

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Wednesday, August 4, 1999*

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O gracious God, by whose hand we have come to be and by whose spirit we live each day, grant us a better understanding of the concerns and opportunities of our communities and our world. Keep us from any shallow ideas or hollow interpretations of the needs of the Nation as we seek to discover and appreciate and respect the ideas and interpretations of others. Encourage us, O God, to discover anew the unity and common purpose that we share with others so that justice will flow down as waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Montana (Mr. HILL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HILL of Montana 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 Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, an-

nounced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2415. An act to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2415) "An Act to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. HELMS, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. DODD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2465) "An Act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 15 1-minute speeches on each side.

SURPLUS BELONGS TO WORKING FAMILIES OF AMERICA

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, those who believe Washington politicians are addicted to spending lived too long with the other party in control of Congress. That malady no longer exists with the Republicans controlling the Congress of the United States.

We are the party that balanced the budget, gave America the first broad-based tax cut in 16 years, preserved Social Security, saved Medicare from bankruptcy, reformed welfare, and we did it in spite of the fact that we have a liberal in the White House who has never supported a single attempt by the Republicans in this Chamber to limit spending.

We Republicans today, with a surplus economy, do not trust the Federal Gov-

ernment to use the budget surplus to reduce the debt, because we know that politicians will spend that money if they have the opportunity to do so. They always have in the past, and they always will in the future.

We Republicans in Congress believe that the surplus, after saving Social Security and Medicare, belongs to the people who earned it in the first place, and that is the working families of America.

SCHOOL MODERNIZATION

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

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, I have been a strong proponent of reducing classroom size by adding 100,000 additional qualified teachers across America. But we need classrooms for these teachers to teach, and modern, decent facilities where these students can learn. That is why I strongly, strongly support the school modernization initiative which will help build more school space and modernize aging school facilities.

Schools like Findlay Elementary School near my home in Oregon which has trailers, trailers in the front lawn and in the parking lot; school districts like that in Astoria which has not added a new classroom since 1927. Many classrooms there have only one electric plug in the wall.

This does not evidence a commitment to our children. We show that we value our children by giving them the facilities where they can truly learn. We should start building additional modern school facilities today.

CASE STATISTICS DO MATTER

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, later this week we will address the question of funding for the Legal Services Corporation relative to the accuracy of their reporting regarding the caseload that they handle on behalf of the American people.

The President of the Legal Services Corporation, John McKay, stated in February of 1999:

Case statistics play an essential role in the budget request and performance plan submitted by LSC to Congress each year. Therefore, the reliability of case statistics submitted by programs to LSC is vital to obtaining continued Federal funding for legal

☐ 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.