

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, May 14, 1999

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 14, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

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

Our hearts are full of thanksgiving, O God, when we meditate on the glories of Your promises to us and to all people. With Your gifts we can raise our eyes to see beauty and joy, to see new opportunities for service and a new vision of hope and peace in our world.

So we take this moment, gracious God, to offer our sincere prayers that we would be open to Your leading this day and grateful for all Your blessings. May Your peace that passes all human understanding be in our hearts now and evermore. 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 Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WHITFIELD 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.

HALT THE BOMBINGS IN YUGOSLAVIA FOR CHANCE AT DIPLOMATIC PEACE

(Mr. WHITFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, how long must the bombings of Yugoslavia continue? NATO has dropped over 15,000 bombs on the country of Yugoslavia and is causing the same pain and suffering as caused by Mr. Milosovic.

Hundreds of innocent civilians, men, women, and children have been killed. The infrastructure of the country is being destroyed. People are losing jobs, homes, and educational opportunities. In order to strengthen the chance for a diplomatic peace, the bombings of Yugoslavia should be halted.

IN MEMORY OF LEON HESS

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, last week, while our Nation lost one of its premier business leaders with the passing of Leon Hess, the owner of the New York Jets, my district, the United States Virgin Islands, lost more. We lost a valued friend.

Hess Oil of the Virgin Islands, which he established in the 1960's as an important part of his larger conglomerate Amerada Hess, continues to play an important role in the economy of the Virgin Islands, employing hundreds of Virgin Islanders.

But beyond the jobs and support of our local business community, he contributed substantially to St. Croix, where the refinery is housed, and to the entire Virgin Islands.

In addition to scholarships and support of local charities, his contributions include the St. Croix Central Police Station and a major portion of the St. Croix Vocational High School. After the major hurricanes which hit our islands in the past 10 years, his help and support of some of the plant operations were integral to our recovery.

Mr. Hess' most important contribution, however, is the example of his life. We join the many, great and small, who mourn his passing, and send our prayers to his wife Norma, son John, and daughters Marlene and Connie.

He has left a legacy to our Islands which will never be forgotten.

NEVADANS TODAY DELIVERING DONATIONS TO OKLAHOMA TORNADO VICTIMS

(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, when the fierce tornadoes recently ripped through Oklahoma and Kansas, many Americans stared in horror at the severe devastation tearing apart our Nation's heartland. In fact, many of us stopped to think what we could do just to help.

Such is the case with a dedicated group of people from my home State of Nevada. Four residents of Reno are presently gathering donations from area residents, such as clothes, blankets, baby diapers, and more, all loaded on triple trailer trucks, to be delivered in Oklahoma today as we speak.

Russell Rapon, his wife Holly, and Joey and Bonnie Blough have picked up donations all throughout the Truckee Meadows and Carson City so that they can show up with a message that Nevadans want to help.

Along with over 1,000 individual donations, local businesses have also chipped in to make this trip worthwhile for the Nevada foursome. This charitable spirit of the community volunteerism is certain to make the healing process of these tornado-ravaged victims just a bit easier.

I commend the efforts of these four Nevadans and wish upon them safe and prosperous travel this coming week. In speaking for the rest of my Nevada constituents, we wish for the strength and healing for all of those who were affected by this disaster.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I simply cannot understand why my Republican colleagues are so dead set against allowing a debate on campaign finance reform. One hundred and ninety-three Members have signed a discharge petition asking that we simply debate, only Democrats. Not one single Republican was willing to sign that discharge motion.

Americans know that special interest money unduly influences elections and policy. If my colleagues care about gun control, then campaign finance reform is their issue so that the NRA does not call all the shots. If health care is my colleagues' issue, campaign finance reform is for them so they can be heard over the HMOs and insurance companies.

Ordinary people are wondering what the heck we are doing here. I urge the

☐ 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.