

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Friday, June 23, 2000*

The House met at 9 a.m.

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

Almighty God, at times as true believers we seem aliens in a hostile land. Confirm us in our calling to be Your people.

As sojourners on our way to Your eternal dominions, we can be so preoccupied ourselves that we are not as attentive as You would have us be to the human dramas that surround us each day.

At other times we are so distracted by flash bulbs and public opinion and so captivated by passing things that we lose our way on the path of integrity and truth. Purify us by Your Holy Spirit.

Keep away from us all worldly desires that wage war against the soul of this Nation. During this our earthly pilgrimage deepen our commitment to truly know one another and assist each other along the way.

Raise us up beyond self-doubt and suspicion with informed and good conscience that we may be freed to move on accomplishing Your holy will in ordinary deeds. You live and love in us 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. WOOLSEY 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 1-minute at the end of the legislative day today.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their re-

marks on H.R. 4690, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to House Resolution 529 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4690.

□ 0904

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4690) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, with Mr. HASTINGS of Washington in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, June 22, 2000, the amendment by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE) had been disposed of and the bill was open for amendment from page 35, line 8, through page 35, line 14.

Pursuant to the order of the House of that day, no further amendment to the bill shall be in order except pro forma amendments offered by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate and amendments printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on or before June 22, 2000, which may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or his designee, shall be considered read, shall not be subject to amendment (except pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate), and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question.

Before consideration of any other amendment, it shall be in order to consider the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) to section 110, which shall be debatable only for 40 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WAXMAN

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. WAXMAN:

Page 37, line 11, after the period, insert the following:

The preceding sentence shall not apply to litigation filed before January 1, 2000, that has received funding under section 109 of Public Law 103-317 (28 U.S.C. 509 note).

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, June 22, 2000, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 4 minutes.

I am offering this amendment with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN); the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN); and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW). This is the third time this week we have offered an amendment to an appropriations bill to allow the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Justice Department to continue their tobacco lawsuit. The first time we offered our amendment to the VA-HUD bill, we lost on a close vote of 197-207. The second time we offered the amendment, we reached an agreement with the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), the subcommittee chairman, and prevailed on a voice vote. I thought that this issue had been resolved. I thought the House had determined that the veterans and America's taxpayers deserved their day in court. The Federal lawsuit would be decided by a judge and a jury in a court based on the merits of the case, not by Congress through legislative riders.

Unfortunately, I was wrong. The bill before us today, the Commerce-State-Justice appropriations bill, would undo the agreement we reached on Tuesday. Once again, it contains a rider that would defund the Federal tobacco lawsuit.

During the debate over the past few days, we have learned several things. First, we have learned that stopping the Federal lawsuit is unfair to veterans. In 1998, Congress made a promise to veterans when we took the funds that were directed at veterans for cigarette-related disabilities and used it for highways. Congress said, We'll go to

□ 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.