

Room in order to avoid Republican arm twisting. By 4:30, the browbeating had moved into the Republican Cloak Room in the back of the Chamber, out of sight of C-SPAN cameras and the insomniac public. Republican leaders woke up President Bush, and a White House aide passed a cell phone from one recalcitrant Member to another in the Cloak Room. At 5:55 a.m., 2 hours and 55 minutes after the rollcall began, twice as long ever as any rollcall had taken in the history of the House of Representatives, two western Republicans, one from Arizona and one from Idaho, emerged from that Cloak Room, walked down the aisle, picked up one of these cards, a green card, scrawled their name and their district number on it, and sheepishly surrendered it to the Clerk of the House. The Speaker gavelled the vote closed 2 hours and 55 minutes after it began. Medicare privatization had passed.

To paraphrase Yogi Berra, I guess it is not over until the drug companies and the Republican leadership says it is over.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans can do a lot in the middle of the night under the cover of darkness. Last week, House Republican leadership demonstrated a new bravado, the same kind of thing they did last year, month after month, by holding this vote open in broad daylight.

What can the American people expect to see from the Republican leadership in the future?

CELEBRATING LIFE OF MICHAEL C. SAVAGE

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have always been told that life is filled with uncertainty. Therefore, we should always endeavor to do as much as we can while we can because we never know when the time will come when we cannot do.

Such has been the life of Michael C. Savage who recently died in a boating accident. Mike was young, 51 years of age. He was openly gay, had a partner of 15 years, was a loving son to his mother, Ms. Maureen Savage, and brother to his siblings, Chuck and Cindy.

Mike was the chief executive officer of Access Community Health Network, probably the most successful group of community health centers in the country. Mike worked on AIDS and gay issues in Chicago, moved away to Boston to become executive director of the Fenway Community Health Center, and then returned to Chicago to run the Access Community Health Corporation.

When Mike took over Access in 1994, they had nine sites. At the time of his death, he had grown the network into 41 sites and increased its annual budget

from \$19 million a year to almost \$70 million, and they served over 160,000 patients a year. In addition to his full time professional job, Mike was an active member of Dignity Chicago, a community of lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual and straight Catholics. He was also active with United Power For Action, Stand Against Cancer, and was a board member of the National Association of Community Health Centers.

Mr. Speaker, I have been around the community health center movement for many years; as a matter of fact, since its inception, and I have never encountered a more talented, energetic, visionary and effective leader, planner, and manager. It is indeed unfortunate Mike passed on so soon. Fortunately, he did much good while he was here.

Therefore, I express condolences to his family, friends and colleagues, and trust that Access will continue as the best of its kind in the Nation. We simply pause to say thank you to Mike Savage.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TERRY) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Ever-faithful Lord God, to create a new order among Your people, the prophet Ezekiel established a new scheme of weights and measures for all aspects of daily life and business.

His prophetic action causes us to ask what criteria do we use to measure and judge ourselves, others, and the performance of institutions today. Only You, O Lord, hold the light to see honestly the highest aspirations and, at the same time, the deepest limitations of Your people.

Help America to live in the light of Your eternal wisdom. Guide the determinations of this Congress as they formulate laws based upon America's ideals and yet practical enough to address our limitations in facing the most important problems of today and tomorrow.

Free government leaders from all self-deception and the manipulation of others, that they may accomplish Your good purpose for this Nation and be measured themselves honestly by their constituents. In You alone is the bal-

ance of mercy and justice now and forever. 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.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. PETRI 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 without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1303. An act to amend the E-Government Act of 2002 with respect to rulemaking authority of the Judicial Conference.

CONGRESS MUST ACT TO PASS REFORM TO CURRENT MEDICAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

(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, \$230 billion. That is the cost last year of the medical justice system in this country. Of that figure, 20 percent went to compensate patients for actual pain and damages, 20 percent went to lawyers' fees, 20 percent went to insurance overhead, and 25 percent was paid out in noneconomic damages for things like pain and suffering.

Mr. Speaker, we can scarcely afford this continued type of expenditure in this country; and, indeed, this House

has passed, twice in the past 2 years, legislation seeking to reform this system. Unfortunately, that legislation has languished on the other side of the Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, it is more than just the monetary damages, though. It is the cost in terms of the human capital that we are losing today from doctors who are leaving practice early, hospitals that are having to close their doors. But even more important than that, Mr. Speaker, is the cost of human capital that will never be developed. I am talking about students in medical school, undergraduate school, and high school who will look at their medical career ahead of them and decide it is just not worth the effort.

Mr. Speaker, we must act in this Congress.

CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF ARMY LT. ROBERT COLVILL

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the sad news reached Hoosiers last week. Army Lieutenant Robert Colvill, Junior, of Anderson, Indiana, lost his life fighting to liberate Iraq and defend American ideals overseas. He and three other soldiers died as a result of wounds suffered during a terrorist car bombing and mortar attack.

Robert Colvill, Jr., was a hero who believed in this great Nation. In the ninth grade, he determined he would serve his country in the Marine Corps. And so, after graduating from Madison Heights High School in 1991, he joined the Marines. He retired after 8 years of service, having achieved the status of sergeant. But his passion for fighting for his country was too much to ignore; and Robert Colvill, Jr., enlisted in the United States Army after only 1 year as a civilian.

I think Mayor Kevin Smith of Anderson, Indiana, said it best when he said, "Soldiers like Lt. Colvill represent the best of the United States of America, men and women of ideals who are unafraid to fight for freedom for themselves, their country, and other peoples of the world."

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Robert Colvill, Jr., is a hero whose service and sacrifice brought freedom to 25 million Iraqis. His memory and the memory of that sacrifice will forever be emblazoned on the hearts of two grateful nations.

I offer my deepest condolences to his family and friends and the community at large as we deal with the loss of a hero.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules

on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT DINAH WASHINGTON BE RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE MOST TALENTED VOCALISTS IN AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC HISTORY

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 144) expressing the sense of Congress that Dinah Washington should be recognized for her achievements as one of the most talented vocalists in American popular music history.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 144

Whereas Dinah Washington was born in August 1924;

Whereas Dinah Washington was a singer and performer whose early influence and focus was gospel music and spirituals, and who first toured the Nation to perform in 1940;

Whereas Dinah Washington was hired to sing with Lionel Hampton's big band in 1943, and through this exposure gained her first recording contract;

Whereas Dinah Washington was recording with jazz stars and leaders in the industry by 1948, and was a full-fledged pop music star by the late 1950s after recording the ballad, "What a Difference a Day Makes";

Whereas Dinah Washington recorded in jazz, blues, rhythm and blues, and pop, and was considered a preeminent figure and enormously gifted vocalist in each; and

Whereas Dinah Washington died on December 14, 1963, after dominating the charts in the late 1940s and 1950s, and by today's measures would have been considered a tremendous crossover superstar: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that Dinah Washington should be recognized for her versatility, remarkable musical talent, and for influence on female vocalists in jazz, blues, rhythm and blues, pop, and gospel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 144.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 144.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 144, which expresses the sense of Congress that Dinah Washington should be recognized for her achieve-

ments as one of the most talented vocalists in American popular music history.

Born in 1924, Dinah Washington was a singer and performer whose early influence and focus was gospel music and spirituals. She began touring the country in 1940, was hired to sing with Lionel Hampton's big band, and signed her first recording contract in 1943.

Dinah Washington was recording with jazz stars and leaders in the industry by 1948 and was a full-fledged pop music star by the late 1950s after recording the ballad "What a Difference a Day Makes."

Throughout her career, Dinah Washington recorded in jazz, blues, rhythm and blues, and pop and was considered a preeminent figure and an enormously gifted vocalist in each genre. After dominating the charts in the late 1940s and 1950s, Dinah Washington died on December 14, 1963. By today's measure, she would have been considered a tremendous crossover superstar.

House Concurrent Resolution 144 is simple and straightforward. It expresses the sense of Congress that Dinah Washington should be recognized for her versatility, remarkable music talent, and for influence on female vocalists in jazz, blues, rhythm and blues, pop, and gospel. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for his introduction of this resolution, and I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 144, which recognizes the tremendous talent and accomplishments of Dinah Washington.

I have always been told that music is universal and everlasting. Therefore, Ms. Washington's impact on music can be felt and seen even among today's contemporary talents. While Dinah Washington was born in the 1920s, her true impact on music began in the late 1940s and 1950s.

Ms. Washington's early focus was on gospel music and spirituals, yet she did not believe in mixing the secular and spiritual. And once she entered the nonreligious music world professionally, she refused to include gospel in her repertoire. She became a full-fledged pop music star by the late 1950s, giving her the title of the Most Popular Black Female Recording Artist at that time.

She was noted as one of the most versatile and gifted vocalists in American popular music history. Ms. Washington's talent lent itself to making recordings in jazz, blues, rhythm and blues, and pop.

Despite her passing in December of 1963, her music continues to influence artists today. In 1993, her memory and influence on music became forever as we remember she was inducted into the