

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, March 18, 1999

The House met at noon.

Father Martin G. Heinz, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Rockford, Rockford, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

Almighty Father, Creator of all things, we admire the work of Your hands and Your power in the world. We beg Your blessings as we raise our minds and hearts to You at the beginning of this congressional day. We ask Your guidance on all that we shall do and say over the resolutions passed and the conversations that bring us to our decisions. In all this, may we give honor and glory to You. You who protect our land, You who protect our people. Through this country's laws may its citizens grow in character and develop with dignity. May we grow in fidelity to Your wisdom so that this country may grow in the knowledge of Your love. Inspire our work in such a way that we never lose sight of our ultimate goal, the people of this country, strengthened through You, because of the laws we pass. We ask this through Christ our Lord. 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 California (Mr. LANTOS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANTOS 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 with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 99. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend Federal Aviation Administration programs through September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 257. An act entitled "The Cochran-Inouye National Missile Defense Act of 1999".

S. 643. An act to authorize the Airport Improvement Program for 2 months, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 83-420, as amended by Public Law 99-371, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, reappoints the Senator from Arizona (Mr. McCAIN) to the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain five 1-minutes on each side.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD CARDWELL

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

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, Richard Cardwell from Des Moines, Iowa, is a hero. Richard, a retired plumber, is a wiry, muscular man from a lifetime of tugging on stubborn pipes. In his work he has been bitten many times by animals but he did not hesitate when he saw a dog mauling a man on the ground.

There was blood everywhere when Richard jumped out of his car. The man on the ground was protecting his neck from the vicious jaws of the dog and was losing a lot of blood from bites on his arms and head. Richard grabbed a stick and started hitting the Rottweiler.

Afterwards, Robert Jones, the victim of the dog's attack, said this about his scary experience: "That dog was just putting the finishing touches on me when Richard Cardwell came along. If it hadn't been for him, I'd have been a goner."

Richard is a brave guy. He risked his own life for another's. That huge dog could have gone for his throat. And while saving a life may be the first for Richard, it is not the first time he has come to the rescue. In fact, he once made a house call on a Christmas day to save my frozen house.

Mr. Speaker, we need more good neighbors like Richard Cardwell.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION TO LOCATE AND SECURE RETURN OF ZACHARY BAUMEL

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, events are moving so fast that there is always

a danger we will forget about our citizens who are missing in action. There is one such American citizen missing in action in the Middle East for the last 17 years.

A large group of my colleagues across the political spectrum join me in introducing this resolution calling on the Department of State to locate and secure the return of this American citizen, Zachary Baumel. We are asking the State Department to contact all governments concerned, and we are asking the Department of State to take into account the actions of all governments with respect to this issue in extending economic and other aids to countries in the region.

I ask all of my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation to bring this lost American, missing in action, back to his family.

VOTE "YES" ON H.R. 4

(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, three out of four Americans, 75 percent, believe the United States already possesses the ability to defend itself from a missile attack. I think it is only fair to inform them that we cannot. Here in America we may have little or no warning of a ballistic missile attack that is launched just offshore by some terrorist or rogue nation.

Speaking of rogue nations, North Korea, Iraq and Iran have all improved and accelerated their ballistic missile programs to threaten the U.S. and its allies. China already has numerous long-range missiles aimed at U.S. cities, all using stolen U.S. technology.

There is no doubt that the threat is real. What is in doubt is whether Congress has the commitment to deploy a national missile defense system to engage and counter this threat.

Our path is clear, we must be committed and we must do our duty to defend America. I urge my colleagues to support this effort. Vote "yes" on H.R. 4, and let us provide the safety for our Nation, for our communities, for our homes, for our families and giving America the capability to defend ourselves from a ballistic missile attack.

MILOSEVIC SHOULD BE ARRESTED, NOT NEGOTIATED WITH

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House

□ 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.

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the killing in Kosovo goes on. Ethnic Albanians continue to be slaughtered in cold blood. Despite all of this, Congress continues to believe that a deal can be made with this madman Milosevic.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. Uncle Sam should not be leading efforts to negotiate with Milosevic. Uncle Sam should be leading efforts to arrest Milosevic for genocide and for war crimes.

Let me tell this to my colleagues. A CIA report said 10 years ago that if Kosovo is not granted independence, there will be death all over, including America someday. Uncle Sam should support independence for Kosovo and NATO should enforce it.

I yield back all the deals Milosevic has broken, and I yield back all those dead bodies that continue to be piled up, executed in cold blood.

U.S. ARMED FORCES CONTINUALLY ASKED TO DO MORE WITH LESS

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer an example of the United States Armed Forces continually being asked to do more with less.

Within the district I represent, the Second District of the great State of Kansas, resides the 190th Air Refueling Wing of the Kansas Air National Guard. This wing is responsible for a variety of support operations around the world. In the past year, under the stress of continued deployment, the wing has sent personnel and aircraft to Iceland, to Germany, to France, to Turkey, and to Alaska as well.

However, Mr. Speaker, the newest KC-135 aircraft used by the 190th was built in 1963. The oldest aircraft was built in 1956. The President's budget forces the wing to use that aircraft until 2040. That would make the existing aircraft nearly 80 years old.

Mr. Speaker, would my colleagues be comfortable flying into a military confrontation in an 80-year-old aircraft? I doubt that we would. So we must not ask our young pilots to go into combat in an aircraft that would be considered antique in any other area.

We must increase defense spending to give our military personnel the equipment they need to remain the world's premier military force.

U.S. VULNERABLE TO BALLISTIC MISSILE ATTACK

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, there is a common saying in conservative

circles about how people tend to start out in life as a liberal, and end up conservative having lived for a while. It is called being mugged by reality.

Well, it appears America has finally been mugged by reality on the issue of missile defense. Just last summer the Clinton administration insisted over and over again that a national missile defense system was not needed. We were assured that rogue nations were many years away from developing a ballistic missile threat that could reach our shores. Woops!

In a stunning turnaround, the White House has suddenly adopted the Republican view that the United States is indeed vulnerable to ballistic missile attack. Rogue nations such as Iran, Iraq, North Korea, and Communist China have missile capabilities which far exceed the administration's earlier estimates.

Upon pulling its head up out of the sand, the administration has now been mugged by reality. The only question now remains, did it happen soon enough?

DANGERS OF GHB

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise again this morning to really encourage the House to move quickly to pass legislation to make illegal GHB. I have a bill, the Hillory J. Fariars Date Rape Drug Prevention Act, H.R. 75, that I urge my colleagues to support.

But I rise this morning to tell my colleagues the story of a young man by the name of Steve Brown from Illinois who overdosed on this dangerous drug back in September of 1998. He almost lost his life because the police, the paramedics, nor the emergency room doctors were aware of the harmful effects of GHB.

Mr. Brown was a body builder who had used GHB as a recreational drug for years. Unfortunately, on that day in September, he took a dosage of the drug that proved to be almost fatal. He was found by his sister, Diane Brown, unconscious and unresponsive. When she called the paramedics she told them about his history with GHB, because they had no knowledge of what he had ingested.

She also had to inform the emergency room doctors of the drug.

Steve was unconscious for five hours. While in this state, his sister called her parents to tell them that they needed to travel to Illinois. His mother, unsure of what condition her son would be in when she arrived later said, "I had to pack a dress for my only son's funeral." Thank goodness her son survived this ordeal.

This near-tragedy should be a lesson to all of us about the dangers of GHB. Unless it is scheduled under the Controlled Substances

Act soon, we may hear about more stories of young people who died unnecessarily because we did not act.

I would like to thank Ms. Diane Brown for calling my office to share her story. I know that this experience has been painful for her family, but I am grateful that she felt compelled to speak out against GHB. I wish her family the best as they try to work through this situation.

I ask my colleagues to support my bill so that we can assure Ms. Brown and her family that we do not want this drug to hurt another person. I want to send a message to those who would argue that this drug is safe, that it is not and that it can be deadly.

Mr. Speaker, this drug is being manufactured by the bathtub loads. It is on the internet. We must hold hearings. And I am delighted with the interest of my colleagues on the Committee on Commerce and the Committee on the Judiciary to work together to stop the killing and the overdose of this dangerous unknown drug that has no taste and no smell that our young people are using. Mr. Speaker, let us get to work.

OPPOSITION TO DEPLOYMENT OF MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM HAS BEEN A MISTAKE

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

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, it is increasingly obvious that those who have obstructed the deployment of a missile defense system have seriously miscalculated the risks to our Nation.

Hostile, often referred to as rogue, nations now possess the technology to threaten our neighborhoods and our cities and our towns with advanced weapons and advanced delivery systems.

Yesterday, we saw a shift. Senate Democrats, who had previously obstructed a missile defense system, have now finally seen the light and have come to their senses recognizing that risk. I welcome their belated support, I only pray that it is not too late.

Our first and foremost duty to our constituents is a strong national defense. Let us hope that those in this House who have obstructed a national defense system will join their Senate colleagues and come to their senses too, recognizing that we must fulfill our constitutional duty to defend the Nation.

SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.