

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, October 1, 1999

The House met at 9 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,
October 1, 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:

Let us pray using the words of Psalm 117:

*Praise the Lord, all you nations!
Extol Him, all you peoples!
For great is His steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures
forever.
Praise the 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 Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. VITTER 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 that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1606. An act to extend for 9 additional months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, is reenacted.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain one minute at the end of business.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2084, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 318 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 318

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2084) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 318 provides for the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2084, the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2000.

The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule also provides the conference report will be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides for appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000. The legislation before the House this morning is vitally important to both the safety and the efficiency of travel and transportation in the United States.

The bill provides for the necessary resources for America's highways and airports, our railroads and public transportation facilities, and safety in all forms of transportation.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring the safety of American motorists, fliers, and trav-

elers is this Government's highest responsibility, and clearly this bill addresses those needs and concerns. Indeed, the underlying legislation represents an increase in safety measures and resources in every area of America's transportation system, from the Coast Guard, to the Federal Aviation Administration, to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

And even while we ensure adequate and appropriate financial resources to meet those needs, our conferees have met the challenge, while practicing fiscal responsibility and bipartisan cooperation, maintaining the fiscal restraints adopted in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

I commend my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), for their hard work in crafting a responsible bipartisan bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I do not oppose the rule, the transportation appropriations conference report for fiscal year 2000, but the conference report itself should be the subject of vigorous debate today as members of the authorizing committee and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure express their serious concerns about provisions added to the conference report by the other body. There are also issues which will be discussed on the floor today relating to unfunded mandates and numerous legislative provisions which appear in the conference report.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question but that the transportation system of this Nation helps us to maintain our competitive edge worldwide. There is no question but that the very same system must be maintained, repaired, and upgraded constantly for that competitive edge to remain. This is a goal shared by both the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Subcommittee on Transportation of the Committee on Appropriations. This debate might be described as a difference not of where we are going, but how we get there.

I wish to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Chairman SHUSTER) and

☐ 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.