

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, October 18, 2000

The House met at 4 p.m.

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

Lord, sometimes we are bewildered by what occurs around us. Forgive us, if we think our difficulties are so extraordinary. The fear of pain reveals us as human. We are vulnerable when anticipating troublesome times.

If we are to suffer, Lord, let it not be for our misdeeds, mistaken judgments or because we have infringed on the rights of others. If any one of us is suffering, let there be no disgrace.

You reveal Yourself as the God of compassion, You are close to all who suffer. Be their strength that in Your name, they may persevere in seeking justice and doing what is right.

Even the weakest among us, by being faithful, can give You glory 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 New York (Mr. GILMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GILMAN 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 bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1066. An act to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to encourage the use of and research into agricultural best practices to improve the environment, and for other purposes.

S. 1109. An act to conserve global bear populations by prohibiting the importation, exportation, and interstate trade of bear viscera and items, products, or substances containing, or labeled or advertised as containing, bear viscera, and for other purposes.

S. 1482. An act to amend the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-65, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, and in consultation with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on the National Military Museum:

John G. Campbell, of Virginia.
Henriette V. Warfield, of Virginia.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 18, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 18, 2000, at 9:27 a.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2296.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5212.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 428.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

UNITED NATIONS CONSIDERING RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL REGARDING ONGOING VIOLENCE IN MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, most of our colleagues are fully aware that Israel is being treated abysmally at the hands of the United Nations, principally in the General Assembly. Regrettably, the Palestinians have promoted and have adopted anti-Israel and anti-peace process resolutions.

Today, unfortunately, is no different. Despite UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's recent statement that, "words can inflame or soothe, and everyone needs a restoration of calm and quiet so as to create the best possible atmosphere for resumption of peace talks," the UN General Assembly is presently in an emergency session in which they will be considering, despite U.S. opposition, a resolution condemning Israel

regarding the ongoing violence in the Middle East.

As our U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Richard Holbrooke, stated, "the General Assembly wants to beat up on Israel" once again. It sounds to me that it is similar to the UN's "Zionism is Racism" resolutions of old. Accordingly, I urge our colleagues to join in condemning this latest act of incitement at the UN.

CHINA BOLDLY TRYING TO PICK OUR PRESIDENT

(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, news reports say a Chinese spokesman said, "America is our enemy, and we must prepare to fight them." Now, if that is not enough to infuriate Ronald Reagan, the spokesman further stated, "China does not want to see George Bush get elected." He said, "Bush will support and bolster Taiwan, and Bush will, in fact, build a missile shield around America, weakening China." I say that is a compliment to George Bush.

Because think about it, last election, China got away with funneling cash illegally to the Democratic National Committee. No investigation. This time they are boldly trying to pick our President. Beam me up, Congress. It is time to mandate an independent investigation into this Chinese business.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the lessons we should have learned at Pearl Harbor.

NATIONAL SECURITY THREATENED BY A LETTER

(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, here we go again. The Clinton-Gore administration is illegally threatening vital national security interests of the American public.

This time the illegality involved a letter written by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to Vice President GORE about a secret, illegal nuclear arms deal with an unidentified terrorist nation "that was not to be conveyed to third parties, including the United States Congress."

Yes, sadly, Vice President GORE kept his promise to the Russian Prime Minister instead of his promise to the American public.

□ 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.

He did not tell Congress about the letter or about Moscow's continued sale of nuclear equipment to Iran, a blatant violation of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Act.

Instead of being open and honest with Congress about this high level national security threat, GORE simply filed the letter away and kept silent.

Mr. Speaker, America deserves an administration that will work with Congress to protect the national security interest of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back Mr. GORE's flagrant disregard for our Constitution, our security, and our Country.

COSPONSOR H. RES. 635, EXECUTIVE STEEL DEFENSE RESOLUTION

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

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to consider cosponsoring House Resolution 635, the Executive Steel Defense Resolution. We currently have 205 cosponsors calling upon the President of the United States to initiate a section 201 trade case to bring to an end illegally traded steel in the U.S. domestic market.

Despite investing \$35 billion to modernize, despite the loss of 240,000 jobs, despite cutting back capacity by 20 percent, despite doubling productivity since 1983 because of collusion overseas, because of illegal dumping from countries overseas, particularly during the intervening time from 1998 until now, we have seen six bankruptcies of steel companies. We have seen an additional 6,000 steelworkers lose their jobs. We have seen capacity utilization decline from 90 percent to 75 percent.

We cannot afford to wait till the next Congress. We cannot afford to wait for the next administration. I call upon President Clinton to immediately file a section 201.

REMEMBERING COURAGEOUS SAILORS ABOARD U.S.S. "COLE"

(Mrs. FOWLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, today we remember those courageous sailors aboard the U.S.S. *Cole* whose dedication and conviction to freedom and democracy cost them their lives. We honor the sacrifice of those who were killed and pray for the speedy recovery of those who were injured and for the families of all those brave Americans.

To EMC Fred Stozier of Jacksonville, my thoughts are with him and his family as he recovers from his injuries.

We can never be completely immune from the darker forces of terrorism that lurk in every corner of the world.

We must counter these threats with a complete commitment to preparedness and strength. Our adversaries must know we will not shy away from our responsibility to preserve our national security and the precious ideals of democracy. The sacrifice of these Americans on the altar of freedom will never be forgotten. May God bless their souls and may God bless America.

UNITED STATES IN THIRD YEAR OF IMPORT STEEL CRISIS

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

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, what happens when a crisis is not resolved, a crisis that is allowed to grow, both in scope and intensity? In time, that crisis will become a disaster. Such a time is near at hand for our domestic steel industry.

We are in the third year of an import steel crisis. Our steel companies and workers are buckling under the weight of unprecedented, record-breaking foreign imports, much of it illegal. Thousands of our workers have been laid off. Six of our steel companies in the last 2 years have gone bankrupt. With this year's imports running higher than ever, the continued existence of a viable steel industry in this country is at risk.

The only way to avert such a disaster is to cut imports, to reverse the trend which is threatening an industry that is vital to our economy and our national defense.

That is why I join the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN) in introducing the bipartisan Executive Steel Defense Resolution. That is why I have joined the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY); the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA); the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY); the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE), from my home State; the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KLINK); the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MASCARA); and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE) in the bipartisan effort to achieve relief against disastrous steel import levels.

We call on the President to initiate a 201 proceeding, Mr. Speaker.

EFFORTS TO REDUCE PUBLIC DEBT AND PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE HELD HOSTAGE BY ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, our efforts to reduce public debt and protect the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds are being held hostage by the Clinton-Gore administration.

It has been 36 days since Congress proposed locking away Social Security and Medicare surpluses and dedicating 90 percent of the total surplus to paying off the public debt; and still no response from President Clinton and Vice President AL GORE.

There is a good reason they have not responded. They want to overspend.

President Clinton has threatened to veto seven appropriations bills because he claims they do not spend enough. Vice President GORE's budget proposal spends the entire surplus and raids the Social Security Trust Fund.

The President and Vice President should put debt reduction and protection of Social Security and Medicare ahead of spending and support the 90-10 debt reduction plan proposed by the Republican Congress.

REMEMBERING CHERONE LOUIS GUNN, KILLED ON U.S.S. "COLE"

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, on October 12, a terrorist bomb left, not only a hole in the side of the U.S.S. *Cole*, but a hole in the lives of families and friends of the 17 sailors killed by the blast. This is especially true of friends and family of 23-year-old Signalman Seaman Recruit Cherone Louis Gunn.

Seaman Gunn's life was marked by service to family, friends, community and Nation. His neighbors in Rex, Georgia remember him for always being available to help the local youth.

His passion to serve his community fueled his ambition to serve in law enforcement.

His desire to serve his Nation was expressed by his decision to follow his father's footsteps and join the Navy, where he would gain valuable experience which would help him enter law enforcement upon the end of his tour of duty.

□ 1615

Mr. Speaker, Cheron Louis Gunn always sought to serve his country, knowing the risk inherent in the military and in law enforcement. Yet he did not shrink from making his commitment.

I wish to offer my condolences to the Gunn family. It may be inadequate consolation, but it is important to remember that Seaman Gunn serves as a bright example of the qualities of honor and self-sacrifice which inspire the men and women of our Armed Forces.