

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1999, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order on Thursday May 13, 1999, for the Speaker to declare a recess subject to the call of the Chair for the purpose of receiving in this Chamber former Members of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain one-minute speeches.

SUPPORT A DIPLOMATIC END TO CONFLICT IN KOSOVO

(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, there are those who would say that involvement by Congress or private citizens in U.S. foreign diplomacy in the Balkans is not necessary and we can only complicate matters.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, we do not have to look very far to see these naysayers could not be farther from the truth. They could not be farther out of touch with America's wishes for peace and the quick and safe return of our military men and women.

We need only to look at the Reverend Jesse Jackson and his very successful campaign to free our U.S. POWs, and we need only to look no farther than this House, where numerous delegations, bipartisan delegations, have traveled great distances to observe firsthand U.S. military involvement in the dire refugee situation in the Kosovo region.

I commend and salute my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, and the leadership of both parties for supporting our effort to build a better understanding and working relationship with our counterparts in the Russian Duma. This information gathered by these bipartisan delegations provides all of us with a clear picture on how we can better do our job representing the American people on global issues.

CLINTON LEGACY WILL BE BALKANS WAR

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton says he is going to continue the bombing in Yugoslavia, and some people are beginning to ask what the Clinton legacy will be. Some say scandal and impeachment. I do not think so. I think it will be the war in the Balkans.

Mr. Speaker, when NATO began bombing Yugoslavia it led the way to billions and billions of dollars that will be spent on this war. Will we be expected to rebuild all that we destroy in Yugoslavia, as some have suggested?

To rebuild all that we have destroyed could cost hundreds of billions of dollars, power plants, airports, factories, bridges, oil refineries, infrastructure. The cost would be staggering. And where would the money come from if we have to pay it? That is right, Social Security, Medicare, our schools, and our roads. Our budget needs.

This administration is digging a deep hole with the war in the Balkans that is going to last for many years after President Clinton has left office. That may be the Clinton legacy.

CLINTON ACTIONS HAVE TURNED RUSSIA AGAINST AMERICA

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

Mr. WELDON. Mr. Speaker, earlier today we had a member of the Russian Duma who held a press conference in this building; and he said something that is very insightful. He said that for years and years and decades and decades the Soviet Communist party has spent billions of dollars to convince the Russian people that America should be the enemy, and it did not work in spite of all the effort of the Communist party. He went on to say that in 45 days President Clinton has done what the Soviet Communist party could not do, he has turned the Russian people against America.

Our embassy now tells Americans to not speak in English when they walk the streets. The Russians have cut off all contact with America. In 45 days this President has done what the Soviet Communist party could not do with billions of dollars in 70 years. Is this the kind of activity, is the continuation of this insane and reckless policy worth driving Russia into the hands of the ultranationalists and the Communists? I say no.

REPORT ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS PAYMENTS MADE TO CUBA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. 106-59)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without

objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, Public Law 104-114, 110 Stat. 785, I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on telecommunications payments made to Cuba pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 6, 1999.

ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS — MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Small Business:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to present my fifth annual report on the state of small business. In 1996, the year covered by this report, more than 23.2 million small business tax returns were filed. A record 842,000 new small employers opened their doors and new incorporations hit a record high for the third straight year. Corporate profits, employment compensation, and proprietorship earnings all increased significantly. Industries dominated by small firms created an estimated 64 percent of the 2.5 million new jobs.

Small businesses represent the individual economic efforts of our Nation's citizens. They are the foundation of the Nation's economic growth: virtually all of the new jobs, 53 percent of employment, 51 percent of private sector output, and a disproportionate share of innovations come from small firms. Small businesses are avenues of opportunity for women and minorities, first employers and trainers of the young, important employers of elderly workers, and those formerly on public assistance. The freedom of America's small businesses to experiment, create, and expand makes them powerhouses in our economic system.

An Unprecedented Record of Success

Looking back to the 1986 White House Conference on Small Business, one of the top priorities on the small business agenda was deficit reduction. Small business capital formation efforts had been undermined by interest rates driven sky-high by the demand for funds to service the growing national debt. Today I'm proud to say we've done what was thought nearly impossible then. This year we have converted the deficit to a surplus—and the budget deficit is no longer the issue it once was.