

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, March 13, 2000

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 13, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAN MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are appreciative, O God, of our own heritage of faith for we know that we have gained strength and confidence by knowing our traditions and the values that make our traditions come alive. Yet we celebrate this day, gracious God, the opportunities that we have to hear other voices of faith and to learn about differing traditions. Grant every person, whatever their background or responsibility, not only to experience the fullness of their own faith, but to understand more fully the practice and traditions of others. Help us to lift our eyes and open our ears so we realize more fully that every person has been created in Your image and we share together in Your abiding spirit and love. This is our earnest prayer. 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DEFAZIO 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill on Friday, March 10, 2000:

S. 376, to amend the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 to promote competition and privatization in satellite communications, and for other purposes.

APPOINTMENT AS INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to clause 6 of rule II, the Chair announces the joint appointment by the Speaker, majority leader, and minority leader of Mr. Steven A. McNamara of Sterling, Virginia, to the position of Inspector General for the United States House of Representatives for the 106th Congress.

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill, a joint resolution, and a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1653. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act.

S.J. Res. 39. Joint resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Korean War and the service by members of the Armed Forces during such war, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 95. Concurrent resolution commemorating the twelfth anniversary of the Halabja massacre.

FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY IS PREVENTING AMERICA'S CHILDREN FROM LEARNING

(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, there is some troubling news about our educational system which seems to be heading in the wrong direction.

A recent survey of college students showed that 45 percent of those college students would be denied U.S. citizenship because they could not correctly answer at least seven out of ten basic American history questions.

Mr. Speaker, foreigners know more about U.S. history and they know that history better than our own children. The poll showed that 56 percent of students could not place in order of occurrence the U.S. invasion of Normandy, the Korean War, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the fall of the Berlin Wall. But 94 percent knew that Leonardo DiCaprio was the lead actor in "Titanic."

Mr. Speaker, Federal spending on education is at an all-time high; and yet, 40 percent of our Nation's fourth graders fall below the basic level of reading achievement. It is obvious that more money on failing programs is not the answer.

We need to enact real educational reform that give parents and teachers the resources they need to educate our children.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back all the Federal bureaucracy that is preventing our children from learning U.S. history.

AMERICA IS SUBSERVIENT TO OPEC COUNTRIES

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

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, how long can we Americans tolerate the spectacle of our country groveling at the feet of OPEC countries and begging them to produce more oil, pleading with them to send us more oil, pleading with them to reduce the cost of gasoline at the pump, of our energy costs?

We are subservient to the OPEC countries. The greatest country in the world is being dictated to in its practices by OPEC. We cannot tolerate that. We shall not sustain that.

For those purposes, we are going to begin to circulate very soon a bill which will create a blue ribbon commission to determine how within 10 years we can become self-sufficient in energy. No more of this dependence on foreign oil. We can do it ourselves and we must.

We must explore to the fullest extent the oil possibilities in our own land, in Alaska, and wherever energy can be produced and conserved. We must give offshore drilling a fair chance with due diligence and due respect to the environment. But we must do everything possible so that we do not have to be enslaved by OPEC.

□ 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.