

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, March 24, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m.

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

As we walk the paths of life and as we attempt to view the road ahead, we pray, almighty God, that Your spirit will encourage us along that journey and support us all the day long. We know that our hearts grow weary and we need strength; we know that our minds lose the discernment needed for the future and we need vision; we know that we miss the mark and we hunger for forgiveness and a new start. Wherever we are or whatever we do, we pray for Your presence, O God, and for Your enduring peace. In Your name we pray. 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 Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland 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 bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 92. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 251 North Main Street in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as the "Hiram H. Ward Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

H.R. 158. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 316 North 26th Street in Billings, Montana, as the "James F. Battin United States Courthouse".

H.R. 233. An act to designate the Federal building located at 700 East San Antonio Street in El Paso, Texas, as the "Richard C. White Federal Building".

H.R. 396. An act to designate the Federal building located at 1301 Clay Street in Oakland, California, as the "Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building".

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills and a concur-

rent resolution of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 67. An act to designate the headquarters building of the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, District of Columbia, as the "Robert C. Weaver Federal Building".

S. 437. An act to designate the United States courthouse under construction at 333 Las Vegas Boulevard South in Las Vegas, Nevada, as the "Lloyd D. George United States Courthouse".

S. 453. An act to designate the Federal building located at 709 West 9th Street in Juneau, Alaska, as the "Hurff A. Saunders Federal Building".

S. 460. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 401 South Michigan Street in South Bend, Indiana, as the "Robert K. Rodibaugh United States Bankruptcy Courthouse".

S. Con. Res. 21. Concurrent resolution authorizing the President of the United States to conduct military air operations and missile strikes against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

WE NEED STRAIGHT ANSWERS FROM OUR ADMINISTRATION AND FROM OUR COMMANDER IN CHIEF

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on a day when American men and women in uniform may go into harm's way, headlines scream of Kosovo. That is a concern, but there are also concerns this morning in North Korea.

The Washington Times reports this morning, and I quote, "Vital parts of a 50-megawatt North Korean nuclear reactor have been missing since international inspectors first visited the site under the terms of a 1994 nuclear-freeze pact with the United States."

"The absence of the reactor parts, which could be used to construct another reactor, was known by some State Department officials but was never disclosed to Congress."

Mr. Speaker, on a morning when people may go into harm's way, the State Department did not notify us of this Korean breach. The Energy Department did not notify us of an espionage breach.

We need straight answers from our administration and from our commander in chief.

GHB INCIDENT—THE DEATH OF KERRI BRETON

(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 too, offer godspeed as we make our decisions on Kosovo.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk again about GHB, a dangerous drug that has destroyed the lives of some of our young women and young people in this country.

I have introduced a bill, the Hillory F. Farias Date Rape Drug Prevention Act, along with my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), who has also introduced a bill.

I would like to share the story of a young woman named Kerri Breton, who also died as a result of GHB poisoning. This young, 26-year-old single mother died last May after she ingested a GHB laced drink while on a business trip.

She was a vibrant young woman who had worked hard for most of her life to achieve, despite the setbacks she had faced. She lost her mother to cancer when she was 13 and she had a child while in high school. However, Kerri was able to get her GED and at the time of her death she worked at an insurance firm where she had just received her insurance license.

On the night of her death, Kerri was on a business trip in Syracuse, New York. She had drinks with a colleague and then went to her room. The next morning, her roommate found Kerri dead on the bathroom floor. There is still a murder investigation going on to determine how this drug got into Kerri's drink.

We must commit to passing legislation that will schedule GHB.

I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) for sharing this story with me. Kerri Breton was a resident of his district in New York, and this tragic story was sent by Ms. Breton's stepfather, Roger Voight. The gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) has recently joined us as a cosponsor of this important legislation.

I urge my colleagues to immediately have hearings on scheduling GHB and for this House to pass this legislation expeditiously so that we can save the lives of young people like Kerri Breton and give tribute to the loss of their lives and avoid these tragedies in the years to come.

NO MORE SOCIAL SECURITY SLUSH FUND

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

☐ 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.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, while the White House is busy working on a plausible explanation as to how atomic espionage at Energy Department labs was ignored over the last 3 years, Republicans have been busy putting together a budget that reflects responsible common sense conservative values.

For 40 years, the Democrats failed to take Social Security off the table, turning the Social Security Administration trust fund into a Washington slush fund. Well, those days are over. The Republican budget is going to do what should have been done a long time ago. It puts the Social Security surplus into a safe deposit box.

Long-time observers of Washington know that we need a safe deposit box to keep big spending liberals from running off with it. The Social Security trust fund should not be a slush fund. The Republican budget takes 100 percent of the retirement surplus and sets it aside for Social Security and Medicare.

We are going to hang a huge sign on the safe deposit box with a message, "no liberals allowed. Do not touch."

DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE BUDGET

(Ms. KILPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to offer prayers and hope for our situation that we face today in Kosova.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the democratic alternative budget, a budget that extends Social Security until the year 2050 and saves Medicare, which will run out of money in 2008 unless we do save it.

I am happy that the Democrats are proposing 77 percent for Social Security and to save Medicare to the year 2020. We also fully fund the President's education request. The other budget resolution does not. We offer money for child care. The other budget resolution does not.

Mr. Speaker, we offer \$1.9 billion for our veterans and their families. Let us support the democratic budget alternative that saves Social Security and Medicare, helps our veterans, helps our children as we move to the 21st Century.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET ACTUALLY EXPANDS ENTITLEMENT SPENDING

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, how soon we forget. President Clinton just 3 years ago proposed a five year budget

that would have added \$1.2 trillion to the national debt. That is \$200 billion deficits every year for as far as the eye could see.

The Republicans said no.

They said no to big government.

They said no to using phony numbers.

They said no to a national health care system that his own party admitted would have pushed the deficit into the stratosphere.

So Congress insisted on passing a bipartisan budget that balanced and kept the lid on spending.

Well, here we go again. It is back to budget-busting time.

Once again, it is going to be up to Congress to act like grownups and keep the lid on spending.

The President's budget actually expands entitlement spending, puts the Medicare program in jeopardy only one year after we acted to save it, and goes back to tax increases that hurt the economy.

Tax and spend, tax and spend. No matter how good the White House can spin it, and they are very good, this budget is a tax and spend budget that takes us in the wrong direction.

COUNTRIES ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE DUMPING IN AMERICA'S MARKETS

(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, the U.S. trade deficit is projected to exceed \$200 billion this year. Japan will once again exceed \$60 billion in surplus. If that is not enough to tax your exports, China is expected to take a \$70 billion chunk of money in trade surplus from Uncle Sam. Unbelievable.

Countries all over the world are dumping in our markets. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. If our trade policy is so good, why does not Japan do it? Why does not China do it? Why does not Europe do it?

The truth is, our trade policy is about as effective as tits on a boar hog.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back our stupidity and I yield back our other cheeks.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN INDIA

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about human rights abuses in India today.

As we may know, Christians and other religious minorities have faced terrible persecution in India recently. In January, an extremist mob burned alive an Australian missionary and his two sons who were trapped in their car.

This is not the first instance of persecution. Over Christmas, churches throughout India were burned and destroyed. Christians' homes were looted and stoned, and Christian individuals were attacked and stoned.

In January, missionaries and seminary students were attacked and beaten with rods. Then just last week, an extremist Hindu group called Vishwa Hindu burned 150 Christian homes in Orissa's Gajapati District and terrorized the Christian community with homemade guns.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Indian government to take decisive action to stop this continuing violence and bring to justice those who have committed the crimes, and protect the rights of all minority religious believers in India.

STOP THE KILLING IN KOSOVA NOW

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I apologize in advance to my colleagues and to the American people who may be offended by what I am about to show but I think it is very, very important in view of the events of today that we show this.

This is a poster. It shows a dead child who was killed with ethnic cleansing in Kosova, and it says his mother will never have to see him this way. They killed her, too.

My colleagues, this is what is going on today in Kosova, and I say Kosova because 92 percent of the population, the ethnic Albanians who live there, call it Kosova and they were being ethnically cleansed.

We need to stop it. We need to support the bombing. We need to support NATO troops on the ground. NATO is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It is concerned about genocide in Europe as it rightly should be.

Milosevic, the Serbian leader, has broken every agreement to which he has agreed. The U.S. vital interests are there. We have a vital interest to stop genocide. We have a vital interest to stop a wider war which will surely happen in the Balkans if we sit back and do nothing. It could suck in our allies, Greece and Turkey and Hungary and other countries.

We need to support U.S. troops. We need to support the bombing. Stop the killing in Kosova now. Stop the genocide and the ethnic cleansing.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET CONTRASTED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, let us compare and contrast