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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC, June 14, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable Jim Gibbons to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Father Christian R. Oravec, President, St. Francis College, Loretto, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Lord, bless the Members of this House, chosen representatives of our Nation. Give them the wisdom and understanding, courage and patience needed for true leadership. Bless all our citizens today in celebrating Flag Day. May our flag, which adorns this Chamber and waves throughout our country and the world, serve as a constant reminder of Your gifts of life and freedom, justice and peace.

May this symbol of glory, old and still to come, fill us with pride in our achievements and humble compassion for those who suffer in any way. When we see it standing as silent sentinel over the graves of our servicemen and women, here and abroad, help us also to value the price of honor and self-sacrifice.

Lord, thank You for all your gifts, 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 1, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule 1, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The Speaker pro tempore. The question is on the Chair’s approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yes 352, nays 59, answered “present” 1, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 270]

YEAS—352

NAYS—59

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

June 14, 2000

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANTOS 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 and a joint resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1507. An act to authorize the integration of the Airline Industry.

S. 2722. An act to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Ed W. Freeman, James K. Okubo, and Andrew J. Smith.

S.J. Res. 46. Joint resolution recognizing the 225th birthday of the United States Army.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-181, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, appoints Ted R. Lawson of West Virginia to serve as a member of the National Commission to Ensure Consumer Information and Choice in the Airline Industry.

WELCOMING FATHER CHRISTIAN R. ORAVEC

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), in welcoming Father Christian Oravec. Father Christian is the President of St. Francis College, one of the oldest Catholic colleges in America, which sits atop the Allegheny Mountains in Central Pennsylvania. He is the longest serving president of that college in its history, since 1977.

In addition to doing a superb job in serving our region of the country, Father Christian is a leader in the community. In fact, he is deeply involved in 16 different civic organizations. Beyond that, he is a beloved parish priest. It is my great pleasure to help welcome him here today.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, let me add my welcome to Father Christian. My colleague and I share Father Christian. He is right on the border at one of the finest schools in Pennsylvania, and it is just marvelous to have him here.

His prayer was so good. He said the only problem is that they limited him to 125 words, and he can not say much in 125 words.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 1-minute requests on each side.

CALLING ATTENTION TO SERIOUSNESS OF MISSING NUCLEAR SECRETS

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I call my colleagues’ attention to an editorial in The Washington Post entitled Nuclear Nightmare: “Guarding the nation’s nuclear secrets is about the most basic duty of an administration. The danger of nuclear proliferation is so serious that the United States bombs Iraq, sanctions India and Pakistan and kowtows to North Korea, all in an attempt to prevent weapons of mass destruction from falling into the wrong hands.

That unidentified hands could have quietly removed, at Los Alamos, two computer drives with information on nuclear proliferation, is deteriorated under the administration. The danger of nuclear proliferation is so serious that the United States bombs Iraq, sanctions India and Pakistan and kowtows to North Korea, all in an attempt to prevent weapons of mass destruction from falling into the wrong hands.

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TACTICS OF KGB ARE UNACCEPTABLE

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the KGB is back. Yesterday, the head of Russia’s only free media was arrested; and as we meet here this morning, he is still in prison.

President Putin of Russia is in Madrid claiming not to know anything about this. He is either a puppet or he is a perpetrator.

I call on the Russian Government to release, without any further delay, the head of the only free media network in Russia. This is the network which reported accurately on the war in Chechnya. This is the network that can provide us with the hope of building a democratic society in Russia.

The tactics of the KGB are unacceptable in the 21st century.

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN RUSSIA

(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, I also rise out of concern for the human rights situation in Russia.

Yesterday, the Government of Russia took a giant step backwards in human rights as Vladimir Goussinsky, the CEO of Media Most, was arrested, imprisoned and is at present being interrogated.

So much for freedom of speech and freedom of the press in Russia.

Mr. Goussinsky has been the most pro-Western and independent of Russia’s media entrepreneurs and has rallied strong support for democratic reforms in Russia.

This arrest comes on the heels of the raid of Media Most offices several weeks ago and demonstrates how human rights, particularly freedom of the press, is deteriorated under the administration of President Putin.

The Putin administration has taken extreme measures to control information. Government officials report about the “problem” of the media giving airtime and print space to views of “terrorists.”

Mr. Speaker, expressing political and religious views, even if it is in opposition to the government, is not terrorism. It is freedom.

I urge the Russian people to speak out against the latest abuse of freedom by the Putin administration and call on President Clinton to pressure the administration to release Mr. Goussinsky.

FACES OF GUN VIOLENCE VIGIL

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address