

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, June 16, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m.

Father Steve Planning, Order of the Society of Jesus, Alexandria, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty and Eternal God, we give You thanks and praise today for the many blessings which You have bestowed upon our country. You have given us the gifts of freedom and democracy so that we might build a Nation based on the highest human principles. We humbly ask Your blessing upon us as we do the work for which we were elected. Help us to create a Nation in which justice, prosperity and peace form a part of every citizen's life. Give us the gift of wisdom so that we might make decisions which benefit all people, especially those most in need.

We ask this in Your name who lives and reigns forever and ever. 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. CUMMINGS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CUMMINGS 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.

WELCOMING REV. STEPHEN W. PLANNING, S.J.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome Father Stephen Planning and to thank him for delivering our opening prayer this morning.

Father Planning is a member of the Society of Jesus and was ordained to the priesthood this past Saturday, June 12.

He and his family are longtime residents of northern Virginia, where he began his Catholic education. Following his novitiate experience at Wernersville, Pennsylvania, Father

Planning taught high school in Nigeria and ministered in a nearby leprosy village. Upon returning to the United States, he received a master's degree in philosophy from Fordham University and spiritually advised indigent AIDS patients at a nearby Bronx hospital.

Father Planning also has ministered and taught English in Santiago, Chile, studied at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, California, where he completed a master's of divinity degree, and served in a local parish, and spent this year in Chicago, Illinois, where he finished a master's degree in education at Loyola University and worked at Christo Rey Jesuit High School, where he now will return to serve as assistant principal.

Our colleagues would be interested to know that this inner city high school has a unique corporate intern program which requires students to attend classes 4 days a week and hold down an 8-hour-per-week job with a corporate sponsor to help pay their tuition. Christo Rey's pioneering concept this past year saw 89 percent of its seniors graduate, 73 percent enroll in college.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Father Planning on his ordination and wish him continued success wherever he is led in the future to serve the cause of Jesus Christ.

LOOPHOLES LEAD TO NOTHING BUT BULLET HOLES

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, low fat, light on substance and without additives. These are the phrases that should describe a good diet. Unfortunately, these terms are better applied to the mockery of a proposal that the Republicans of this Congress have sent forward as gun safety provisions to this House floor.

Shame on us for allowing precious time to pass, lives to be lost, funerals to be held and tears to be shed before deciding to come to grips with a problem that has plagued us for years. Shame on us for allowing special interest groups to wield artificial power and influence over us when we direct the power flow of our country. Shame on us for repeatedly appeasing special interest groups at the cost and sacrifice of our youth. Shame on us.

Under the proposed legislation in the Juvenile Justice Act of 1999 it is conceivable that a visitor to the Nation's

Capital traveling from building to building is subject to face more security than a criminal trying to buy a firearm at a gun show. The Senate has realized the pressing nature of this situation and has acted. It is now our turn.

Mr. Speaker, our loopholes lead to nothing but bullet holes, and, my colleagues, I strongly urge swift passage of gun safety provisions.

HE WHO SACRIFICES LIBERTY FOR SAFETY WILL HAVE NEITHER LIBERTY NOR SAFETY

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today we take up the Consequence For Juvenile Offenders Act. It is my hope that all of us here in America will realize that more laws will not mean more safety. We seem so willing to give up our freedom for just a feeling of a little more safety. The truth is we will not be more safe until we deal with the real problem, the root problem, the human heart.

Two young men in Colorado broke more than 23 laws by brutally murdering 13 students, one teacher, and then took their own lives. One more law, a dozen more laws, would not have stopped them. They needed a change of heart.

Ben Franklin said he who sacrifices liberty for safety will have neither liberty nor safety.

As parents, as neighbors, let us not give up our personal freedoms. Instead let us deal with the real problem. Listen to the children, be a good neighbor, get involved in the community, and together let us make a better America.

GOP STANDS FOR "GUNS OVER PEOPLE"

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Many Republicans who fiercely fight any common sense gun safety measures will try to amend the juvenile crime bill to encourage schools to place the Ten Commandments in their classrooms. That makes sense. After all, it is free publicity for the gun lobby, a good way to reach young people, kids. My colleagues have seen the poster, now see the movie starring Charlton Heston, President of the National Rifle Association.