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No. 108

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 21, 2003.

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2658. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H. R. 2658) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BOND, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BURNS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REID, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Janu-

ary 7, 2003, 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 not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

CHILEAN HONEST TRADE

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to move past the free versus fair trade debate that has dominated the considerations in this Chamber for most of the last five Congresses, where each side uses code words to ignore the inconvenient arguments of each other, or perhaps to not address them at all. It is time to deal with honest trade policy.

We can start later this week with action on the Chile free trade agreement, a spirited open debate which should lead to a strong bipartisan vote for approval. I would urge my colleagues not to reflexively reject agreement because of either concerns about the previous trade promotion authority debate which, frankly, I had reservations about myself; or somehow get bogged down in debating what is not before us.

The best way to help future debates is if we all deal meaningfully with what is before us in the context of this agreement. And the Chile free trade agreement offers much for the United States, make no mistake about it. We gain far more than we give up in terms of tariff protections.

Right now the average United States export to Chile is taxed at approximately 5.6 percent versus an average tariff for the imports to the United States from Chile at approximately 0.5 percent. Indeed, two-thirds of the Chil-

ean imports to the United States are duty free. We gain far more than we give up.

We are also currently at a severe disadvantage relative to other major trading partners with Chile. The large economies of the Western Hemisphere, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, already have preferential access to the Chilean market, as does the European Union. As a result, we are losing access as it relates to the percentage from our other competitors in those areas.

I urge my colleagues to look at their own region as I have done, for instance, in my home State of Oregon. I have seen if we were able to enact this agreement, there would be more opportunities for export.

For instance, Freight Liner is headquartered in my community. It is one of the most efficient truck manufacturing operations in the entire world, but we have lost access because of the aforementioned disadvantage that we face from trucks exported from Mexico, Brazil or the European Union. Enactment of this agreement will make it possible for us to be more competitive in my community.

There is also opportunity to remedy trade policy as they occur. Recently there was a controversy with Chile regarding a potential dumping of frozen raspberries on our market, to the detriment of people in my State. We were able to use the protections under the trade agreements that we have to put a stop to it. This is an opportunity for us to deal meaningfully with labor and environmental protections. The ones in Chile are the strongest in Latin America, and it is important that we act accordingly to support them. Indeed, we must act to deal with the broader values that are shared with Chile.

Mr. Speaker, what kind of government behavior do we want to encourage with our trade agreements? Chile represents an island of stability in

□ 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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troubled Latin American waters. It deserves our support as a model for other countries.

As the world grows more prosperous and stable, America will be better off in terms of the enormous security burden that we have voluntarily undertaken in Iraq, Afghanistan, in about 100 other countries around the world in numerous treaties and alliances. Whether we are more economically secure depends on whether we exercise our leadership in honest trade policy at home and abroad.

Honest debate and ratification of the Chilean free trade agreement can be an important step in this new era.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m. today.

1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WHITFIELD) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "You, our God, are good and true, slow to anger and governing all with mercy." Every moment of time stands before Your living presence.

Last week contained some accomplishments and a momentary glimpse of our place in history. In this Chamber there was a moment of rhetorical brilliance and a sense of great purpose. We rejoiced with our coalition forces as we mourned the sacred loss of life in Iraq. Lord, protect all the troops who struggle to establish stability and hope to bring peace to the Middle East.

Last week also showed the fragile nature of this noble institution and revealed such human frailty that it caused great frustration and sadness. Help us to always learn from our mistakes lest we be condemned to repeat them. Inspire us to set higher standards of communication and behavior for ourselves. May we treat others with respect and civility, even when under pressure or faced with differing opinions. Empower all in this House to live and act as the free and noble children of You, our Eternal Father, and may great deeds be accomplished in Your holy name. 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 Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KUCINICH 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.

REPORT ON H.R. 2799, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

Mr. KOLBE, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-221) on the bill (H.R. 2799) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

REPORT ON H.R. 2800, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

Mr. KOLBE, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-222) on the bill (H.R. 2800) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

THE TRUTH MUST BE REVEALED

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday The Washington Post revealed yet another piece of shaky intelligence used by this administration to go to war against Iraq. The claim that Saddam Hussein could launch a biological or chemical attack within 45 minutes was made twice by President Bush in a September Rose Garden appearance and in a Saturday radio address. This terrifying scenario, which was outlined in the famous "British Dossier," has since been called into serious question.

The White House now admits it did not seek CIA approval for this claim. How is it that the President can make unequivocal statements about evidence of Iraq's weapons to Congress and the

American people and not seek to see if it is true? The White House's admission reveals the administration's determination to take this country to war without regard to evidence.

The truth must be revealed about the administration's other claims to justify the war, such as Iraq's possession of chemical and biological weapons and alleged connections to al Qaeda.

Why did the U.S. really go to war against Iraq? The American people have a right to know.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:00 p.m. today.

TORNADO SHELTERS ACT

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 23) to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to authorize communities to use community development block grant funds for construction of tornado-safe shelters in manufactured home parks, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 23

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Tornado Shelters Act".

SEC. 2. CDBG ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.

Section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (22), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (23), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (23) the following new paragraph:

"(24) the construction or improvement of tornado-safe shelters for residents of manufactured housing, and the provision of assistance (including loans and grants) to nonprofit and for-profit entities (including owners of manufactured housing parks) for such construction or improvement, except that—

"(A) a shelter assisted with amounts provided pursuant to this paragraph may be located only in a neighborhood (including a manufactured housing park) that—

"(i) contains not less than 20 manufactured housing units that are within such proximity to the shelter that the shelter is available to the residents of such units in the event of a tornado;

"(ii) consists predominantly of persons of low and moderate income; and

"(iii) is located within a State in which a tornado has occurred during the fiscal year for which the amounts to be used under this paragraph were made available or any of the 3 preceding fiscal years, as determined by the Secretary after consultation with the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;