

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, February 24, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m.

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

We remember this day those in our community who have special concern and who look to You, O gracious God, for comfort and blessing. Where there is need for healing, we pray that Your grace is sufficient for our needs; where there is need for assurance, we pray for Your presence; where there is need for hope, we pray for Your miracles. In all things, O loving God, we open our lives to Your grace and the sure and confident faith that Your spirit will lead us and show us the path ahead. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN 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, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 433. An act to restore the management and personnel authority of the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the International Financial Institution Advisory Commission—

Richard L. Huber, of Connecticut; Jerome L. Levinson, of Maryland; Jeffrey D. Sachs, of Massachusetts; Estaban E. Torres, of California; and Paul A. Volcker, of New York.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as

amended by Public Law 99-7, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) as Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 96-388, as amended by Public Law 97-84, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints the following Senators to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council—

the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER); and

the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG).

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-389, the Chair, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the following citizens to serve as members of the First Flight Centennial Federal Advisory Board—

Peggy Baty, of Ohio; Lauch Faircloth, of North Carolina; and

Wilkinson Wright, of Ohio.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 99-498, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints Donald R. Vickers, of Vermont, to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for a term ending September 30, 2001.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the reappointment of C. John Sobotka, of Mississippi, to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Parents Advisory Council on Youth Drug Abuse—

Darcy L. Jensen, of South Dakota (Representative of Non-Profit Organization); and

Dr. Lynn McDonald, of Wisconsin.

SUPPORT HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 54

(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, today I rise proudly in support of House Joint Resolution 54, to prohibit the desecration of the American flag.

I want to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. DUKE CUNNINGHAM) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOHN MURTHA), for reintroducing this tremendously important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, more than one million men and women have sacrificed their lives defending this country and the freedom that this flag represents, and it would be a great dishonor for all of us now to turn our backs on those who gave so much to protect the American flag and what it symbolizes. We must fight for them now in protecting the symbol of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, as a veteran of both the Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars, I proudly support this legislation, and I urge every member of this great, august body to do the same.

AN AMERICA THAT TOLERATES CAPITAL CRIME WILL CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE IT

(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, last year John William King and two accomplices kidnapped James Byrd, Jr. They tied Byrd to the back of a pickup truck, and they dragged Byrd to his death. Byrd's body was shredded to pieces. He was literally decapitated.

Yesterday, the jury convicted King. Today, they decide the sentence. I say a capital crime warrants a capital offense and, thus, is a capital punishment sentence.

An America that tolerates such crime will continue to experience it. I say the sentence should be very clear to all Americans. Good night, sweet prince. Let us not tolerate it in America.

I yield back the air-conditioning, the law library, and the three square meals to the taxpayers.

ADMINISTRATION'S CONFUSING FOREIGN POLICY

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, there is confusion in the administration's foreign policy. One hand does not know what the other hand is doing.

The first hand has reached into our pockets and spent \$8 billion to establish a multi-ethnic country called Bosnia. That is \$8 billion that was not

□ 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.