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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. PETRI).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 27, 1999.

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

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. George Gray Toole, Towson Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

O God, be with our representatives as they govern this Nation. Great and broad are their responsibilities and enough to tax any human being. Without Your guidance, they are at a disadvantage, for who can rightly judge between so many issues and events. Surrounded by those vying for one action over another, it can be so difficult to decide which path to follow. When pressures increase, calm them with Your peace. When confusion builds, grant them Your wisdom. With integrity grounded in allegiance to You, lead them in paths that confirm their best efforts, so that peace, justice and the welfare of all people may be the product of their work. 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 Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARDIN 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 joint resolution and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.J. Res. 62. Joint resolution to grant the consent of Congress to the boundary change between Georgia and South Carolina.

H. Con. Res. 196. Concurrent Resolution permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to President and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford.

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

S. 1235. An act to amend part G of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to allow railroad police officers to attend the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy for law enforcement training.

S. 1485. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to confer United States citizenship automatically and retroactively on certain foreign-born children adopted by citizens of the United States.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize 15 one-minutes from each side.

WELCOME TO THE REVEREND DR. GEORGE GRAY TOOLE

(Mr. CARDIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to welcome Dr. George Toole as our guest chaplain today. He is here along with his wife, Donna. We are certainly honored to have him here with us. He is the senior minister at the Towson Presbyterian Church in Maryland.

His parents were Scottish immigrants. They loved their new country. His father attempted to enlist in the Navy during World War II but was told he was too old. That did not stop his father. He tried two other times and finally was allowed to enlist in the Navy just before the statutory age limit and served his Nation, his new Nation, with distinction because of his love of our Nation. It was that inspiration that has led Dr. Toole to his public service.

Dr. Toole has been very active in community service. In New York as a police commissioner, he helped successfully to convince an armed individual to release his spouse in a hostage situation. And in Maryland he is a familiar face in community service.

We thank Dr. Toole for his public service and for being with us today.

This is a great honor for me to follow Dr. George Toole, the senior minister at Towson Presbyterian Church, one of Maryland's finer churches. Before I begin, I would also like to recognize Dr. Toole's wonderful wife, Donna, who is in the gallery today.

Dr. Toole tells me this is a great day for his family. After hearing his father's story you will understand why.

You see, his parents were Scottish immigrants who fell in love with their new country. So much so that when World War II rolled around, Dr. Toole's father wanted to give back to the country that had opened up a new life of freedom for him and his family. "This is my country and I owed her," he later explained to his son. He went to enlist in the Navy.

□ 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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But there were a few small problems. Dr. Toole's father was 38 years old. He had a wife. And he had two sons. The U.S. Navy said thanks, but no thanks.

But that didn't stop the elder Toole. Remember: "This is my country and I owed her." So Dr. Toole's father waited and tried again. Same response, thanks but no thanks.

They say the third time's the charm. That certainly proved true in this case. Two weeks before the absolute age disqualification date for service in the Armed Forces, Pentagon brass relented and allowed Dr. Toole's father to join the Navy. He served proudly in the South Pacific and Dr. Toole tells me the younger men on-board his ship called him "Pop." If he treated them half as well as he treated his son who is here with us today, they were probably some happy sailors.

Dr. Toole tells this story as a way of demonstrating what a difference it made to have such a caring and patriotic father. It probably goes a long way to explaining why the Baltimore County Police recognized Ensign Toole's son, today's guest chaplain, several years ago for bravery and community service. Dr. Toole, a former police commissioner in Bath, NY, spent over 4 hours negotiating with an armed man who had taken his wife hostage in their home. The man had been to a service at Dr. Toole's church a few days before the incident and told the police this was the only person he would talk to.

Just like his father refused to give up on the Navy, Dr. Toole refused to give up on this distraught man. The man eventually gave up his gun and released his wife. We are a better country for both of these refusals. Thank you for your remarks today, Dr. Toole, and please keep up the good work in Towson.

REPUBLICAN VIEW ON SOCIAL SECURITY

(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, like the dawn of a new day we should all be pleased that the President has finally come around to seeing the Republican point of view that we should not spend one penny on other government programs from our Social Security trust fund. At the beginning of this year, the President wanted to spend billions of Social Security tax dollars on some big government programs, and I think today is real progress. However, I am concerned that instead of helping us cut bloated Federal bureaucracies to balance the Federal budget, the President wants to increase taxes on working Americans.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the American people are taxed enough. It has only been through our hard work that the Federal budget is now balanced. There is no reason for us to raise one penny on the backs of lower and middle income families to pay for bigger Federal Government. That would be wrong for our hardworking families and for America. I urge the Democratic leadership to drop their plans to raise taxes on working Americans and join us in a bipartisan effort

to balance the budget without using Social Security.

I yield back the balance of my time and the President's proposal to raise taxes on Americans.

REGARDING H.R. 2260, PAIN RELIEF PROMOTION ACT

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. "Do no harm" is a tenet that underlies the practice of medicine in America. But despite the system we have, the great system for training, licensure, the safeguards that are built in, occasionally someone incompetent, or in this case a group of people totally unqualified in the practice of medicine, does harm to an individual patient or a group of patients.

Today, the United States Congress wishes under the leadership of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) to irrevocably change end-of-life pain care in America. On the one hand the bill that will come up today says you can aggressively treat pain at the end of life even if it causes death, but the other section of the bill says if a death results in the aggressive management of pain, the Drug Enforcement Administration, that well-known bastion of medical lore, will determine the intent of the physician who provided that prescription after the fact. This is an extraordinary intrusion not only into States' rights but into the practice of medicine. Inserting the Drug Enforcement Administration into the patient-doctor relationship is outrageous and it will set back pain management for decades in this country.

LOCKBOX HELD HOSTAGE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, if you turn on the television networks tonight, you will see a new broadcast season under way. There are new shows and new stars on old shows. TV fans had a long wait for a new season, more than 4 months of summer reruns. American seniors have had a long wait as well, a long wait for Congress to implement the lockbox protection for their Social Security. This body passed the lockbox bill on May 26, 153 days ago. Since that time, the other body has failed to act. Every attempt to bring the Social Security lockbox up for a vote has fallen victim to a filibuster threat. For 140 days, the minority party in the other body has held the lockbox bill hostage. That is long enough. This year's fight to stop the raid on Social Security proves our seniors need and deserve lockbox protection for their Social Security. Let us free the Social Security lockbox bill. One hundred forty days held hostage is long enough.

HURRICANE FLOYD

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, the cameras have gone, the news stories have ended, but for the people of eastern North Carolina, the misery and the suffering as a result of Hurricane Floyd is just beginning. The lives of thousands have been disturbed, disrupted and disordered. More than anything, what is now needed is help and hope for those storm-torn communities.

We expect to provide some of that help on Saturday, November 6. On that day, buses will be leaving Capitol Hill for a morning and afternoon of cleanup and an evening rally. We will help our fellow citizens prepare their homes and their communities for rebuilding, and we will join later then to urge them to hold on, to have a sense of hope. I invite my colleagues to go, to get on the bus with us. And if my colleagues are willing to lend their hands, their hearts and their support, I kindly request that they call my office, and I will be glad to provide them the information.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO HOLD HEARING TO INVESTIGATE INVOLVEMENT OF CASTRO REGIME IN TORTURING OF POWS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on International Relations will hold a hearing to investigate the involvement of the Castro regime in the torturing of American prisoners of war in North Vietnam in 1967 and 1968. The atrocities committed by Castro's men in a prison camp known as "the Zoo" resulted in the death of Air Force Captain Earl Cobeil, one of the 19 POWs held captive there. The family of Captain Cobeil and the other POW airmen who were part of what was later called the Cuba Program deserve that their government do everything it can to bring the guilty individuals to justice. This hearing is an essential step in the probe and should pave the way for additional investigations by the Department of Defense, the FBI and other Federal agencies.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for his tremendous support during the preliminary phase of this investigation. There should be no statute of limitations when it comes to bringing to justice international war criminals who brutally abused our U.S. military officers. I thank the gentleman from New York for his decision to hold this important hearing. It is a testament to his leadership and to his character.