

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, June 29, 2000

The House met at 10 a.m.

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

As Independence Day approaches this Millennium Year, we praise You and bless You, Lord God, for the birth, life, and continuing development of this great Nation, the United States of America.

Whenever and wherever in the course of human events courage and commitment cause a people to take a stand on self-evident truths, we rejoice. Before You and in You, the Creator, all are created equal.

Endowed by You, the Creator, with certain unalienable rights; we as a people accept as well certain responsibilities to protect and defend always for ourselves and for others life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

With a firm reliance on the protection of Your Divine Providence, we renew our pledge today to serve this Nation, knowing full well that the power of this assembly is derived from the consent of the governed.

In You we place our solemn trust, 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 gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TURNER 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 without amendment a bill and concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 3051. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a feasibility study on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 333. Concurrent resolution providing for the acceptance of a statue of Chief Washakie, presented by the people of Wyoming, for placement in National Statuary Hall, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 344. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to Father Theodore Hesburgh.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill and a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2719. An act to provide for business development and trade promotion for Native Americans, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 125. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1515) "An Act to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, and for other purposes."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minutes on each side.

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION DECISION

(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, yesterday the Supreme Court, by the narrowest of margins, ruled that the Nebraska law banning partial birth abortion was unconstitutional. Actually, partial birth abortion is not an abortion. It is a pre-term delivery that results in infanticide.

Partial-birth abortion is so gruesome and barbaric that it is beyond the pale of any nation wishing to be known as civilized. It is in every case unjustifiable. It is in no case the lesser of two evils. It violates every principle of dignity, morality, ethics, and law that this Nation has stood for since its founding.

The Supreme Court, acting as an oligarchy of five, has imposed infanticide on a decent nation. Sadly, it is declared the murder of innocent, healthy newborns to be within the bounds of the law.

The court used Roe v. Wade as the basis for their decision, showing how

radical the Roe decision really was. This ruling, like the Dredd Scott decision, has excluded a whole class of human beings from constitutional protection.

Shame on the court. This is a dark day for America.

SENIOR CITIZENS SUFFERED BIG LOSS YESTERDAY

(Mr. TURNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, last night on this floor, the big drug manufacturers won a big victory, and our senior citizens suffered a big loss.

The big drug companies spent \$100 million on a lobbying campaign that paid dividends, but only by a margin of three votes, and only after the rules were manipulated to deny the House Democrats the opportunity to vote on a real plan providing real relief for our seniors who are paying the high cost of prescription drugs.

Looking out for the big drug manufacturers instead of our seniors led our Republican leadership to pass a plan that will funnel hundreds of millions of dollars into the hands of big insurance companies rather than help our seniors afford to pay their medicines.

Even the big insurance companies say it will not work. In fact, the President of Blue Cross/Blue Shield said, and I quote, "This idea of a private sector drug benefit provides false hope to America's seniors because it is neither workable nor affordable." We can do better. Let us work together to be sure we do better. Our seniors deserve no less.

CONGRESS ANSWERED PLEAS OF NEVADA'S SENIORS

(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, let us come back to reality for a minute. For months now, our seniors have been asking, even begging, for relief from the high cost of prescription drugs that they have to take.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in this well and announce that this Republican Congress heard and answered the calls of those senior citizens.

Yesterday, the Republicans passed the Bipartisan Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit plan that will benefit

□ 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.