

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 5, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD A. PEASE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Teach us, gracious God, that wherever we are, whatever we do, we will live with the spirit of gratitude for Your many blessings to us, and with appreciation for the colleagues and friends who surround us.

Remind us each day, O God, that since You have created the world and breathed into every woman and man the very breath of life, we should look upon others with tolerance and respect.

Open our eyes to see a vision of Your majesty, give us strong hands to work for justice, and may our hearts know Your peace and Your love. This is our earnest prayer. 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 Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT 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 Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3122. An act to permit the enrollment in the House of Representatives Child Care Center of children of Federal employees who are not employees of the legislative branch.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 225. An act to provide Federal housing assistance to Native Hawaiians.

S. 438. An act to provide for the settlement of the water rights claims of the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation, and for other purposes.

S. 720. An act to promote the development of a government in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) based on democratic principles and the rule of law, and that respects internationally recognized human rights, to assist the victims of Serbian oppression, to apply measures against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and for other purposes.

S. 777. An act to require the Department of Agriculture to establish an electronic filing and retrieval system to enable the public to file all required paperwork electronically with the Department and to have access to public information on farm programs, quarterly trade, economic, and production reports, and other similar information.

S. 1290. An act to amend title 36 of the United States Code to establish the American Indian Education Foundation, and for other purposes.

S. 1455. An act to enhance protections against fraud in the offering of financial assistance for college education, and for other purposes.

S. 1753. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that an adopted alien who is less than 18 years of age may be considered a child under such act if adopted with or after a sibling who is a child under such act.

S. 1754. An act to deny safe havens to international and war criminals, and for other purposes.

S. 1866. An act to redesignate the Coastal Barrier Resources System as the "John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System".

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 468) "An Act to improve the effectiveness and performance of Federal financial assistance programs, simplify Federal financial assistance application and reporting requirements, and improve the delivery of services to the public."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 5 one-minute requests pro side.

ERGONOMIC STANDARDS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, if one is an employer, what are the eight most dreaded words in the English language? "I am from OSHA and I am here to help." Recently the Occupational Safety and Health Administration said, we know enough to act now. We want to issue sweeping new and punitive ergonomic standards. OSHA plans to finalize its standards in the coming weeks unless Congress intervenes.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to intervene. OSHA refuses to wait for the results of the National Academy of Sciences study on the issue, a study which Congress recommended and funded in 1998. OSHA's regulations would impact nearly every industry, cost employers millions of dollars, and result in substantial increases in worker compensation costs due to the pro-

posed 100 percent replacement of wages and benefits. These facts might very well have been uncovered by the National Academy of Sciences, but OSHA would not wait.

Mr. Speaker, along with dreaded words come dreaded policies and arrogance. I yield back the balance of my time and any common sense left at OSHA.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL,
AND THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

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

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate the 224th birthday of the United States Marine Corps, and also we mark the anniversary of the tearing down of the Berlin Wall. These two events have a lot to do with each other. If we think of all of the wondrous things that have happened over the past 10 years, the collapse of the Communist system in Eastern Europe, the tearing down of the Berlin Wall, the break-up of the Soviet Union into individual democratic republics, we cannot help but reach the conclusion that freedom is not free. We paid a tremendous price for it.

I believe that we should remember every day that had it not been for the men and women who wore the uniform of the United States military through the years, we would not have the privilege of going around bragging about how we live in the freest and most open democracy on the face of the Earth.

So today when I think of these two great events, I give thanks to all of those who made the supreme sacrifice, and all of those who wore the uniform of the United States military. I start this day as I do every day, thanking God for my life and veterans for my way of life.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3075, THE
MEDICARE BALANCED BUDGET
REFINEMENT ACT

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Balanced Budget Refinement Act, H.R. 3075. This bill is vital to the successful continuation of Medicare as we know it. This bill restores some of the changes that were made to the Medicare program back in 1997 under the Balanced Budget Act.

In the district that I serve, two Medicare+Choice providers announced that they would terminate services for seniors. The beneficiaries were understandably devastated. I held a town hall meeting on this subject with the beneficiaries, with the Medicare+Choice providers, and with the government. The response was overwhelming.

Some of the beneficiaries decided that they were not going to lose without a fight. Joyce Scantling of Racine, Wisconsin, has worked tirelessly on this issue. Together with 50 or 60 seniors and beneficiaries, they have rallied support around Medicare legislation to fix these reimbursement rates.

I hold in my hand right here thousands of signatures from Wisconsin's seniors and Medicare beneficiaries urging Congress to pass Medicare legislation to fix these reimbursement rates.

THE EPA HAS GOTTEN OUT OF HAND

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in 1995, the EPA came crying to Congress saying they needed more money to clean up our air and our water and our Superfund sites. Shortly after that appeal for cash, records show that the EPA gave a \$160,000 grant to facilitate wind energy technologies in China. Unbelievable. While American taxpayers are busting their buns to pay the bill around here, the EPA gave our hard-earned taxpayer dollars for projects in China.

Mr. Speaker, this is out of hand. Electric bicycle technology, wind energy technology, American taxpayer dollars? The EPA should be handcuffed. Beam me up. I yield back all the flatulence in China paid for by the EPA.

WHEN WILL THE REPUBLICANS RESPOND TO AMERICA'S DEMAND FOR HMO REFORM?

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when the House passed a few weeks ago the HMO reform bill, we thought our day had finally come. But this week we learned that the vote was really only the first step. The Republican leadership appointed the conference committee to negotiate with the Senate with only one member who voted for HMO reform.

Instead of responding to the needs of the American people, the Republican leadership has chosen a path to ignore the will of the majority of this House and the needs of the American people.

This week's Newsweek magazine cover story talks about it: HMO Hell. How much longer does the Republican leadership intend to keep American families living in this HMO hell?

The bipartisan bill that passed this House overwhelmingly would provide for no gag rules, direct access to specialists, a binding external appeals process, access to emergency care, but also the accountability of that decisionmaker.

Let us see if we can make them hear, if not this year then next year. We want to get out of HMO hell.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MORNING EDITION ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it is not often that I regret having not been included in a party here in town, but after having finished the financial modernization bill late last night and then about 1 o'clock this morning joining with my colleagues as we filed the rule which the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is going to be managing in just a few minutes, I woke up this morning and listened to National Public Radio, and there was a great party that was going on celebrating the 20th anniversary of a program called Morning Edition, which has provided us with a great deal of grist for debate and argument here on the House floor for the last couple of decades.

We are marking all kinds of anniversaries. My friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCNULTY) just talked about the fact that yesterday was the 224th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps. We are about to mark the 10th anniversary of the crumbling of the Berlin Wall. One of the stories on Morning Edition this morning consisted of the death of Nicolae Ceausescu a decade ago, so we are marking a lot of anniversaries.

I would just like to throw in the fact that as a Republican who listens to National Public Radio, I congratulate Morning Edition on their 20th.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3196, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 362 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 362

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3196) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; (2) the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by Representative Young of Florida or his designee, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order or demand for division of the question, shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one

motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. House Resolution 359 is laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 362 is a structured rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 3196, the foreign operations appropriations bill for fiscal year 2000. The bill provides for 1 hour of debate in the House, equally divided between the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as having been read for amendment. Further, the rule provides that the amendment printed in the Committee on Rules report, if offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) or his designee shall be in order without intervention of any point of order or demand for a division of the question.

The amendment shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report, which is 20 minutes, with time equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

Also, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions. Finally, the rule provides that House Resolution 359 is laid on the table.

Mr. Speaker, the President vetoed H.R. 2606 on October 18. Since that time, very serious negotiations have taken place between the Congress and the administration to address the concerns raised in the President's veto message.

The bill which this rule brings forth, H.R. 3196, is very similar to the conference agreement on H.R. 2606, with some provisions added to make this bill one that can pass both the House, the Senate, and be signed by the President.

The main difference between today's bill and the vetoed bill are modifications of legislative language or earmarked funding within accounts. The rule allows for an amendment to be offered by the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) or his designee which would fully fund, for example, the Wye River Accord, the President's request for the Wye River Accord, which is extremely important and which will go very far in assuring the security of Israel, by providing \$1.8 billion approximately for that purpose.

I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG), the gentleman from Alabama (Chairman CALLAHAN), the ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), and