

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, September 22, 1999

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

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 22, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS W. EWING 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:

We pray, O gracious God, that all the good values of daily living will come to us and nurture us along the way. While we pray for the wonders of faith and hope and love, our prayer is that our lives will be encouraged by the marvelous gifts that have come from You, our creator and redeemer, and from the lives of those near to us.

May we, O God, so live our lives in response to these blessings that our words and deeds will be marked by a spirit of thanksgiving and praise, of appreciation and adoration for all the wondrous benedictions we have received and for the kindness and generosity of our colleagues, our family and our friends.

In Your name 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 California (Ms. LEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. LEE 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.

### WORLDWIDE HEROIN CRISIS

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the world is now awash in deadly heroin. Last week, the New York Times reported that Afghanistan now produces three-quarters of the world's supply of opium, the basic ingredient for heroin. Production is soaring under Taliban control, and another 270 tons of heroin may be available from the coming bumper opium crop in Afghanistan.

In addition, we have Burmese heroin aplenty, and here at home we are awash in Colombian heroin that is purer, cheaper, and ever more deadly than we all have seen in the past.

Today, the United States heroin market, especially along the East Coast, is dominated by this Colombian heroin, while Europe is facing the massive Asian flood of heroin; and with a recent new twist, our European friends are also seeing more and more Colombian cocaine as well.

All of this opium and heroin production flourishes, especially where there is no government or weaker, ineffective government unable or unwilling to control illicit narcotics. This is a collective challenge for the international community which must and has an obligation to face collectively for the benefit of our children.

### NEW WORLD BILL COLLECTORS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the U.N. says we owe them a billion dollars and if we do not pay we will lose our vote. The U.N. also said they accepted three new member countries. All three are smaller than the hometowns of my colleagues. One has 8,000 people.

Now, if that is not enough to tax our peacekeeping, check this out. These three countries will have three votes. We will still have one vote.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. The truth is the United Nations owes Uncle Sam \$6 billion for saving their international assets year in and year out.

I say it is time for Congress to tell these New World bill collectors to shove their debt up their charter. Think about that.

I yield back the big vote we will lose at the United Nations.

### BROAD-BASED TAX RELIEF IS BEST ANSWER

(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 average working family in Nevada toiled until May 14 of this year just to pay their tax bill. Now, this seems not only unbelievable but unconscionable, as well. However, it is true, and here is why:

Mr. Speaker, Americans are paying a record-high 21 percent of their gross domestic product in taxes, the highest since World War II according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The average U.S. household will pay approximately \$5,307 more in taxes to their Government than it needs over the next 10 years according to the Congressional Research Service.

The typical American working family pays more than 38 percent of its income in total taxes, more than it spends on food, clothing, and shelter combined. The average household pays \$9,445 in federal income taxes alone, which is twice what it paid in 1985.

Is it any wonder that Americans feel as though they are working harder than ever but cannot seem to get ahead?

Broad-based tax relief is the best answer. Working families should not be working for Washington. Rather, Washington should be working for families.

I yield back any change we have in our pockets.

### 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, another week in America, another mass shooting. Seven people killed at Ft. Worth, Texas, four of them children. Every day 13 children are killed by guns in America. Yet, this Congress does nothing.

Opponents to gun safety laws say that no law could have prevented the Ft. Worth tragedy. They may be right. But just because we cannot save all of

☐ 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.

the children does not mean we should not try to save any of our children.

Hundreds of children have died since the tragedy at Columbine High School, when Congress promised to act.

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

April Bonita Turner, age 18, killed by gunfire on April 20, 1999, Washington, D.C.; Courtney Bradley, age 18, killed by gunfire on April 22, 1999, St. Louis, Missouri; James Walton, age 16, killed by gunfire on April 22, 1999, St. Louis, Missouri; Pierre David, age 18, killed by gunfire on April 28, 1999, Detroit, Michigan; Sheldon Jones, age 17, killed by gunfire on April 28, 1999, Washington, D.C.; Tonetta Smith, age 16, killed by gunfire on April 29, 1999, Washington, D.C.

#### NATIONAL MINORITY ENTREPRENEURS OF THE YEAR

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

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, tonight in Washington, D.C., the country will recognize nine national minority entrepreneurs of the year. Of those nine, two come from Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Miguel Rios started Orion International Technologies in 1985 and has grown that company to 140 employees and \$9 million in revenue providing engineering and systems integration services for lasers at White Sands Missile Range and Air Force Research Laboratory. He is one of the Nation's top Hispanic high-tech firms.

Tito Bonano started Beta Corporation in 1993 to provide radioactive waste management services and has branched into computer services, as well. Both of these national minority entrepreneurs of the year formerly worked at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, and Tito has also had his business named as one of the top 10 of New Mexico's Flying 40, the fastest growing high-tech firms.

We are all proud of them as Americans and as New Mexicans and we honor them today.

#### YOUTH VIOLENCE PLAGUES OUR INNER CITIES

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, youth violence has plagued our inner cities for years. Legislators, community activists, parents, and teachers have all called for a comprehensive solution.

Homicide is the leading cause of death among black males age 15 to 24. Unfortunately, now gun violence is

now happening everywhere. We must pass gun safety legislation now. Access to guns by children and criminals should end.

Let us remember all children who have been killed by gunfire. I call to the attention of my colleagues those who have been killed since the Columbine tragedy:

Pablo Vega, age 18, killed by gunfire on May 4, 1999, Detroit, Michigan; Ernest Troche, age 17, killed by gunfire on May 8, 1999, Bridgeport, Connecticut; Salvador Galioto, Jr., age 13, killed by gunfire on May 9, 1999, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Tyquan Miller, age 9, killed by gunfire on May 16, 1999, Richmond, Virginia; Brad Crouse, age 15, killed by gunfire on May 19, 1999, Hillsboro, Wisconsin; Edward Belton, age 18, killed by gunfire on May 21, 1999, St. Louisiana, Missouri; George Camacho, age 14, killed by gunfire on May 22, 1999, San Bernardino, California.

#### PRESIDENT RELEASES FALN TERRORISTS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last week the President of the United States released the FALN terrorists from prison onto the streets. These terrorists committed heinous crimes and were convicted of robbery, sedition, and conspiracy. We even have pictures of them actually making bombs. The President somehow trusts these terrorists that they will now do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the American taxpayers deciding for themselves how to spend their own money, the President does not trust them. The President prefers to continue letting the bureaucracy in Washington dictate how Americans' hard-earned money is spent.

This is what President Clinton said earlier this year: "So the question is, what do we do with the surplus? We could give it all back and hope you spend it right."

How about that? The President can only hope the American people would do the right thing. That is outrageous, Mr. Speaker. The President trusts FALN terrorists. He trusts the federal bureaucracy here in Washington. But he does not trust the American people with their own money.

What is next? The Unabomber on the street?

#### GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, in my hometown of Evanston, Illinois, I

have been to three funerals in recent months. I have cried with grieving parents bearing their children because of senseless gun violence. To honor the memories of those children, I pledge my support for gun safety legislation and continue the roll call of names of children who have been killed by gunfire since Columbine:

Susie King, age 11, killed by gunfire on May 23, 1999, West Lampeter, Pennsylvania; Lee Brown, age 16, killed by gunfire on May 27, 1999, Forest Park, Georgia; Armando Garcia, age 16, killed by gunfire on May 28, 1999, San Bernardino, California; Angela Yglesias, age 18, killed by gunfire May 28, 1999, Detroit, Michigan; Antonio Munoz, age 17, killed by gunfire on May 30, 1999, Providence, Rhode Island; Iris Turull, age 3, killed by gunfire on May 31, 1999, Bronx, New York; Daron Mitchell, age 18, killed by gunfire on May 31, 1999, Akron, Ohio; Allen Darrington, age 17, killed by gunfire on June 1, 1999, Kansas City.

#### ELIMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, is it right, is it fair that under our tax code married working couples pay more in taxes just because they are married? Is it right, is it fair that 21 million married working couples pay higher taxes than identical couples with identical incomes who live together outside of marriage? Of course it is wrong.

Let me introduce to my colleagues Michelle and Shad Hallihan, public school teachers from Joliet, Illinois. They suffer the marriage tax penalty. Twenty-one million married working couples pay an average \$1,400 more in higher taxes just because they are married.

Now, \$1,400 in Joliet, Illinois, where Shad and Michelle live, is one year's tuition at Joliet Junior College. It is 3 months of day-care at a local child care center. It is also several months' worth of car payments.

This Republican Congress believes we should eliminate the marriage tax penalty. We passed legislation as part of the Financial Freedom Act, our tax cut, to eliminate the marriage tax penalty for a majority of those who suffer it, people like Michelle and Shad Hallihan.

My colleagues, the question is will the President join with us? Does he want to spend the money here in Washington, or does he want to eliminate the marriage tax penalty?

Mr. President, sign the tax cut. Let us eliminate the marriage tax penalty for Michelle and Shad Hallihan.