

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, September 28, 2000

The House met at 10 a.m.

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

Lord of truth, God of our salvation, at times we think we are wronged for simply doing what seems to be right to us, but who can really harm us if we are truly devoted to what is good?

Lord, allow no weakening of our commitment to be a body of justice and the defense of the oppressed.

Strengthen us to suffer for virtue's sake. For whom should we fear, or why should we be perturbed, if You, O Lord, are revered in our hearts?

Free the conscience of this assembly and this Nation, that we may be Your instrument of goodness and peace, 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 Florida (Mr. FOLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FOLEY 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 had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2647. An act to amend the Act entitled "An Act relating to the water rights of the Ak-Chin Indian Community" to clarify certain provisions concerning the leasing of such water rights, and for other purposes.

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

S. 1752. An act to reauthorize and amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BRUTALITY IN BURMA BEING IGNORED

(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 government of Burma has engaged in repressive, brutally violent tactics against its people.

Earlier this week we heard testimony of women, children and men being raped, forced into slave labor, and watching their villages and food sources destroyed. Squadrons of Burmese military have tortured and murdered villagers throughout the country.

One eyewitness recounts this horror: "Before the military killed them they captured them, they did not feed them rice or give them water for 7 days. They beat them and punched each of their faces more than 500 times. They sliced their legs and arms and dried them in the hot sun. They stabbed them at least 200 times each. They abused them until they cut out their intestines and then pushed them back in their gut, but didn't kill them right away. They kept them like that day and night and then killed them in the jungle."

In light of these atrocities, why does Burma not get more attention by the international community?

Mr. Speaker, the international community must do something to assist these people who have suffered for too many years at the hands of this brutal dictatorship.

COMMENDING JEFF SCHIEFELBEIN, FOUNDER OF CARPOOL

(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 am going to digress from my normal message on international child abduction to commend a new acquaintance, Jeff Schiefelbein. Jeff is founder of an organization called CarPool, a designated driver program that provides safe rides for the Texas A&M area to intoxicated or otherwise incapacitated students.

After receiving a DWI, a driving while intoxicated charge, and while serving an 18-month probation sentence, Jeff and his friends created a program intended to decrease the amount of drivers under the influence in the community that would be good for the users and the helpers.

This spring, CarPool received an award for the Outstanding Achievement for a New Committee at Texas A&M, and another award for the best Individual Contribution to Campus for his work on CarPool. In its first year of operation, CarPool gave 6,343 rides and is now in demand at other college universities, on other campuses.

Great by great young people. Congratulations to Jeff Schiefelbein at Texas A&M University and his friends for their dedication in stopping drinking and driving.

ADMINISTRATION PLAN TO RELEASE OIL IS RECKLESS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, after 7½ years of no energy policy and skyrocketing fuel prices, the Clinton-Gore administration plans to release 30 to 35 million barrels of oil from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve. It is not that we do not appreciate the gesture, but it is just a 2-day supply.

But there is a bigger problem. This is the first time that the reserve has been tapped since 1991, when the United States was in the middle of the Persian Gulf War and our oil supply was in danger of being cut off.

Madam Speaker, the administration's decision is ill-conceived, illogical, ill-advised, and perhaps even illegal. Even the administrations's own top advisors oppose tapping the oil reserve, including Treasury Secretary Summers, who said that the decision would be "a major and substantial policy mistake."

This Republican Congress has tried to promote a sound energy policy, both domestically and abroad, but the administration has vetoed every attempt at doing so. Yet 46 days before the election, the Clinton-Gore administration announces a desperate plan, which will not lower oil prices but will endanger our national security.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the Clinton-Gore plan as a blatant political ploy.

SOCIAL SECURITY INEQUITIES

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

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, the teachers in the State of Texas and in

□ 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.