

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, July 23, 2001

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ISSA).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
July 23, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DARRELL E. ISSA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2001, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, other than majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

### PRESIDENT BUSH'S FIRST 180 DAYS

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, we are in our busiest legislative session in July; and it is important to go back and consider all of the accomplishments we have had in the last 6 months. All of us have worked alongside with the President in tackling some very tough issues, and I think it is important that we remind everybody of the important victories that I think are a great benefit to the American people.

When thinking about the first 180 days of President Bush's service to our Nation, there are many accomplishments across a broad spectrum, both national and international issues, that I think are clearly evident; and I wish to bring to my colleagues' attention. From education and the environment, to health care and national security, the President has taken an active stance in promoting an agenda that has received both public and bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, let me be specific here. For example, the President's budget, with bipartisan support, funds essen-

tial priorities, pays down a historic level of debt in this country, while, of course, simultaneously providing tax relief to every taxpayer in every tax bracket.

The President inherited a faltering economy. He signed into law the largest tax cut in 20 years. This was important because it provided a needed boost while simultaneously proposing measures to increase trade and stabilizing energy prices.

President Bush's efforts to expand the quality of health care for all Americans has led to the largest increase in medical research funding, the development of 1,200 new community health care centers for rural and low-income Americans, as well as immediate assistance to seniors in the form of a prescription drug discount card that will reduce their bills by 10 to 15 percent or more.

While working to improve health care for American seniors, the President has also taken action to increase access for disabled Americans for better housing, transportation, greater employment opportunities, and overall access to community life. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, his appointment of a bipartisan commission to improve Social Security reveals his deep concern for working Americans and the effect Social Security will have for them long after retirement.

While working to protect the interests of American citizens at home, the President has also worked diligently in order to protect American interests throughout our global community. The \$8 billion increase of defense spending that we passed will improve the quality of life for all men and women who have committed their lives to military service. President Bush's commitment to those in the armed services was no more clearly seen than in his efforts to ensure the safe and expedient return of the U.S. crew that was detained in China. That was no small feat, a diplomatic coup; and I think this is a great success that we, as a Nation, can be proud of.

His efforts have also led to the development of a comprehensive review of all areas of the military while also carrying out a successful missile defense test.

President Bush's agenda also focuses on strengthening the ties with the global community. His travels to Europe reflect his efforts to promote key foreign policy tenets that aim to assist developing nations in fighting poverty and improving global health care while

also promoting an international awareness for environmental conservation. These can be clearly seen in his efforts for partnership with the African nations on issues ranging from the fight against HIV/AIDS to the greater development of international trade.

Mr. Speaker, his commitment to the international treaty that will reduce the worldwide use of 12 dangerous chemicals exemplifies his concern for the global environment. The President's foreign policy efforts also reflect a sincere commitment to strengthening the young independent democracies of Eastern Europe. Moreover, as the first President to give a radio address in Spanish, the President has also worked to strengthen the alliance of the North American nations through active participation during the Summit of the Americas.

President Bush has successfully strived to replace Washington culture of gridlock with several notable bipartisan accomplishments on very tough issues, ranging from economy to education to defense spending.

Mr. Speaker, I believe his first 180 days have revealed to us an active and committed Presidential agenda that spans both domestic and international concerns while also protecting the interests of America and expanding freedom, trade, prosperity, and hope. I wish to congratulate the President this afternoon.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning hour debates, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 2 p.m.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Stir our spirits, O Lord, that we may praise You with full attention and be whole-hearted in all the tasks You set before us this day.

Over the weekend You have renewed us in faith and love. With others who

□ 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.