



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 144

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1998

No. 107

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, August 31, 1998, at 12 noon.

House of Representatives

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1998

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 3, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 643. An act to designate the United States courthouse to be constructed at the corner of Superior and Huron Roads, in Cleveland, Ohio, as the "Carl B. Stokes United States Courthouse".

H.R. 3504. An act to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and to further define the criteria for capital repair and operation and maintenance.

H.R. 4237. An act to amend the District of Columbia Convention Center and Sports Arena Authorization Act of 1995 to revise the revenues and activities covered under such act, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment

in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3824. An act amending the Fastener Quality Act to exempt from its coverage certain fasteners approved by the Federal Aviation Administration for use in aircraft.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills and joint resolutions of the following titles in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1325. An act to authorize appropriations for the Technology Administration of the Department of Commerce for fiscal years 1998, 1999, and 2000, and for other purposes.

S. 1754. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to consolidate and reauthorize health professions and minority and disadvantaged health education programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1759. An act to grant a Federal charter to the American GI Forum of the United States.

S. 1883. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Marion National Fish Hatchery and the Claude Harris National Aquacultural Research Center to the State of Alabama, and for other purposes.

S. 2375. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977, to strengthen prohibitions on international bribery and other corrupt practices, and for other purposes.

S.J. Res. 35. Joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement.

S.J. Res. 51. Joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the Potomac Highlands Airport Authority Compact entered into between the States of Maryland and West Virginia.

S.J. Res. 54. Joint resolution finding the Government of Iraq in unacceptable and material breach of its international obligations.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 1997, 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 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for 5 minutes.

CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS "MAGNIFICENT 7" LEGISLATION

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come this morning as the cochair of the Congressional Women's Caucus. There are now 55 women in the House of Representatives, 55 women strong, a high point and a high number.

For 21 years there has been a Congressional Women's Caucus. That caucus has been responsible for the lead of much of the most important family legislation to pass this House, from the Family Medical Leave Act to the Pregnancy Discrimination Act and the Violence Against Women Act.

We have normally had a very long legislative agenda with every woman Member putting her piece of legislation in and the caucus embracing all of that legislation. This year, we have decided on a more focused approach. With 55

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H6881

women in the Congress, we think there should be a number of bills that simply must pass. We have designated 7 must-pass pieces of legislation, and we call them the "Magnificent 7." They have been chosen because they are easily consensus pieces of legislation, even easy pieces of legislation to pass. We are seeing both leaders; we have already seen the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), and this week we will be seeing the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGRICH).

The focused approach the Women's Caucus has adopted this year is already paying off. We have seen pass this House some provisions of the Violence Against Women Act and the reauthorization of that act was one of the "Magnificent 7." There are other provisions of the act due to come forward, we think, with the bill of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, The Judiciary, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations.

We have seen another of our priorities pass the House and the Senate, which is contraceptive coverage for Federal employees, so that women who are Federal employees have choices of contraception. This is very important for women's health, since some forms of contraception do not work for some women; others are dangerous to the health of some women.

The Mammography Standards Act is a priority we would like to see pass this week. This is another easy piece of legislation. It is a reauthorization of a bill that would set standards so that when mammograms are read, they are read correctly because the machinery is in good standing. This bill, the Mammography Standards Act, has passed the Senate; it is now here in the Commerce, Justice, State, The Judiciary, and Related Agencies bill. We have been promised by the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies that they will move this bill forward, and we ask them to move it quickly.

There are 4 other pieces of legislation that would be easy to pass. The Women-Owned Business resolution, H. Con. Res. 313, simply calls upon Federal agencies to review their own recommendations for the purpose of improving women-owned businesses' access to Federal procurement. There is the Commission on the Advancement of Women in Science and Engineering. At a time when the country is begging for scientists, engineers, and mathematicians, this commission would look at the barriers that keep women from entering and moving forward in these vital professions.

The sixth and seventh are a bill, any of 3 that are pending, that would forbid genetic discrimination, and finally, a bill that would allow child care legislation to come forward. On child care we have no preference; we have only principles. We think that the 105th Congress should not close without finally coming forward with the first significant child care legislation ever to pass.

These are the 7 priorities of the Women's Caucus, which for 21 years has led this Congress, and which this year asked the Congress, the House and the Senate, to focus on 7 pieces of legislation which would allow every Member, male or female, to go back and say, I have done something for women and children; I have done more than talk about families. I have helped pass vital pieces of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we can do it if we focus on the Magnificent 7. We can do it because these bills have been chosen precisely because this is the kind of legislation, bipartisan in its very genesis, bipartisan in the way it is designed to embrace us all and to have us embrace these pieces of legislation.

SECURITY OF AMERICAN PEOPLE IS TOO IMPORTANT TO RISK CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT WITH CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the Pentagon is considering a plan for our elite Special Forces to train Chinese PLA troops. Recently the House debated a resolution to express the dissent of this Congress to extend normal trading, or formally known as Most Favored Nation status to the People's Republic of China.

Myself and many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle agree that extending this economic advantage to a Communist Nation is more than just an issue of trade. As Americans, we live free. Free from oppressive government and free to enjoy the rights and liberties awarded by our Constitution. Chinese citizens are not so fortunate. They suffer horrible violations of their basic human rights on a daily basis, and those who seek their fundamental rights or seek democracy are jailed, tortured and too often killed.

The State Department's Human Rights Report for China states that in 1996, all public dissent against the party and the government was effectively silenced by intimidation, exile, incarceration, administration detention, or house arrest. By year's end, all dissidents have effectively been silenced by the government, and those released from prison were often prevented from seeking employment or resuming any semblance of a normal life.

Freedom of religion is a freedom Americans take for granted every day. In China, the harassment and incarceration of religious leaders and the forcible closure and destruction of places of worship is all too common when the faith and church are not government-sanctioned. The government of the People's Republic of China has arrested, tortured and detained hundreds, if not thousands, of Protestants, Roman Catholics and Buddhists for

practicing their religious beliefs. As a man of strong religious convictions, I find this appalling. However, the Chinese government does not even stop there. It maintains a policy of forced abortion and sterilization. Not only does it silence its citizens, it silences innocent life.

In the last 50 years alone, 10 times the number of people killed during the Holocaust have been killed in China. Let me repeat that, Mr. Speaker. Ten times the number of people killed during the Holocaust have been killed in China since 1949.

Mr. Speaker, does Congress need any more evidence to realize that we cannot trust the Chinese government?

The United States has tried to build a relationship with China, but to no avail. We give China an inch, and China takes a mile. In 1995 we extended Most Favored Nation status to China if it would agree to stop its abusive human rights practices and stop exporting nuclear weapons. China failed on the first account, Mr. Speaker, and it failed on the second account as well.

In January of this year, President Clinton told this Congress that China had assured him it was not participating in the sale of nuclear technology. Less than a month later, China was found planning to sell chemical weaponry to Iran. In fact, just last year, the CIA reported that in 1996, China was the greatest supplier of weapons-of-mass-destruction related goods and technology to foreign countries. Not only has China failed to comply with our terms of agreement, but it poses a significant threat to our Nation's security.

Former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld reported that it is China's proliferation of ballistic missiles, weapons of mass destruction, and enabling technologies that has threatened the security of the United States. The CIA reported this year that 13 of 18 Chinese CSS-4 missiles are targeted at United States cities.

The Air Force's National Air Intelligence Center reports that the Chinese government is developing a new ICBM with the capability of hitting targets throughout the western United States running southwest from Wisconsin through California. And China took advantage of having President Clinton in Beijing to test a component of its new missile.

Mr. Speaker, what a blatant indication of China's lack of respect for our country. And yet, because our administration wants access to China's military secrets and training practices, it is willing to engage in cooperative military training with the hope of establishing a mutual relationship of trust and confidence. That is right. Despite the threat China poses to the security of the United States of America, we are allowing our elite Special Forces, the best in the world, to train and share military technology and training with a Communist Nation.

If the past is any indication, we have no reason to trust China. This proposal