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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 23, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOEL HEFLEY 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:

Give us we pray, O gracious God, the vision to see Your will for righteousness in our world and give us attentive hearts to see the need for reconciliation and respect in our communities and in our institutions. We pray that Your good spirit will enlighten us with love in our own lives so that we will be the people You would have us be and do those works of justice that benefit every person. As we are open to Your spirit and armed with Your grace, may we then be empowered to be Your people in our daily lives. Bless us, O God, this day and every day, we pray. 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 Idaho (Mrs.

CHENOWETH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CHENOWETH 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on each side.

WHO IS TO BLAME FOR DO-NOTHING CONGRESS?

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

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the distinguished minority leaders of both the House and the other body for settling what to me has long been a confusing issue.

In spite of all the legislation the Republican Congress has passed so far, the Social Security lockbox, tax relief, and debt reduction, the Ed-Flex bill, and the military readiness bill, to name just a few, we have listened for months to Democrats bluster about the do-nothing Congress.

When I picked up my copy of The Hill yesterday, I finally began to understand what they mean by a do-nothing Congress. They mean themselves. On the front page, the distinguished minority leader of the other body proclaimed his disappointment that the first session of the 106th Congress was not more productive, while only a few lines of newsprint away the distinguished minority leader of the House claimed that the Democrats have dominated the Congressional agenda since 1994.

So, Mr. Speaker, if the Democrats are in control and nothing is being done, then I ask the Members, who is to blame?

GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, for 5 months many of us in this body have urged the Republican leadership to help us enact common-sense gun safety measures that will keep guns out of the hands of kids and criminals. But at every turn we have been stalled and stymied, we have been told that we are rushing, that we need to wait.

Waiting means more lives are lost. Every day that passes takes a toll of 13 children, 13 youngsters killed every day by guns. Hundreds of children have been killed just in the time since the tragedy at Columbine High School.

Today I join my colleagues in continuing to pay tribute to some of those children and urge the Congressional leadership to pass gun safety legislation in their memory.

Paulette Peak, age 8, killed by gunfire on July 31, 1999, Chicago Illinois;

Reginald McClaine, age 16, killed by gunfire on August 4, 1999, Bronx, New York;

Aaron Thomas, age 16, killed by gunfire on August 5, 1999, St. Louis, Missouri;

Tamara Seline, age 17, killed by gunfire on August 6, 1999, West Palm Beach, Florida.

GUN CONTROL LAWS

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

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, most people who know me know that I

□ 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.



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