

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, July 20, 2000

The House met at 10 a.m.

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

God, our Refuge and our Strength, there are people who suffer today amidst the blessings of this Nation. There are suffering people everywhere known to You alone. Help us to come to an understanding of suffering, the wisdom it brings, and the power it has to transform human lives.

There are those who suffer the consequences of their own wrongdoing and faulty judgment. There are those who suffer at the hands of those they love and others in the hands of unjust oppressors, victims of war, abuse, illness, neglect and the death of a loved one.

There are those who suffer routinely and endure criticism daily just for being good and working for what is right and just.

But there are also those who, by Your Spirit, embrace suffering out of dedication to their country, their profession or their family. There are even those who embrace suffering out of love for You and You alone.

May hope and forgiveness sustain those weakened by pain and may love and justice transform human suffering into joy.

You are our Strength now and forever. 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 California (Mr. LANTOS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANTOS 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 bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1791. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for harm-

ing animals used in Federal law enforcement.

H.R. 4249. An act to foster cross-border cooperation and environmental cleanup in Northern Europe.

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. 707. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize a program for predisaster mitigation, to streamline the administration of disaster relief, to control the Federal costs of disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2392. An act to amend the Small Business Act to extend the authorization for the Small Business Innovation Research Program, and for other purposes.

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

S. 2102. An act to provide to the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe a permanent land base within its aboriginal homeland and for other purposes.

S. 2712. An act to amend chapter 35 of title 31, United States Code, to authorize the consolidation of certain financial and performance management reports required of Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 57. Concurrent resolution concerning the emancipation of the Iranian Baha'i community.

S. Con. Res. 113. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress in recognition of the 10th anniversary of the free and fair elections in Burma and the urgent need to improve the democratic and human rights of the people of Burma.

S. Con. Res. 122. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the United States nonrecognition policy of the Soviet takeover of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania and calling for positive steps to promote a peaceful and democratic future for the Baltic region.

S. Con. Res. 124. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress with regard to Iraq's failure to provide the fullest possible accounting of United States Navy Commander Michael Scott Speicher and prisoners of war from Kuwait and nine other nations in violation of international agreements.

S. Con. Res. 126. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should support free and fair elections and respect for democracy in Haiti.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minute speeches on each side.

HILLARY CLINTON MIREN IN ANOTHER CONTROVERSY

(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, candidate Hillary Clinton is mired in another controversy. She has been accused of using an obscene ethnic slur when her husband lost a race for Congress in the 1970s. More than one person says they heard it, and now it is out in the open.

It has been said that the character of a person can sometimes best be seen in how they carry themselves when they lose. Ethnic slurs or throwing things are not generally regarded as marks of strong character.

Ms. Clinton, of course, denies that it ever happened. It sort of depends though on what the meaning of "it" is. Does it not?

Her husband says it did not happen, or at least not quite the way the other witnesses claimed it happened. He says something like it may have happened, because he says, and I quote, she has never been "pure on profanity." Not much of a defense there.

There are three witnesses who claim she did, and two, she and her husband, who claim she did not.

I just want to ask one question. Can anyone imagine Barbara Bush being accused of this or Nancy Reagan or Rosalyn Carter or Betty Ford or Pat Nixon or Lady Bird Johnson? There is definitely a stature gap here.

PERSECUTION AND HARASSMENT OF FREE PRESS IN RUSSIA MUST END

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as President Clinton makes his way to the G-8 Summit in Japan, there is no more important item on the agenda than to tell Mr. Putin, the President of Russia, that the persecution and the harassment of the free press in Russia must come to an end.

I have called to my colleagues' attention in the last few weeks the systematic harassment and persecution of the one remaining free media network in Russia. Yesterday this persecution was escalated to a new level when the Government authorities took steps to seize the personal property of Vladimir Gusinsky, the head of Media-Most which owns NTV Television Network,

☐ 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.