

President to have the ability to have the support of Vice President GORE as he moves into the transition process.

Governor George W. Bush has a record of bipartisan leadership. I look forward to working with him in that process and in the next Congress of the United States. But in order to get that process smoothly transitioned, we cannot afford to lose any more days than we already have, where 4 weeks that are ordinarily used to begin the very difficult task of selecting nearly 6,000 people to take positions from cabinet levels on down and then to begin the process of planning a legislative agenda for the American people.

All of these things are delayed by the uncertainty created by the current situation, which becomes increasingly clear is serving no good purpose. Every time we move further down the process, the results are the same. Governor Bush is still ahead in the election. And it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that it is entirely appropriate at this time that the Vice President do the right thing for the country, the statesman-like thing for the country, and concede this election.

SEEKING PROTECTION FOR KASHMIRI PANDITS DURING CEASE-FIRE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I wanted tonight to spend a few minutes saying, first of all, that I am pleased that the Government of Pakistan has positively responded to India's month-long cease-fire in Kashmir.

□ 1845

I think many of us know that about a week ago, India declared a cease-fire unilaterally, hoping that it would get a positive response from Pakistan as well as from some of the secessionist or separatist organizations that operate within Kashmir. We have found out over the weekend that Pakistan did decide, as the foreign secretary said, to observe maximum restraint with regard to its troops that were deployed along the disputed border in Kashmir.

Last week, Mr. Speaker, I wrote to the Pakistani ambassador in Washington asking his government to accept India's call for a cease-fire, and I was very pleased again to hear that Pakistan's foreign secretary had indicated now that they will also observe it. In addition, I thought it was particularly relevant that the All Parties Hurriyat Conference had indicated that they might be prepared to begin talks or negotiations with India with regard to Kashmir. Certainly having them come back to the table and have discussions with the Indian government with regard to Kashmir is a positive

sign. Between the Pakistani actions and the actions of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, we might actually see some positive developments over the next few weeks or the next few months with regard to peace in Kashmir.

However, in the midst of all this, I found it very unfortunate that the Kashmiri Pandits, the Hindus as well as the Sikhs, who are a minority in Kashmir, continue to be the victims of violence. Over the weekend again, we heard, in fact, on Friday that four sleeping Hindu children between the ages of 3 and 15 years old were shot and killed in a remote Kashmiri mountain village. This is the third attack on Kashmiri Pandits in less than a week since India declared the cease-fire.

Again, why is it that the minorities in Kashmir, the Pandits, the Hindu minority as well as the Sikhs who have also suffered and some have been killed over the last week since the cease-fire, continue to be the subject of these attacks? I can only hope that with the joint cease-fire that now appears to be in existence and the fact that there may be talks with some of the separatist groups, that the violence against minorities such as the Pandits and the Sikhs will stop, because for too long they have been the victims, if you will, more than any other group, of the problems and of the violence and of the continued dispute over Kashmir.

Mr. Speaker, today I wrote a letter to the Pakistani ambassador in Washington not only thanking him for deciding to go ahead with the cease-fire but also asking that steps be taken to try to end the violence against the Pandits. I wrote a similar letter to the Indian ambassador in Washington, not only commending him and Prime Minister Vajpayee for sticking with this Ramadan cease-fire for the month but also asking that steps be taken by the Indian government to try to protect the Kashmiri Pandits as well.

I wanted to add, Mr. Speaker, that the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Vajpayee, has to be commended not only for unilaterally declaring the cease-fire last week but also for doing so despite the fact that the separatist militants continued with their violent acts over this last week and despite the fact that many domestic opponents criticized his action. Prime Minister Vajpayee has told me many times that he cares for the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits and understands that there will never be peace in Kashmir unless they can live in their homes without fear. I also ask once again that when any peace talks take place over the next few weeks, that the status of the Pandits and their security also be raised in the context of those peace talks. If we are ever going to see toleration of all religions in Kashmir, it is certainly necessary that steps be taken now to protect them, to protect their

security, and that reference be made to their status in the context of any peace talks that might take place.

INAUGURATION OF MEXICAN PRESIDENT VICENTE FOX

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the world's attention is focused on the presidential election here in the United States, I would like to take a few minutes to talk about a very historic occurrence that took place at the end of last week. I had the honor, along with several of our colleagues, a delegation led by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the Secretary of State here, and several others, including the Governor of California, Gray Davis, to represent the United States at the inauguration of Vicente Fox in Mexico.

This inaugural took place last Friday morning. It was very thrilling because it was clearly one of the most historic developments in modern history for the western hemisphere. After over 7 decades of one-party control where the Institutional Revolutionary Party, established in 1928, had controlled Mexico, we saw an election take place on July 2 at which the opposition party, the National Action Party, and its nominee, Vicente Fox, was successful.

When we look at what it is that actually brought these free and fair elections about, it is very important to realize that it has been the expansion of our Western values that has been responsible for it and was really a coalition that consisted, I believe, of primarily the statement that was first made by Ronald Reagan in November of 1979 when he announced his candidacy for President in which he said he envisioned an accord of the Americas where we would have the free flow of goods and services.

As we all know, that ended up with legislation that passed in 1993 known as the North American Free Trade Agreement. While I know that NAFTA is often maligned, we have to realize that there has been tremendous success in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. We have seen a dramatic increase in the standard of living in all three countries, in large part due to the expanded trade that we have enjoyed.

Now, what happened was that 6 years ago, following the beginning of major economic reforms in Mexico, we saw the call by President Ernesto Zedillo for free and fair elections. He established an organization known as the IFE, the Federal Electoral Institute in Mexico, that would in fact be independent of the government and oversee the electoral process. It worked out extremely well, and we finally saw the

completion of that tie between economic and political freedom last Friday.

We were very privileged, as I said, to be able to represent the United States. Our governor, Gray Davis, was the first governor of California since Earl Warren to attend an inauguration of a Mexican president. I believe the significance of that and the representation that we had from the United States is very, very important.

President Fox has a very interesting challenge ahead of him, but he had some moving remarks in his inaugural address. He talked about the challenge of improving the economy and making sure that no one in Mexico is left behind. He said, "We can't have islands of prosperity amidst seas of poverty." His commitment to ensuring that the children of Mexico are addressed, their needs are addressed and taken care of, his commitment to making sure that we see further deregulation so that the small business sector of Mexico can thrive is very, very important.

I will say that there is another issue that is very important, especially for my State of California, dealing with the challenge of illegal immigration which has been very great. President Fox is the first Mexican president to come forward and state unequivocally that Mexico needs every Mexican, meaning that he wants to create an economy so that people in Mexico will not have an incentive to flee across the border into the United States.

I am very, very encouraged about this wonderful relationship that we are going to have with Mr. Fox. I am convinced that the encouragement which we have provided through that election process has been very, very key to the success that we are seeing. I look forward to working with him and with my colleagues to strengthen this very, very important relationship.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2030

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARR of Georgia) at 8 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 126, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order

at any time without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the joint resolution (House Joint Resolution 126) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes; that the joint resolution be considered as read for amendment; that the joint resolution be debatable for one hour, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal business.

Mr. DIXON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

Mr. PASTOR (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 6:15 p.m. on account of official business.

Mr. GUTKNECHT (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and December 5 on account of a death in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. McNULTY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BONILLA) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GOODLATTE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH, for 5 minutes, December 5.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 2796. An act to provide for the conservation and development of water and related

resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

HOUSE BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills and joint resolutions of the following titles:

September 19, 2000:

H.R. 4040. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of a program under which long-term care insurance is made available to Federal employees, members of the uniformed services, and civilian and military retirees, provide for the correction of retirement coverage errors under chapters 83 and 84 of such title, and for other purposes.

September 22, 2000:

H.R. 1729. An act to designate the Federal facility located at 1301 Emmet Street in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the "Pamela S. Gwin Hall."

H.R. 1901. An act to designate the United States border station located in Pharr, Texas, as the "Kika de la Garza United States Border Station."

H.R. 1959. An act to designate the Federal building located at 643 East Durango Boulevard in San Antonio, Texas, as the "Adrian A. Spears Judicial Training Center."

H.R. 4608. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 220 West Depot Street in Greenville, Tennessee, as the "James H. Quillen United States Courthouse."

September 29, 2000:

H.J. Res. 109. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes.

October 6, 2000:

H.R. Res. 110. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes.

H.R. 940. An act to designate the Lackawanna Valley and the Schuylkill River National Heritage Areas, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2909. An act to provide for implementation by the United States of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4919. An act to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Exports Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions under those Acts, to authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5193. An act to amend the National Housing Act to temporarily extend the applicability of the downpayment simplification provisions for the FHA single family housing mortgage insurance program.

October 10, 2000:

H.J. Res. 72. Joint resolution granting the consent of the Congress to the Red River Boundary Compact.

H.R. 999. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to improve the quality of coastal recreation waters, and for other purposes.

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.