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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 20, 2000, at 12 noon.

House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2000

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OSE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 15, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG OSE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Richard Camp, Ministry to the National Parks, Boston, Massachusetts, offered the following prayer:

Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the Earth. Your never ending providence orders every event, sweetens every fear, and brings real good out of seeming evil. We come to You for the grace another day will require for its duties and events.

Help us to walk in wisdom to those to whom we must give account, to walk in kindness to those with whom we work, and to walk with courage as we seek to do what is right.

Guide the women and men of this Congress today. Give them the vision to see the impact of today's decisions on tomorrow's world. And may the ripple effect of their lives of integrity return to bless them and all people in the days ahead.

God of hope, fill us with joy and peace as we trust in You that, by the power of Your spirit, our whole life and outlook may be radiant with hope. 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 gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY 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.

LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES

(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, some startling news: Last month the Commerce Department announced that the U.S. trade deficit surged to an all-time high in 1999. The trade deficit rose over 65 percent from 1998, over 65 percent.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. economy is being shipped overseas and the American workers are being left behind unemployed and unable to reach the American dream. And in spite of this indisputable fact, the Clinton administration continues to encourage the expansion of current free trade policy, such as NAFTA, to other nations around the world.

Sadly, the President has also failed to mention another fact that the Commerce Department also announced, and that is that the United States experienced record trade deficits with its NAFTA trade partners last year, as well. Seems obvious to me and many of my colleagues here that NAFTA and similar trade policies have caused more harm than good for our economy and for the American workers.

Let us not make the same mistake twice.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back such ill-conceived trade policies that seem to only trade away American jobs for higher trade deficits.

WE HAVE MEANS TO PROTECT OUR FAMILIES, SUPPORT OUR SENIORS, AND EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of senior citizens who cannot afford to pay for their prescriptions. I rise for the children who go to overcrowded and broken down schools. I rise for the people who work full time

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