

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, September 30, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Darrell Darling, United Methodist Church, Santa Cruz, California, offered the following prayer:

I offer this prayer in the Spirit of God, that spirit which was in our son, brother and colleague, Adam.

Gracious God, Father Creator, Mother Sustainer, as my universe grows infinitely larger, may my loyalty to beloved friends grow dearer. As the world becomes exponentially complex, may my passion for the truth fathom its extremities. As the pursuit of peace grows costly and elusive, steel my resolve.

Temper my candor with kindness, my directness with humor. Guard me from the temptation to substitute personal devotion for the simple truth and save me from sacrificing the life or character of one friend or foe for abstract principle or selfish ambition. Make me at home with prime ministers and farm workers alike in order that power may be less arrogant and the humble may know the power of their true worth.

May I take no notice of another's deliberate smallness, nor make one decision from fear, nor withhold my resources in stinginess. In defeat liberate me in expansive faithfulness, and in victory deliver me from devaluing large principles by personal meanness.

Let me spurn public accolades that I may be truly honorable. And, in the end, may I be swept away in the infinite, fierce tenderness of Your true love. 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. GREEN of Wisconsin. 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. GREEN of Wisconsin. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts 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 a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1051. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to manage the Strategic Petroleum Reserve more effectively, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), who wishes to introduce the guest Chaplain, and then the Chair will entertain 15 one minutes on each side.

WELCOMING REVEREND DARRELL DARLING, UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I have known the Reverend Darling for many years. He is a friend, he is a counselor, he is a confidante. His family is not new to this Chamber. Reverend Darling and his wife, Karen, are the parents of Adam Darling, who we all know died in the ill-fated crash with Secretary Ron Brown on a mountain in Croatia.

Reverend Darling is a long-time resident of Santa Cruz, California. Known locally as Darrell Darling, he is a man known for his spirit, for pursuit of civil rights, peace, and justice.

In his ministry, Reverend Darling has taken seriously the admonition and invitation to feed the hungry, shelter the strange, forgive the enemy, and visit the prisoner. He is someone who lives what he preaches, and the community is made stronger for it.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to host Reverend Darling. He brings with him

today a message of peace, a message of tolerance, a message of hope. I commend him to my colleagues and hope that you will hear his words, read his words, and take them to heart.

EMPLOYER LIABILITY IN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, Congress will soon consider the issue of employer liability in the concern with healthcare. As a small business owner myself with 200 employees, the decision is simple. If faced with the slimmest possibility of being sued for voluntarily providing health care to my employees, I will stop providing such benefits and give them the cash equivalent.

I will not be alone. Recently a poll of small business owners found that 57 percent of small businesses would drop health care coverage for employees if employer liability was increased. This potentially could lead to the end of employer-based health care and leave tens of millions of people without health care coverage.

H.R. 2926, the CARE Act, would ensure patients' rights without exposing employers to lawsuits for voluntarily providing health care and benefits to their employees. The CARE Act also allows small employers to band together to provide health care benefits for their employees by pooling their purchasing power in a new association health plan. This provision would create affordable access to health care for millions.

Let small business and employers continue to provide health care benefits to the American workforce. Vote for 2926.

A STARK CONTRAST BETWEEN RHETORIC AND REALITY

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the House has turned the Edmond Morris Ronald Reagan biography controversy on its head. Mr. Morris has been criticized for claiming to be present when he was not.

The pattern here in the House is the opposite. Members are essentially claiming not to have been present

□ 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.