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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, D.C.,
November 18, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVEN C. LATOURETTE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Douglas Tanner, Faith and Politics Institute, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we come before You this week before Thanksgiving only partially conscious of the many gifts You bestow upon us. We know that while others are hungry, we are fed, and while others are without shelter, we live in comfort. We give thanks for our material blessings and often share a measure of our abundance with those less fortunate.

Yet, we can live as unaware of the gifts You give us in each other, the gifts of those who think differently from the way we do, those whose experiences shape their perspectives differently from ours, those whose cultures cultivate different values and sensitivities, those whom You have placed with us in a land which we call our home, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Sensitivities, those whom You have called to order by the Speaker pro tem of the House, the following gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 385) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 385

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 82) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes. The joint resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommit.

Sec. 2. Upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 83) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes. The joint resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. Goss) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. Goss. Mr. Speaker, before we begin on the rule, I am going to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. Thune) for a matter of interest to all Members of the House.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise today to recognize the contributions of Bob Berry, a fellow South Dakotan.

Bob Berry has served the last several months as a Reading Clerk on the House Floor. Bob’s father is a legend in South Dakota, the former Congressman E.Y. Berry, who represented South Dakota from 1951 to 1971. After his father’s service, Bob served this institution as the situation as the Reading Clerk. After several years of service, Bob was able to retire from the House 11 years ago.

As a result of the temporary departure of another Reading Clerk, Bob was asked to temporarily return to his old position in the House. The institution greatly appreciated Bob’s willingness to return and enjoyed the last several months of his daily service.

The end of this session will allow Bob to return to retirement. We know him and his lovely wife, Marilyn, are pleased that the need for his services has passed and that they can enjoy their freedom to travel and visit their grandchildren and friends again.

Bob, on behalf of the House, I want to express our thanks for your service. You have truly helped this institution over the last several months and your contributions are much appreciated.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. OBRY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn. The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. OBRY. 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 pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 14, nays 375, not voting 44, as follows:
Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, today, we place before the House what we hope will be the last continuing resolution for fiscal year 2000. Yesterday, I referred to the movie “Groundhog Day” to describe the events of the past few weeks, where we seem to wake up each morning and do the same things we did the day before. And while we are here again as we were yesterday considering a rule to bring forward another short-term extension of the budget deadline, we are confident that a final agreement has now near total completion.

Like yesterday’s, this rule is a standard closed rule providing for consideration of a continuing resolution whose expiration date is November 23. The rule waive all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution, provides 1 hour of debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority. The rule waives a reading of the bill and the purpose of debate only.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. Goss) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. Goss. Mr. Speaker, we have all been struggling to find the right negotiating mix to bring this budget process to a conclusion. Our firm line in the sand has remained constant: we will not spend one dime of the Social Security Trust Fund. While there has been the normal and appropriate give and take between the White House and the Congress on a prudent and appropriate give and take between the chairman and rank-