

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, July 14, 1999

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 14, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES H. TAYLOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Sam Whaley, Word of Faith Fellowship, Spindale, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Father God, we count it an honor to come before You on behalf of our Congress and leaders. We need You to be in control of our Nation. We are in desperate need of Your wisdom, Your will, and Your divine protection. We cry out for Your wisdom and courage to come to the hearts of our leaders so they will have strength to take a stand for righteousness. Cause them to be aware of how important it is to inquire of You before any decision is made since You and You alone place them in the authority to execute Your righteous judgments.

Father, forgive us. We as a Nation have not revered and inquired of You for our land to be healed. Have mercy on us. Put a heart of prayer in Your people. Thank You, Dear Lord. 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. MASCARA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MASCARA 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-minute speeches on each side.

HELP THE MINING INDUSTRY; DO NOT ELIMINATE IT

(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, the basis of our Nation's mining laws was enacted on May 10, 1872. Over the years, this law has become probably the most misrepresented statute on the books today.

This land tenure law governs access to public lands for mineral exploration and specifies the conditions under which title to mineral deposits can be obtained once they are discovered.

The 1872 law primarily affects the 12 western States in this Nation, and these 12 States account for 75 percent of the minerals produced and more than 92 percent of the public land of this Nation.

Before Congress enacts any significant new policies, we must carefully consider the effects and consequences that could adversely affect this valuable industry and dramatically reduce the quality of life for all Americans, which would further destroy tens of thousands of high-paying jobs if not done correctly.

The mining industry is already in danger due to an unending mudslide of Federal regulations, fees, and needless bureaucracy. Mr. Speaker, we have come to the point where we need to begin helping the mining industry instead of trying to eliminate it.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

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

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join with me in sending a message to our senior citizens across this country that we in Congress are committed to cutting the cost of their prescriptions.

Many of the seniors that I spoke with during the July 4th break told me about the difficulties they are experiencing in paying for their prescriptions. Oftentimes they are being forced to make a choice between buying food or buying their medicine. It is a na-

tional disgrace that we in the wealthiest country in the world are having our elderly make that decision in the first place.

Cutting the dosage or doing without prescriptions eventually adds to the cost of health care. This is a no brainer. Join the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) and me in support of a House concurrent resolution dealing with this matter. I ask my colleagues to express their commitment to provide our Nation's seniors with fair and reasonable access to prescription drugs.

Our senior citizens have asked for our help, and it is now time to deliver. Now, not later.

FLORIDA KEYS

(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 Florida Keys are made up of 100 miles of 30 islands that form a chain. Adjacent to the Keys is the most extensive living coral reef in North America and the third largest in the world.

These coral reefs are intertwined to a marine ecosystem that supports one of the most diverse and unique collections of plants and animals in North America.

Millions of people come from all over the United States and the world to visit the Florida Keys. This is both a blessing and a big part of the problem. The Keys are suffering from pollution brought about by humans.

Some of our beaches have already had to be closed over the July 4th weekend because of these contaminants. Even more crucial, the living coral reef is in danger of dying from pollutants if the water quality is not improved immediately.

I urge my colleagues, therefore, to preserve one of our national treasures, the Florida Keys, by acting on the bill of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH), the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Act of 1999, H.R. 673.

AMERICAN BORDERS WIDE OPEN WHILE GUARDING BOSNIA AND KOSOVO

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

☐ 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.