

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, July 24, 2001

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CANTOR).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
July 24, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ERIC CANTOR 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 25 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue past 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) for 5 minutes.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE GABRIELENO/TONGVA NATION ACT

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, a long time ago the Gabrieleno and Tongva Nation of California occupied the entire LA Basin and the islands of Santa Catalina, San Nicholas and San Clemente, from Topanga Canyon to Laguna Beach, from the San Gabriel Mountains to the sea. It was their land.

The California Gold Rush and railroad expansion assured that their land was taken and today is one of the largest urban centers in the world, but some things have not changed.

According to the Census figures, California's Native American population of over 309,000 became one of the largest in the State of California. Many of these Native Americans populate the area, making it the city with the largest concentration of Gabrieleno Indians. Yet they are not a federally recognized tribe.

It is not because they are not there. They are. They have been there for many centuries. In fact, dating as far back as the 1700s, 1771 to be exact, this

Federal Government recognized the Gabrieleno and Tongva Nation.

Back in 1851, the U.S. Government sent Commissioner Barbour to establish a treaty with the Indians of Los Angeles but was suddenly called away, so that effort failed.

Back in 1852, the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, E.F. Beale, noted numerous Indian populations within Los Angeles County.

Numerous scholars and academics have also noted the existence of this nation, namely, Helen Hunt Jackson. In the mid-1880s she noted that the Gabrieleno/Tongva were continuing to live in the San Gabriel area as day laborers.

At the turn of the century, Hart Merriam and J.P. Harrington indicated that there were some groups of the nation living at the Tejon Reservation. It was further noted that one of the tribes represented at the reservation was the Tongva of San Gabriel.

In the early 1900s, the Federal Government allowed nation members, most of whom were one-half Indian blood, to register at the Sherman Indian School in Riverside, California.

The United States purchased land for the nation back in 1913, but by 1928 many nation members were still living in their traditional areas of San Gabriel and identifying themselves as tribal members, as evidenced by the California Indians' Jurisdictional Act.

Since 1928, the nation has participated in lobbying Congress via the Mission Indian Federation and was even a plaintiff in the Indian Claims Commission case.

Therefore, today I stand here to hopefully recognize and formalize this relationship that Commissioner Barbour was sent to treat back in 1851. Over and over again the Gabrieleno Indians have been the victims of bad timing or unfortunate circumstances, but nevertheless they exist today.

The bill federally recognizes the Gabrieleno Indians as a federally recognized tribe that will be eligible for current grants and services awarded to these entities. In a district like mine, this is a very significant and historical piece of legislation. In the 31st District of California, which is where I live and represent many, many constituents who live in poverty, this is no strange thing for us to be here today to recognize this very important tribe.

While Federal recognition would not guarantee necessarily food on their table, it would make this community eligible for housing, education, funds

to clean the environment, and healthy care grants that would undoubtedly make their lives better.

It is important to note that this State-recognized tribe is not interested in gaming. In fact, they have turned away large companies that would have paid for their attorneys to fight for this Federal recognition. The tribe wants what is rightfully theirs, the recognition that they are always and have always been original citizens and we should treat them as such.

I ask my congressional colleagues here today to join me in providing Federal recognition of the Gabrieleno/Tongva Indians.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

### PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, waiting on the horizon of this legislative week is the debate over the Patients' Bill of Rights. There has been much heat about this subject but very little light.

As Dr. Daniel Johnson memorably wrote in the July issue of the Wall Street Journal, "The debate over the patients' bill of rights is predictable. The Democrats favor more regulation. The Republicans favor less regulation. The insurers are holding on to their wallets, and trial lawyers smell blood."

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Johnson went on to write, "Now that the Senate has passed its bill, we can expect another bloody clash in the House, but beyond today's battle lies the possibility of a system that will make life easier for all concerned, not only employers and insurers but patients and physicians."

It is, Mr. Speaker, seizing on that opportunity that I rise in this Chamber today.

I came to Congress earlier this year anxious to support a Patients' Bill of Rights. The one that has captured my imagination and the one that I believe should capture the majority in the House of Representatives is that offered by my friend and colleague, a physician and the gentleman from the State of Kentucky, (Mr. FLETCHER).

The Fletcher bill offers three key factors that I believe the people of East Central Indiana need in a Patients' Bill of Rights. First, the Fletcher bill expands access to medical savings accounts so that more Americans can

☐ 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.