

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, July 12, 2000

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
July 12, 2000

I hereby appoint the Honorable GIL GUTKNECHT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

All powerful God, may we prove ourselves responsible for the task You set before us this day as Your servants.

We accomplish Your holy will when, as we persevere in doing good, we put to silence the idle chatter of the foolish.

May great works of justice rise from us to drown out all negativity and discontent.

Let us live as free people never using our freedom as a pretext for evil.

Rather, as servants of God, may we honor all people, love the communities we serve and fear—only You, now and forever. 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.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. TERRY 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.

### REA REDIFER

(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, today I would like to congratulate a constituent of mine, Mr. Rea Redifer, an artist of the Brandywine tradition, on a lifetime of artistic accomplishment.

Mr. Redifer, who comes from Chester County, Pennsylvania, is a watercolorist, but he is also a writer and filmmaker who has focused his work around the life of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. He has won literary awards and even an Oscar nomination for his work.

His portraits of Lincoln are favorites of mine. A print of one hangs in my office. His paintings capture not only the likeness of Lincoln, but also the soul of the man. In Mr. Redifer's images we can see both the sadness and moral fortitude of the President.

I am glad to have arranged an exhibit of Mr. Redifer's work to be displayed in the Capitol for the next couple of weeks in the Rotunda of the Cannon House Office Building. I encourage all of my colleagues, congressional staff, and tourists to take a few moments to stop by and enjoy Mr. Redifer's fine artistic accomplishments.

Again, I congratulate Mr. Redifer on his wonderful artworks, and thank him for sharing them with us here at the Capitol.

### INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on June 29 and July 6 two articles appeared in the Washington Post about Joseph Cooke and his fight to regain custody of his two children.

Both articles, in error, stated that Joseph Cooke, whose children have been held in German foster care for over 8 years, was recently allowed a 2-hour visit. Unfortunately, Joseph did not get to see his children. However, his mother, Patricia, did get to see her grandchildren, but did so at a drastically limited time.

For 8 years this family struggled silently, attempting to bring about justice on their own. In February, Joseph joined me at an event where for the first time he spoke publicly about the abduction and wrongful retention of his children. It was a difficult day, but one that led to the outpouring of support and attention from the media and the American public that this issue deserves.

The retaliation by the German Youth Authority and the Weh family, and their attempts to control the behavior of wronged American parents, is exactly why we need to continue pressing for action on this issue. We cannot let American parents be bullied into keeping their mouths shut. The German Youth Authority should be ashamed of itself for using access to one's children as a means to avoid bad press.

### THE MEANING OF THE TERM "A DO-NOTHING CONGRESS"

(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, I have been wrestling with the phrase of "a do-nothing Congress." If by "doing nothing" the Democrats mean that we are protecting the social security trust fund from being raided to pay for other big government programs, then they are right.

Or if they mean we have stopped racking up the national debt and borrowing money from our children, yes, I guess they are right there, too.

If they call us "the do-nothing" Congress because we have worked to lower taxes on married couples and our Nation's seniors, then I guess they are right there.

But if the Democrats' best argument for saying that we do not do anything is that we have worked to restrain Federal spending, to protect the retirement security for seniors, stop increasing taxes on hard-working Americans, then I am willing to take that as a compliment from my friends on the other side.

□ 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.