



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 150

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2004

No. 55

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 27, 2004.

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.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

TIME TO REMEMBER THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this April marks the 89th anniversary of the cataclysmic events that occurred in the Turkish Ottoman Empire between 1915 and 1923, where 1.5 million Armenians were killed and over a half million survivors were forcibly deported into exile.

On Sunday, I had the privilege to participate in a service at the Armenian Church of Our Savior in Worcester, Massachusetts, where in the pres-

ence of 19 survivors, the community of Worcester paid homage to the martyrs and survivors of the Armenian Genocide and their descendants.

Mr. Speaker, last May, the House Committee on the Judiciary reported out House Resolution 193. We have been waiting for nearly 1 year now for the Speaker of the House to schedule this bill for a debate and for a vote, and I would urge at this time that the Speaker schedule this bill as quickly as possible so that the House of Representatives may join those nations and those scholars who affirm the Genocide Convention and recognize the Armenian Genocide and Holocaust as genocides of the 20th century.

Mr. Speaker, I am submitting for the RECORD comments I made at the Armenian Church of Our Savior this past Sunday.

I would very much like to thank Father Terzian and the community of faith of the Armenian Church of Our Savior for inviting me once again to this commemoration. It is one of the great privileges of my office to participate in this annual day of remembrance of the martyrs and survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

It is a privilege to be in the company of our city's mayor, the Honorable Tim Murray, and in the company of Councilor Petty, Representative Leary, Representative Fresolo, Senator Moore, Senator Glodis, and Selectman Montocalvo. And I am very much looking forward to the pleasure of hearing the Worcester Chorale perform after their five-month break, under the continuing leadership of Maestro Petrossian.

It is also a pleasure for me to share the podium with Nathaniel Mencow, who is so well known for his work as a historian, and who has worked for so long for the recognition of the heroic service of his brother, First Lieutenant William Martin Mencow, who gave his life in defense of freedom during World War II.

But I am most privileged and most honored to be here in the presence of survivors of the Armenian Genocide, their descendants, and the descendants of those who perished in the genocide.

This April marks the 89th anniversary of our cataclysmic events that occurred in the

Ottoman Empire between 1915 and 1923, where one-and-a-half million Armenians were killed and over half-a-million survivors were exiled.

Our city has been especially blessed by the presence and contributions of a large and vital Armenian community. Each year we come to this church to recognize, honor and remember that this rich heritage is, in part, a sad inheritance paid with the blood of millions of innocent men, women and children.

I know that most of you are aware that legislation has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives which reaffirms U.S. support for the Genocide Convention, calls upon the president and the U.S. government to work to prevent future genocides, and recognizes the Armenian Genocide.

This bill, H. Res. 193, has 110 bipartisan cosponsors and was reported out of the House Judiciary Committee last May. It has been waiting for nearly one year now for the Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert, to put it on the schedule of the House for debate and vote.

I am always amazed that there are those in Congress who view this bill as controversial. They are influenced, in part, by those voices who continue to deny that the Armenian Genocide or the Holocaust, which is also cited in this bill, ever happened. The Turkish government, for example, claims that the Armenian Genocide does not meet the definition of genocide, despite the fact that the father of the Genocide Convention, human rights pioneer Rafael Lemkin, specifically cited the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide as the two clear instances of genocidal crimes covered by the Convention.

Contrary to the Turkish government's claims, legal scholars, historians, human rights organizations, journalists and the majority of political leaders around the world firmly believe and assert that the 1915 mass slaughter of Armenians fits the legal definition of genocide.

Israel Charney, the noted genocide and Holocaust scholar and the editor of the respected Encyclopedia of Genocide, has written extensively about the psychology of genocide denial. He has stressed that to deny the countless deaths of a known event of genocide is to celebrate those deaths and to send a signal that the power that brought about this destruction is still in force and can be used again when opportunity permits. To seek to erase agonizing memories—to assert that those memories are false—is to

□ 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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openly mock the feelings and sensibilities of the victims and their descendants—to once again victimize the victims.

This is why it is so important to recognize—openly and freely, officially and informally, every single day—the events of the Armenian Genocide.

America, along with the rest of the world, is famous for using the words “never again,” when speaking about the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust carried out by Nazi Germany. Unfortunately, “never again” happens over and over again—in Cambodia, in Rwanda, in Kosovo, and now in present-day Sudan.

It has been a blessing to me in my work that when genocide threatens any people, anywhere in the world, the Armenian-American community has always worked to bring these events to my attention and to the attention of U.S. and international policymakers. The Armenian-American community has always joined with other organizations to educate the public about present-day horrors and to organize relief and support for victims and survivors.

In this way, through these works, the tragedy of the Armenian Genocide is transformed into a legacy of life, of hope, of survival and resistance.

So, I come here today not only to remember and honor the martyrs, survivors and descendants of the Armenian Genocide, but to honor and celebrate this community, which has given back so much to this city and our country.

Please let me thank you—each and every one of you—for allowing me to share this day with you.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise because today marks a very important anniversary. We all know that Ronald Reagan in the mid-1980s talked about the fact that as we pursued an end to the Cold War militarily, one of the important things for us to do was to also engage in democracy-building around the world. Today actually marks the 20th anniversary of the International Republican Institute, which is an arm of the National Endowment For Democracy.

We all remember the anxious final years of the Cold War, when President Reagan, in a speech he gave in 1982 to the British Parliament, envisioned moving toward a world in which all people are at least free to determine their own destiny. Now, that speech led to the creation of the National Endowment for Democracy, and within that is the International Republican Institute. Since that time, the IRI has conducted programs in over 75 countries, from Haiti to Kazakhstan. Its efforts to train political parties, encourage voter participation, and enact institutional reforms within governments have no doubt contributed greatly to President Reagan's goal.

IRI's continued commitment is evident in its current efforts in Iraq and

Afghanistan. As we confront the threat of terrorism in the post-September 11 world, I am confident that the International Republican Institute will continue as an important contributor to the cause of freedom.

MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized during morning hour debates.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will take aim at a looming injustice. The marriage tax penalty was a relic of 40 years of persistent tax hikes codified by Democrat Congresses into Federal law. In essence, it punished married taxpayers simply for being married. The standard deduction married couples could take was less than that allowed for two single taxpayers, thus the Tax Code discouraged marriage and sent a message to married couples around the country that they were not as entitled to their own money as singles were.

In 2001, a Republican Congress passed and a Republican President signed a tax relief package that corrected this injustice and brought marriage equity to the Tax Code. In 2003, as the economy worked to recover from 2 years of recession, terrorism, and war, we moved to expedite marriage penalty relief. Unfortunately, the marriage penalty, like some B-movie vampire, just will not die. It keeps rising from the dead to wreak more havoc on the paychecks of American families.

The marriage penalty is hoping to reappear next year in a smaller form and to be fully revived in 2010. So this week the House will take up legislation to make sure that the marriage tax penalty does not get its sequel. Instead, we will pass a bill to extend full marriage penalty relief through 2010 and beyond so that marriage tax equity becomes a permanent principle in Federal law.

Any way you look at it, marriage tax equity just makes sense. In the first place, any time we can establish flatter, fairer, and lower taxes on working families, we are doing right by the national economy. We are creating jobs, careers, and opportunities all across this country. And, second, we are telling those married couples struggling to make it that we will not turn our backs on them.

Allowing the marriage penalty to resurface in the future would represent a targeted tax hike on married couples and a direct attack on family budgets around the country. We can and must protect families from such an attack, and the bill we will take up this week will accomplish that goal.

Though the economy continues to rebound, working families still need our help. This week we will have an opportunity to provide it to some of the people who need it the most.

STOP THE FISCAL MADNESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes during morning hour debates.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this week the American people will see that what our Republican friends lack in policy candor they more than make up for in chutzpah. Why do I say that? This week, as we have just heard, the Republican majority is expected to take up legislation that would permanently eliminate the marriage penalty. Everybody on this House floor is for that objective.

But do not be fooled. Democrats and Republicans both agree that married couples should not have to pay more in taxes than they would as unmarried individuals filing separately. That makes sense. That is fair. We are for it. Members in both parties agree that the so-called marriage penalty should be remedied.

However, here is the crucial difference between the Republican bill and our Democratic substitute. Our bill is paid for, theirs is not. What is the difference? The difference is that the penalty that we are eliminating in terms of marriages will be passed along to every young family in America, every young person in America. All of my children and my grandchildren will pay an additional penalty in the interest they will have to pay because of the irresponsible policies being pursued by the majority.

That is right. With a record budget deficit this year of more than half a trillion dollars, and with a projected 10-year budget surplus of \$5.6 trillion inherited by this administration turned into a projected deficit of more than \$4 trillion, an almost \$10 trillion turnaround to the negative, our friends on the Republican side of the aisle plan to drive us even deeper into debt.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE), perhaps summed up the Republican fiscal policy best on March 17 when he said, and I am quoting, “We don't believe that you should have to pay for tax cuts, period.” Well, Mr. NUSSLE and my Republican friends, of course you do not; but our children and grandchildren will have to pay that bill. Somebody, sometime, sometime in the future will have to pay the piper.

According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, this Republican marriage penalty bill will cost \$96 billion over the next 10 years. None of it is paid for. And to make matters worse, House Republicans intend to bring up bills in the next 3 weeks to make the 10 percent tax bracket and child tax credit permanent. We are for that. It ought to be paid for. And to temporarily fix the alternative minimum tax. We are for that. It ought to be paid for.

Again, Democrats support such legislation, but it must be paid for so that we do not simply say to our children,