

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, February 9, 2000

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 9, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JUDY BIGGERT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

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

O God, our hope for all the years, our faith by You is bold, You help us face unwanted tears, our hands with You do hold.

You promise life without an end. You pledge the gift of love. Your peace and grace forever send, all gifts from heaven above. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. RILEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RILEY 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 has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 245. Concurrent resolution to correct technical errors in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 764.

SERIOUS BUDGET CONCERNS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues to express my serious concern with the President's budget proposal that was released earlier this week.

With the surpluses that this Congress has created, the President now seeks to renew the era of big government by expanding the size and the scope of the Federal bureaucracy, including the creation of \$350 billion of new government spending.

Madam Speaker, furthermore, the President failed to provide hard-working Americans with meaningful tax cuts and instead included a \$181 billion tax increase.

I am seriously concerned that the President's budget proposal will actually raid Social Security, rather than safeguarding it for future generations.

Madam Speaker, we need to pass a responsible budget, not one laden with irresponsible spending increases and pointless tax increases, a responsible budget like the budget supported by my Republican colleagues here today that will fund essential government programs, provide necessary tax relief, and protect Social Security while paying down our national debt.

I yield back the President's big budget government proposals which rob Peter to pay Paul.

AIRING OF SUICIDE PROGRAM RECKLESS AND IRRESPONSIBLE

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

Mr. RILEY. Madam Speaker, last week the public-access cable television channel operated by the Community Television of Lane County, Oregon aired a program that is shocking to the conscience of a civilized society. The program in question is a new do-it-yourself video that is a step-by-step guide to committing suicide based on the book "Final Exit" by Derek Humphry.

Mr. Humphry gives a video demonstration on what he claims is "dying with dignity." I do not believe that suicide is synonymous with dignity.

Madam Speaker, it is a sad day indeed when we make readily available on public television a step-by-step guide on where to find lethal drugs, with or without a doctor's prescription,

to be mixed with chocolate pudding or applesauce to bring about death or how to use a bag or mask to commit suicide. The airing of this devaluation of life is nothing short of reckless and to me irresponsible.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE PARMA SAMAD

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

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, Cincinnati has said good-bye to a wonderful lady and great teacher, Parma Samad, who died last month after a long, courageous battle with cancer.

As a student in Cincinnati's Catholic schools, I had the privilege of being taught by many outstanding teachers. My sixth grade teacher at St. Catharine's, Parma Samad, Miss Fierro at the time, was simply the best. Over her career, she taught in both the Catholic and public schools.

Madam Speaker, our entire community has benefited from her selfless dedication to her students. And she will be long remembered by those whose lives she touched over her 39-year teaching career.

Madam Speaker, I know that I am joined by many in Cincinnati who knew and admired Parma Samad when I offer my sincere condolences to Parma's husband, Ron, to her parents, Cosmo and Agnese Fierro, and to all her family. Parma will be greatly missed.

There is no question in my mind that she is looking down on us right now from a better place, and that she is smiling.

DISAPPOINTMENT WITH LACK OF COOPERATION

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I was disappointed to read last week a Roll Call story entitled "Democrats Feel Cocky After Big Speech." It said basically that House Democrats feel it is going to be "their way or the highway going into November."

When Mr. HASTERT became Speaker a year ago, he gave a speech in the House that reached out to our Democratic colleagues offering to meet them halfway, and that he expected them to meet us halfway. Now the Democrat leadership seems determined that there

☐ 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.