

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, March 15, 1999

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 15, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD A. PEASE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray using the words of David C. Roberts: God of our fathers, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band of shining worlds in splendor through the skies; our grateful songs before Your throne arise.

Refresh Your people on their toiling some way; lead us from night to never ending day; fill all our lives with heav'n-born love and grace until at last we meet before Your face. 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 North Carolina (Mr. JONES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina 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 a concurrent resolution of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 5. Concurrent resolution expressing congressional opposition to the uni-

lateral declaration of a Palestinian state and urging the President to assert clearly United States opposition to such a unilateral declaration of statehood.

OPPOSE H.R. 45, NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT OF 1999

(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 question of the day is can this Nation afford the cleanup cost of a nuclear waste accident under H.R. 45, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1999.

Well, a 1985 Department of Energy contractor report concluded that a severe accident involving a rail cask would result in the release of radioactive materials sufficient to contaminate a 42-square-mile area.

If it occurred in a rural area, the estimated cost of cleanup would range from \$176 million to \$19.4 billion and would require up to 460 days to complete.

Cleanup after a similar accident in a typical urban area would be considerably more expensive and time consuming, perhaps around \$9.5 billion just to raze and rebuild the most heavily contaminated single square mile.

Mr. Speaker, guess who picks up the tab for these expensive and deadly accidents? That is right. It will be the American taxpayer. Realize these figures cannot include the intangible cost of human life or the disastrous effects it could have on our children, our communities, and our homes.

Before nuclear waste is shipped through my colleagues' districts, think about the consequence, and oppose H.R. 45. It is a bill we cannot afford to live with.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

REBECCA MASON'S PETITION FOR CHRISTIAN VALUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of representing a very special part of North

Carolina. I represent the Third District, which includes 18 counties in the eastern part of the State.

We have beautiful beaches, sprawling farmland, a strong military presence, and wonderful people who I am sure any one of my colleagues would be proud to represent.

As I travel throughout the District, I am reminded that, despite whatever problems may face our Nation, there are communities that still cherish the Judeo-Christian principles this great Nation was founded upon, the same values that make our Nation and our citizens strong.

I am proud of each and every citizen of eastern North Carolina, because the majority have a great respect and admiration for the Bible and the Constitution.

Because of this, I very rarely like to single out any one person. However, I am recognizing a very special 10-year-old girl from Goldsboro, North Carolina. Rebecca Mason and her family attend Rosewood First Baptist Church in Goldsboro.

One day Rebecca learned some frightening statistics about the rate of crime and violence in our Nation's neighborhoods. I am proud of Rebecca, not simply out of her concern for a problem, but in our actions to address the problem.

Rebecca could not understand why more adults of faith were not fighting to combat these issues. So with the support of her family and her church, she developed a petition to alert us to the same statistics that prompted her to act. Her petition calls upon all Americans to stand up for the morals and values we learn from the Bible.

I could tell my colleagues about Rebecca's petition, but I think the words of a child are often more powerful than our own. Mr. Speaker, she wrote, "The people of America are crying out for a return to Christian values. Drug and alcohol abuse are plaguing our Nation. More people have died in alcohol-related crashes than have died in all the wars the United States has ever fought. America is leading the way to teen pregnancy, illiteracy and divorce. Since 1973, over 30 million children have been murdered in the name of convenience. Teenage runaways are on the rise, and America averages one teenage suicide every 1 hour and 45 minutes. Suicide is the third leading cause of death to those under the age of 25.

"With the restriction of prayer in school, our Nation has gone on a downhill slide. The only way to put our Nation on the right path is to turn toward

□ 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.