



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2003

No. 112

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 25, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Joshua said to all the people: "This is the Word of the Lord: I gave you land on which you had not labored, cities which you had never built; you have lived in these cities and you eat the produce of vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant. Therefore, hold the Lord in awe and worship Him with loyalty and truth."

Lord God, gratitude overwhelms Americans for all we have received since the very founding of this great Nation. Therefore we are filled with awe and worship You, O Lord.

Blessed to be Members of this House of Representatives by the election of the people and Divine Providence, this governing body is humbled by the responsibility it has for this land, its cities and its resources. So we choose to serve this Nation with loyalty to the oath we have taken; and we will always search the truth for what is best for this Nation. This is the pledge of the United States Congress; so, help us God. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COOPER 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 five 1-minute speeches on each side.

HONORING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE

(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. Mr. Speaker, on July 27 we will honor the 50th anniversary of the armistice that ended the fighting of the Korean War. On that day, I encourage all Americans to remember the courageous men and women who sacrificed to prevent the spread of Communism and restore the freedom of South Korea.

I am particularly proud to recognize an event to be held in Lexington, South Carolina, to honor those who served so bravely. Veterans speaking at the event will be E. Pickens Rish, a U.S. Army Ranger from Lexington who was awarded the Purple Heart, and Anthony Forker, a native Korean who served 30 years in the U.S. Army and is currently the President of the Korean

Association of Columbia, South Carolina.

As our military continues to fight in the War on Terrorism, we can find inspiration in remembering the Korean War victory over Communism, which reminds us that Americans have a long history of defeating enemies of freedom all over the world. In conclusion, God bless our troops.

WHERE IS COMPASSIONATE CONSERVATIVE?

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

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, this was a very important week in the House of Representatives. Hopefully we learned a lesson of bipartisan cooperation last night with the historic victory on the drug reimportation bill; and hopefully we also learned the dangers of arrogance, anger, and insensitivity when a House chairman had to apologize to this House.

I hope that we apply these lessons to the child care tax credit today. We need to help the 12 million poor children waiting for that assistance. The Senate has voted 94-2 to help these children. The White House is for it. Only a small group in the House Republican leadership is opposing it. People of goodwill on both sides of the aisle want this relief to be granted today. Where is compassionate conservative? As one of the House Republican leaders said, "It ain't going to happen."

Mr. Speaker, this House needs to get relief to these 12 million poor children.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT HELPS WORKING POOR

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

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. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the comments of the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER) who served here in a previous majority that had its share of challenges in terms of a lack of modesty, and I think that is an ever-present danger for the majority.

At the same time, however, we cannot paralyze legitimate differences of public opinion, for that is the essence of the House of Representatives and debate within this body. Case in point: the upcoming motion to instruct. My friend, a Morehead Scholar at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, is a student of history and he understands that for the working poor we instituted in the 1970s an earned income tax credit so the families he wants to help are already being helped to the tune of several thousand dollars. If not, I would urge every Member of this body to inform his or her constituents of the earned income tax credit. I look forward to the upcoming debate.

ASSAULT ON TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS PROGRAM

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Members depart the Chamber today to go back to their districts, meeting with people to get in touch with what is on their minds. I hope that our colleagues will take the opportunity to discuss with their constituents an assault on the transportation enhancements program.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a program since 1991 that has funneled billions of dollars into opportunities for people to convert abandoned rail corridors to trails, to have programs to revitalize historic highways, and for bike and pedestrian paths. All of these have been critical elements of being able to improve the livability of our communities. Inexplicably, the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation stripped these elements out, and condemned them as ineffective. Hopefully the full committee is starting to right this wrong, but people at home need to be careful. If we are not diligent, we are going to lose an important part of the broad base of support for a balanced transportation system.

DEMOCRATIC SUCCESSION PLAN FOR AZERBAIJAN

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, the United States and our allies need a democratic succession plan for the Government of Azerbaijan. Our country's energy policy depends in large part on foreign energy supply, and much of it comes from the Caspian region in Azerbaijan. The former President there, President

Aliiev, a former KGB leader, is coming in and out of a coma on death's door and trying to have his son succeed him.

I think for the long-term future of the United States' interests and those of our allies, we need to back a true democracy in Azerbaijan with a wide range of candidates, but right now some of the most powerful and important candidates are not allowed to register. For example, the former Speaker of the House in Azerbaijan has had no opportunity to stand before the people of Azerbaijan for election.

Mr. Speaker, this administration, and the administration of our allies, needs to support a true democratic process so we can have a stable Caspian region which is so important to the world's energy supply and so important to the economy of the United States.

TRIBUTE TO EDDIE MURRAY

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to this body's attention that this weekend in Cooperstown, Cooperstown, New York, one of the greatest baseball players of all time will be inducted into the Hall of Fame, and that is Eddie Murray who played for the Baltimore Orioles. He played for other teams, but he is known as a Baltimore Oriole.

Eddie Murray is one of only three players, the other two, Hank Aaron and Willie Mays, who hit over his lifetime 500 home runs in 3,000 hits. But what we all know about Eddie Murray, he is a model of consistency, a real team player, a person who really brought championship to Baltimore, and championship to the baseball diamond.

He also gave back to the community. Particularly, I want to bring to this body's attention the Carrie Murray Nature Center that he founded in Baltimore, in honor of his mother, in Lincoln Park. He is known not only as a great baseball player, but a great person. I congratulate him on being selected for the Hall of Fame.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to conclude a series of commentaries I have been making on illegal immigration and to find a solution to the Nation's current immigration woes. We in Arizona feel this in particular.

Over the past 8 months, I have been working with the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) to put together a comprehensive foreign worker program, a temporary worker program, which recognizes the way people organize and order their own lives, that recognizes that we need a rational policy

to deal with the situation that we have along our Nation's borders.

We need to understand that we not only need to deal with those who want to come to our country to work on a temporary basis, but for those who are here illegally as well, and find a solution that will both encourage those who are here illegally to come out from under the woodwork, and to come into a legal framework and to provide an opportunity for those who wish to come and fill our Nation's labor needs to do so.

I am pleased that this will be introduced today, and I encourage my colleagues to look at it and join us in the debate and ultimately support it.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1308, TAX RELIEF, SIMPLIFICATION, AND EQUITY ACT OF 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. SOLIS moves that the managers on the part of the House in the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 1308 be instructed as follows:

1. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report the provision of the Senate amendment (not included in the House amendment) that provides immediate payments to taxpayers receiving an additional credit by reason of the bill in the same manner as other taxpayers were entitled to immediate payments under the Jobs Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003.

2. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report the provision of the Senate amendment (not included in the House amendment) that provides families of military personnel serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other combat zones a child credit based on the earnings of the individuals serving in the combat zone.

3. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report all of the other provisions of the Senate amendment and shall not report back a conference report that includes additional tax benefits not offset by other provisions.

4. To the maximum extent possible within the scope of the conference, the House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report other tax benefits for military personnel and the families of the astronauts who died in the Columbia disaster.

5. The House conferees shall, as soon as practicable after the adoption of this motion, meet in open session with the Senate conferees and the House conferees shall file a conference report consistent with the preceding provisions of this instruction, not later than the second legislative day after adoption of this motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) and a majority Member each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS).

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this motion would instruct our conferees to accept the Senate amendment to H.R. 1308. This