

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, September 20, 2000

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

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 20, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN COOKSEY 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, as Americans, young and old, we love life and desire to see good times. Yet You have told us: "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep the tongue from evil and lips from speaking deceit; must turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears turned to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against evildoers."

Lord God, deepen our desires for what is good and free of deceit. Perhaps the simple discipline of containing our speech today will calm the atmosphere around us, create solid ground for true dialogue, and bring peace to our corner of the world, 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 Illinois (Mr. WELLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WELLER 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.

### TRIBUTE TO EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL IN NEVADA

(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, I rise today to recognize and commend the emergency medical personnel that responded with skill and excellence to a tour bus crash which occurred on September 7 in a remote area, 20 miles north of Tonopah, Nevada.

The accident scene was every EMT's worst nightmare; 41 passengers trapped inside a bus which had turned over on its side and skidded for over 300 feet. Yet in a record 69 minutes, emergency crews from three counties treated, stabilized, and transported all of the patients, many of them critically injured, to three area medical facilities.

Mr. Speaker, although it is difficult to put into words the magnitude of this grave disaster, it is easy to express the respect and praise that I and my fellow Nevadans have for these emergency response personnel. Their commitment, courage, and dedication is an inspiration to every American. Forty-one people are living testimony today because of their heroism.

So today, Mr. Speaker, to all of the men and women who responded to the September 7 crash, and to all emergency response personnel in America, we thank you for a job well done, and God bless.

### RUSSIAN PRESIDENT PUTIN DETERMINED TO DESTROY INDEPENDENT MEDIA IN RUSSIA

(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, having just returned from Russia, I can testify that the Mafia permeates all aspects of Russian society, but when Mafia tactics are used by the government, we are dealing with a new threat.

I call my colleagues' attention to a lead editorial in today's Washington Post. "Russian President Vladimir Putin, who proclaimed his devotion to a free press during a recent visit to the United States, in fact seems determined to destroy Russia's independent media, the growth of which constituted one of the important successes of the post-Soviet era. His latest target is NTV, Russia's only independent television network. He is attacking it with a veneer of legality, but the underlying tactics of threats, imprisonments and political prosecution are not subtle."

Mr. Putin better change his course. He cannot be accepted by the civilized

world if he destroys one of the important achievements of the Yeltsin era—a free press. A free press is our last guarantee that Russia will develop in a democratic direction.

### JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND H.R. 4105

(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, while Congress fights over small pay raises, the Justice Department gave \$180 million worth of bonuses. If that is not enough to promote the Peter Principle, Robert Bratt and Joe Lake got big bucks for illegal contracts, illegal hiring of cronies, and illegal visas for two lovers they called field operatives, and neither was even charged.

Let us check further. Colgate got \$110,000, Sposato got \$85,000, Vail got \$75,000. Meanwhile, my \$1 minimum wage bill is still being blocked in the Senate, and this group of cronies at the Justice Department maintains dossiers on myself and all my colleagues, making sure we do not destroy their gravy train.

Beam me up here. It is time to pass H.R. 4105 and put a bulldog right on their buns, big time.

### TV AD SHOULD BE PULLED

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

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, an independent political group is running a television ad in Kansas City, Missouri, that is causing controversy that I want to comment on for my 1-minute.

According to the Washington Post, an actress in the ad portrays a mother who removed her child from the public school because "we didn't want him in a place where drugs and violence was fashionable. That was a bit more diversity than he could handle."

Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the ad. I am not familiar with the group that sponsored it. But the statement I read, if it is in the advertisement, comes perilously close to bigotry, which is a sentiment that has no place in American politics. Since the ad goes on to urge people to vote Republican, I think Republicans have a special responsibility to denounce it.

Mr. Speaker, one of my favorite passages from the Bible is from First Samuel. It says, "God does not see the

□ 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.

same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart." In that spirit, I urge the group responsible for this commercial to withdraw it.

I hope our State and country can go the rest of this election campaign with no further appeals to racial fear or prejudice.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO ADVO

(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, I want to congratulate ADVO, Inc. in its recovery of its 100th missing child that has been featured on the "Have You Seen Me" direct mail cards.

For 15 years, ADVO has been a strong commitment to aiding in the recovery and return of missing children. In partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploitative Children and the United States Postal Service, ADVO launched its America's Looking for Its Missing Children program in 1985. Reaching an estimated 79 million homes each week with pictures of missing children, the familiar "Have You Seen Me" cards are constant reminders to the public that hundreds of thousands of children are missing annually in our country.

In total, more than 40 billion pictures of missing children have been distributed to date, and Americans have responded in an unprecedented way. We announced on July 31 the joyous reunion of a 5-year-old Pennsylvania girl with her mother, following an 18-month abduction, its 100th recovery of a safe child resulting from the familiar mail cards.

One in six children is found as a direct result of programs like ADVO. It takes a few seconds of our time to stop, look, and think about the children that are featured on posters, on the cards, and on television. Each time we see one, we are presented with an opportunity to reunite a family with their missing child.

Once again, congratulations to ADVO on its continued commitment to a very worthy cause.

#### EDUCATION IS NUMBER ONE PRIORITY OF AMERICAN PEOPLE

(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, the American people have made it clear that education is their number one priority this election season.

Too many of our children are stuck in schools that do not prepare them to compete in the world, and I am sorry to say that the Clinton-Gore administration simply has not measured up in

this area. Their rhetoric is great, it is even flowery; but they have not even met the goals they set for themselves.

In 1994, Clinton and Gore announced with great fanfare their goals for the year 2000, but they have fallen far short of the mark. They said the U.S. would be first in math and science by the year 2000. Instead, we have fallen to 17th in math and 21st in science. They said all our schools would be safe and drug free by the year 2000. Instead, school violence is worse than it has ever been. Drug use is still common. Their goal for 2000 was that all adults would be literate by now. Instead, 44 million adults still do not have basic reading skills.

Promises versus results. People care a lot more about results than promises.

#### A REPUBLIC CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT MORALS

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a very special day for the district I have the honor of representing. On that day, 263 years ago, in 1737, Charles Carroll of Carrollton was born. Carroll County and Carroll Creek in my district was named for him.

Charles Carroll has received special honor here at the Capitol. His portrait hangs on the third floor, and a statute of him stands near the memorial entrance to the Capitol. Charles Carroll was a member of the first Congress and a framer of the Bill of Rights. He was the only Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence and he was the final surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, dying in 1832 at the age of 95.

Charles Carroll was outspoken about his faith and declared that his religious convictions had caused him to enter the American Revolution. In fact, his faith was so important in his life that he built and personally funded a house of worship.

Charles Carroll, one of the very first Members of this body, reminded us, and I quote, "Without morals a Republic cannot subsist for any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments."

That is just as true today as it was then.

□ 1015

#### ADDRESSING REAL AMERICAN PRIORITIES

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this summer we stood on this floor and pleaded with our Republican leaders not to enact reckless tax bills without securing the future of Medicare, Social Security, education, and to focus on paying down our debt.

During the recess I am sure that they, like I, talked to lots of people in our own districts who said that, yes, we would all like to have a tax cut, but we want to make sure we take care of business first.

Last week the leadership changed their stand and joined the Democratic concern to pay down the debt.

But time is running out.

Now we need to look at other Democratic priorities like affordable prescription drug benefits for our seniors who cannot buy the medication they need to maintain their health, investing in education to fix our crumbling schools and overcrowded schools so our children have a healthy environment to learn in, building our national defense, and taking care of our veterans who risked their lives to protect our country, and real managed care reform like we passed on this House floor, and most importantly, making sure Social Security is there not just for my dad's generation and my generation but our children's generation.

I have been listening to my constituents, and these are issues they want us to address, and I hope we will these last few weeks in session.

#### DATA ACT

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, the Internet and the new economy offers great opportunity. We have over 100 million Americans that are online. Every second, seven more Americans go online. There are now 4.8 million Americans employed in the technology sector. That is more than auto and steel and oil combined. So there is a tremendous amount of opportunity.

Unfortunately, when I talk with my educators, teachers, school administrators, and school board members back home, they tell me they notice a difference in the classroom when children have a computer and Internet access at home and those who do not. Many call that the digital divide.

I am pleased to say that the private sector has been stepping forward. Ford, Intel, Delta, American Airlines have stepped forward and are now offering to their employees, as an employee benefit, a computer and Internet access for use at home, benefitting 600,000 families. That is going to help.

Think about it. The laborer, the assembly line worker, the baggage handler, the flight attendant, their children having a computer and Internet