

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, July 19, 2000

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 19, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG OSE 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:

Lord God of Heaven and Earth, ancient writings describe a Suffering Servant you have given us as an example.

We are to follow in His footsteps: "He committed no sin and no deceit was found in His mouth."

Ever since, we have witnessed courageous people in the history of this Nation and throughout the world who have followed the example You have given us.

When insulted, they return no insult, when suffering, they do not threaten; instead, they hand themselves over to You, the only true and lasting Judge, who judges all things justly.

May justice in this land be founded in You. Guide the dealings of this Chamber so that all laws and decisions reflect Your Spirit at work 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG 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 agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 338

Whereas the Honorable Paul Coverdell served Georgia in the United States Senate with devotion and distinction;

Whereas the Honorable Paul Coverdell served all the people of the United States as Director of the Peace Corps;

Whereas his efforts on behalf of Georgians and all Americans earned him the esteem and high regard of his colleagues; and

Whereas his tragic and untimely death has deprived his State and Nation of an outstanding lawmaker and public servant: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Paul Coverdell, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

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, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 4578. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4811. An act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 4578) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies 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. GORTON, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. GREGG, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. REID, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. KOHL, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 4811) "An Act making appropriations for the foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the dis-

agreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. GREGG, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. BOND, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BYRD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

EXECUTING PREGNANT WOMEN

(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, if a woman on death row is pregnant, should she or should she not be executed? That is the question that was recently posed to the Vice President, by Tim Russert on Meet the Press. The Vice President responded, "I don't know what you're talking about."

When Mr. Russert asked the question again, the Vice President laughed and said he would want to think about it. The next day, Mr. GORE emerged from his campaign headquarters and said that it should be up to the felon to decide.

Mr. Speaker, most people on death row are there because they have willfully taken another life, often several of them. The death penalty is not given for manslaughter or third degree murder. It is only given to perpetrators of the most horrible crimes.

How on Earth could the Vice President believe that we should be asking these people for permission to kill their innocent, unborn children along with themselves?

Is the child guilty of the crimes as the mother? Obviously not.

We have had laws for hundreds of years against executing pregnant death row inmates.

Mr. Speaker, the Vice President's position on this issue is wrong. It is callous and cruel.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the issue of international child abduction, and to continue to make my colleagues aware that this issue has ripped 10,000 American children away from their parents.

I have been coming here almost every day since February 16 telling a story about an abducted child, and today I am going to be talking about Brianna

□ 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.

Nicole Ballout. Brianna was abducted by her noncustodial father, Samar Ali Ballout, during his weekend visitation on July 7, 1996. The abductor and Brianna's mother shared joint custody, but Mrs. Rogers had physical custody.

An unlawful flight to avoid prosecution was issued as well as a warrant for his kidnapping. The FBI and the State Department located Brianna in Southern Lebanon, and over 2 years, her mother has had sporadic contact with her, ranging from phone calls to receiving pictures when she was 4 in 1999. Mrs. Rogers has lost contact with Brianna and her abducting father.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this House and my colleagues to join me and to do whatever it takes to bring our children home.

EDUCATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that an education is the best provision for old age. Without an education, a person's options and their potential for growth are severely limited.

Nowhere is this philosophy more accurate than in America, where even many entry-level jobs require a college degree.

Unfortunately, America's public education system has been failing thousands of American students. Many of our schools are struggling just to provide the basic tools of modern education demands, computers, updated textbooks and even qualified teachers.

Republicans are working to solve these problems. We passed legislation that gives States maximum flexibility in how they use Federal education dollars.

We also passed measures to help improve teacher quality and reduce class size, and we passed legislation to improve education opportunities for disabled students. Republicans are making education a top priority and our children deserve no less.

SUBSTANCE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to address two pressing issues before our country today; substance abuse and mental health.

This week, I introduced H.R. 4867, the Youth Drug and Mental Health Services Act, along with my colleagues the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT).

This bill reauthorizes the Substance and Mental Health Services Administration which provides State mental health and substance abuse prevention grants throughout this country.

Drug addiction is often an intergenerational family problem with future use by children of addicts a very common occurrence. Sadly, this is a pattern I regularly saw as a school nurse, but I have also seen the success of SAMHSA prevention programs in my own district, particularly with Santa Barbara's Fighting Back.

This program provides successful public awareness initiatives, mentoring, criminal justice partnerships and health care intervention programs.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to move H.R. 4867 as soon as it is possible. This reauthorization is the best way to comprehensively address the problems of substance abuse confronting our communities. These problems are just too great for us to treat in a piecemeal fashion.

ELIMINATE MARRIAGE PENALTY TAX AND DEATH TAX

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, now is the time, once and for all, to eliminate the marriage penalty and the death tax. These are antiquated and unfair taxes, and they penalize too many American families.

In my district alone, more than 77,000 married couples are subjected to the marriage tax. There is no good reason why we are penalizing these couples who choose to marry. It is unfair financial hardship and it does not reflect the family values of this country. I hope the President will join us in our effort to eliminate this unfair tax burden.

I also want to see the elimination of the estate tax. It is obscene that in this country we tax the dead and penalize the survivors. The time has come to eliminate both these Federal taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President to put aside political considerations and help the Congress abolish these taxes. Why? Because it is the right thing to do.

WHITE HOUSE THROWING MONEY AROUND AT CAMP DAVID

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday it was \$40 billion, today they are talking \$150 billion at Camp David. Unbelievable.

While the White House continues to oppose a tax cut for married couples in America, the White House is literally throwing money around at Camp David like confetti, like cotton candy at a summer festival.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker, I believe this is a flawed and dangerous policy. The bottom line, a true, lasting and enduring peace will never be built on a foundation of dollars in the first place. I yield back the auction at Camp David.

REMEMBERING SENATOR PAUL COVERDELL

(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, yesterday America lost a true friend, and we were all saddened to hear of the tragic news that we had lost a colleague and friend in the United States Senate.

Senator PAUL COVERDELL was a true leader of the Senate, his beloved State of Georgia and to this Nation. As an ardent supporter of freedom and the American dream, the distinguished Senator from Georgia believed that freedom was best preserved and nurtured by a well-educated citizenry.

As a result, throughout his career, Senator COVERDELL fought for education reform which ensured that every child in America received a quality education in a safe environment.

Personally, I am honored to have had the recent opportunity to work with the Senator in passing a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Reagans, a family which he held in high regard.

Senator COVERDELL's tenacity and dedication to that effort, as well as to any project he led, were two of his most honorable attributes.

My deepest sympathies go out to Senator COVERDELL's family, colleagues, and his staff during this most difficult time.

Senator COVERDELL and his genuine love for our great Nation will be missed by colleague and friend alike.

EYES ON CAMP DAVID: LAND FOR PEACE

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

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, our eyes are on Camp David, and the focus is on various details, 90 percent, 92 percent, this or that concession. And I think it is important for us to take a step back and to look at the entire panoply.

The discussion is land for peace. This is the first time in recorded history when the land for peace equation has meant that the country that has won the wars has been asked to concede land.

Mr. Speaker, never has there been such extraordinary love of peace as we see in the people of Israel, willing to make concessions after they have won