

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, May 17, 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,
May 17, 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, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We long for peace in our hearts, O God, and we long for peace in our world. We pray that all people who have responsibility for the welfare of the nations will be surrounded with Your gifts of discernment and wisdom, with patience and understanding. May we be always fervent in our concern for those who suffer and diligent in our prayers for peace. Bless all Your people, O God, whatever their concern or need. 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 Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS 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.

NBC MINI-SERIES, ATOMIC TRAIN

(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, last night on national television, millions

of Americans tuned in to watch the NBC mini-series, "Atomic Train." This movie attempts to portray how serious and potentially disastrous a nuclear waste carrying train accident would be for America.

Well, Mr. Speaker, just the prospect of this movie has made the nuclear power lobbyists more nervous than an alligator in a luggage factory.

So much so, that they pushed NBC into making script changes in an effort to hide the real dangers of transporting nuclear waste on trains.

So tonight, as this mini-series concludes, Americans should know the dangerous reality that exists in transporting nuclear waste through American neighborhoods.

Members of Congress should know that this type of disaster could be a reality in their district, in their hometowns, next to their children's schools and playgrounds. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 45 and tell the special interests no to an atomic train coming through their districts.

Do not let them pull the wool over your eyes.

I yield back the balance of my time to NBC to tell the American people the truth about transporting nuclear waste.

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.

HOW LONG MUST THE BOMBING IN YUGOSLAVIA CONTINUE?

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

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, how long must the bombing of Yugoslavia continue? Fifty-four days of continuous bombing in Yugoslavia. For what purpose? The President, Vice President and Secretary Albright adopted a policy saying that we must stop the ethnic cleansing of Kosovo Albanians. They said that they must act to forestall a new round of ethnic cleansing by Mr. Milosevic, and that was the reason the bombing started.

The bombings have not worked. Today, there are nearly 800,000 refugees in Macedonia, another 500,000 internally displaced within Kosovo. Thousands have been murdered. Macedonia

has been destabilized, and our foreign relations with Russia and China severely strained. It is difficult to imagine how the situation could be much worse than what it is today.

This administration, as part of its policy, and rightfully so, criticizes Milosevic for killing innocent civilians, and he has killed innocent civilians. However, our bombings are killing innocent civilians in Yugoslavia today.

Mr. Milosevic has destroyed the infrastructure of Kosovo, and that is a valid criticism. Our bombings are destroying the infrastructure in Yugoslavia today.

As Mr. Michael Dobbs wrote in yesterday's Washington Post, this administration's oversimplistic comparison between Kosovo and Bosnia or Milosevic and Hitler has helped transform what would otherwise have been a Balkan crisis into a global crisis, the ramifications of which are being felt not only in America, not only in Yugoslavia but also in Moscow and in Beijing.

NATO's senior military officer, General Klaus Naumann said this weekend, we are nibbling away night by night and day by day at Milosevic's military capabilities.

Paul Watson of the Los Angeles Times reported from Yugoslavia on some of NATO's nibblings. Bomblets from cluster bombs have been aimed in the middle of the night at military forces and a park and playground in the village of Stare Garko. At least three of the unexploded bomblets lay in the playground, where three empty bunkers suggested that soldiers may have been based. There were no signs of damage to any military vehicles. Instead, four-year-old Dragan Dimic was dead, along with his neighbors Bosko Jankovic and Mr. Jankovic's wife Jenverosima. Their bodies lay smeared with dried blood where they fell at the edge of their small front patio.

Mr. President, stop the bombings. Give negotiations an opportunity to work. Are we willing to continue bombing whatever the cost in human life, in pain and in suffering until Mr. Milosevic removes all of his forces from Kosovo? There must be some other way. Bombing is not the answer. How long must the bombing in Yugoslavia continue?

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1654

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1654.

☐ 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.