

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, May 18, 2000

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 18, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BURR of North Carolina 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: Heavenly Father, in this our new day, reinforce the lines of our minds and set our hopes completely on the power that comes only from You and Your revelation.

Like obedient children, do not allow us to act in compliance that comes from former ignorance. Rather, redirect our minds and hearts to You and the architects of this Nation, for You have called us to serve Your people.

As our calling comes from One who loves us and is holy, so let us become holy in every aspect of our conduct. For it is written, "Be holy because I am holy."

You speak and we respond to You who lives 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 New York (Mr. CROWLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CROWLEY 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. It is the Chair's intention to take up to 10 one-minute speeches on each side.

THE U.S. IS NOT THE WORLD'S POLICEMAN

(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 was pleased to learn earlier this week that the United Nations diplomats for the first time in 30 years, three decades, will finally reconsider the allocation of peacekeeping costs.

Mr. Speaker, it is about time. Currently 30 countries pay 98 percent of the U.N.'s peacekeeping budget, while 158 countries pay only 2 percent, regardless of their economic performance. In addition, it is the United States' share of nearly one-third of that cost of the United Nations peacekeeping overall budget that bothers most of us.

Since 1973, when payment proportions were established, the economies of many of the member nations have improved tremendously. Now these nations can afford to pay their fair share, but unfortunately they just do not want to.

Mr. Speaker, it is about time that the member nations pay their fair share of U.N. peacekeeping costs. The United States cannot afford nor should it be called upon to be the world's policeman and its banker.

I yield back once and for all the unfair U.N. peacekeeping payment system that has punished the U.S. and our taxpayers for too long.

CONDEMNING TREATMENT OF 13 IRANIAN JEWS

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the actions of the Iranian government for their treatment of the 13 Iranian Jews they now hold. Numerous Members of this body and the international community have come forward to express their outrage at this travesty of justice, and I join them in their anger.

Mr. Speaker, these 13 Jews have been wrongly imprisoned. Some have even been forced to confess to imagined crimes.

When President Katami was elected in Iran, it was on a platform of moderation and reform supported by all the Iranian people. In response to his election, the United States made good will overtures toward Iran, including the

lifting of sanctions on the import of Iranian foodstuffs like pistachios and carpets, as well as the easing of travel restrictions.

Yet, despite the rejection of hard-liners in the last election, the leaders in Iran are still on the wrong track. At a time when the United States has sought to improve relations with the Iranian people, the government of Iran must reciprocate and respect fundamental human rights and act as a responsible member of the world community. When travesties such as this trial continue, it should concern us about our policy towards Iran. The Iranian government must put an end to this travesty, free the 13 and leave them and their families to live in peace.

I urge my colleagues to speak out on this issue and cosponsor H. Con. Res. 307, expressing the sense of Congress regarding the ongoing prosecution and persecution of 13 members of the Iranian Jewish community.

IN SUPPORT OF PNTR WITH CHINA

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that a negative vote on permanent normal trade relations will hinder the further democratization and human rights in China. We have a moral imperative to make China's trade permanent with us. If we truly care about improving human rights, the U.S. cannot seal off one-fourth of the world's population. To do so would ignore the ills we seek to remedy.

PNTR will not only benefit commerce between our two countries. It will also allow for cultural and religious exchanges. Ignoring China will not bring freedom for religious expression. It will not end China's cruel policy of limiting family size. It will not stop their horrific policy of forced abortions. Ignoring China will not bring about democracy. Isolating China will only separate our two countries even further and close off avenues necessary to improve human rights or establish religious freedom.

VOTE AGAINST ANTIMISSILE SYSTEM WILL SAVE TAXPAYERS BILLIONS

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

☐ 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.