

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, July 18, 2000

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
July 18, 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.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 337

*Resolved*, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable John O. Pastore, formerly a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

*Resolved*, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4516. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendments to the bill (H.R. 4516) "An Act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. BENNETT, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BYRD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2550. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2551. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military construction, and for other purposes.

S. 2552. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for 5 minutes.

### CYPRUS BELONGS TO ALL CYPRIOTS

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, as I have done every year I rise again today to declare my fierce objection to the 26-year occupation of the Island of Cyprus by Turkish troops and to express my grave concern for the future of the area.

In July of 1974 Turkish troops invaded Cyprus, seized 37 percent of the island, killed 5,000 people and brutally expelled 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes. A quarter of a century later, 1,400 of these people, including 4 Americans, still remain unaccounted for.

For the past 26 years, Cyprus has been divided by the green line, a 113 mile barbed wire fence that runs across the island. Greek Cypriots are prohibited from visiting the towns and communities where their families have lived for generations. With 35,000 Turkish troops illegally stationed on the island, it is one of the most militarized areas in the world.

The illegal nature of the Turkish aggression and the brutality with which it was conducted aroused the indignation of the entire international community. The self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus remains a pariah in the international community with no nation, except Turkey, recognizing its legitimacy.

Today, the Cyprus problem continues to be one of the most critical in the

international arena. In his 2000 State of the Union address, the President labeled it one of his key foreign policy concerns. Numerous attempts have been made to find a peaceful resolution to the issue but so far all have foundered because of the irrational intransigence of Turkey.

Relations with the European Union have also been affected by this dispute.

Cyprus is in the group of applicants that are furthest down the path to entry into the European Union. While it recognizes the legitimate government of Cyprus, the EU has refused to negotiate with Northern Cyprus as a separate entity. They have also stated that Cyprus' accession is not contingent on a resolution of the territorial dispute. If the dispute over Cyprus is not resolved, Cyprus will accede into the European Union and Northern Cyprus will see the great economic disparity that already exists between the two regions widened.

Throughout the occupation, the United Nations has been trying to encourage a solution to the Cyprus problem. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan has sponsored proximity talks between the President of Cyprus, Glafcos Clerides, and Rauf Denktash, the self-proclaimed leader of the Turkish part of Cyprus. The third round of talks started this month. For these talks to be successful, there will have to be significant movement on the part of the Turkish Cypriots.

The solution that has been endorsed by the United Nations, by the European Community and by the United States is the formation of a bizonal, bicommunal federation. Unification with Turkey is not an option and neither is the status quo.

Two weeks ago, I wrote a letter to President Clinton co-signed by 231 of my colleagues and 81 Senators encouraging him to give his utmost attention and involvement to the third round of proximity talks. I hope that the President and the administration will give these talks the close attention they deserve.

Cyprus, Mr. Speaker, belongs to all Cypriots, whether they are of Turkish or Greek descent. America has a duty to the people of Cyprus and to itself to push for a peaceful and permanent resolution to the Cyprus problem. I hope it is a duty that we will discharge to the very fullest of our ability.

□ 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.