are the ones that are sending troops and paying for the costs of those troops.

What is the humanitarian aid? What are the humanitarian groups that are there on the ground helping to rebuild Iraq?

And, yes, the American people must know the truth: An independent commission on the understanding or the question of intelligence and the paper trail that caused this administration to pronounce to the American public that we are about to be under imminent attack and that was the reason for the unilateral preemptive attack against Iraq.

All we need is the truth. All we need is facts. All we need is a collective, collaborative plan in order to ensure that there is a good exit strategy for Iraq and that the American people know that we are not going to be there 1 year, we are not going to be there 6 months, we may be there 4 or 5 years, and there may be continued loss of life.

The American people need to know the truth.

SUPPORT THE SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2003

(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, today this body will consider the School Readiness Act of 2003, better known as Head Start.

Since its inception in 1965, America's taxpayers have funded the Head Start program which has served nearly 20 million low-income children and their families. Unfortunately, the lobbying against this reauthorization legislation has been intense and, in many cases, misleading.

When did we lose the desire in this country to make a program better? Despite the millions invested each year,