

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, November 27, 2001

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 27, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JUDY BIGGERT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

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

Gracious and living God, we praise You and bless You for faith, family, and friends. We are blessed to be part of this Nation which annually turns to You on Thanksgiving to acknowledge Your history of blessings on these United States.

We have been blessed again this year to have celebrated this feast with table companions who are dear to us, and whom we count as one of Your blessings.

Now that Members have returned to the work of this 107th Congress, we ask You to guide them in their deliberations. May the gracious attitude of the recent holiday descend upon this House so that everyone may be a blessing to one another in spoken wisdom and listening and in friendship.

In gratitude to You for serving the people of this Nation all find a commonality that supersedes differences. Make all the Members of Congress grateful for Your calling them to serve here, 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 her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN 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.

LET THE PEOPLE INTO THE WHITE HOUSE AND THEIR U.S. CAPITOL

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I want to welcome my colleagues back after the Thanksgiving recession. While they were gone, Christmas almost got canceled; but this morning, there is a reversal of the Secret Service decision to close the National Christmas Tree lighting to the public, I believe because the White House intervened. I very much appreciate it, if that is what happened.

With a little more thought, the White House could reverse the decision to deny access to the beautiful Christmas tree decorations in the White House itself. For example, if people were to leave their Social Security numbers ahead of time, as visitors do now, we could give at least some access.

The House needs to follow suit and begin tours of the Capitol again. This, too, is not rocket science. It is particularly inappropriate for the people's House to continue to deny access. Let us resume the Christmas spirit that has always been a part of the Nation's Capitol, and especially of the people's House. Let the people into this House and into this Capitol.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2001.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Office of the Speaker,
Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR DENNY: I am writing to inform you that February 15, 2002 has been set in Oklahoma as the date for my resignation from Congress. I am pleased to report that the Oklahoma legislature recently passed a law that will ensure that Oklahoma's 1st Congressional District will not go unrepresented as I make the transition to a full-time campaign for governor. The law required that I make my intent to resign irrevocable, which I have communicated to Oklahoma's Secretary of State.

Serving in the House of Representatives has been one of the greatest honors and chal-

lenges of my life. I want to thank you for your leadership, your steadfastness in the pursuit of our ideals, and for your friendship during the past few years. While I will miss working alongside my colleagues in Congress, I am eager to fight for the principles our party stands for as the next governor of Oklahoma.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my chief of staff, Mike Willis, if you have any questions regarding this transition.

Sincerely,

STEVE LARGENT,
Member of Congress.

Enclosure.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 26, 2001.

Hon. MIKE HUNTER,
Oklahoma Secretary of State,
Oklahoma City, OK.

DEAR SECRETARY HUNTER: Pursuant to enrolled Senate Bill Number 7X, enacted and signed by the Governor this week during the first extraordinary session of the 48th Legislature, please accept this letter as official notice of my resignation as Congressman of the First District of Oklahoma. This resignation is irrevocable and shall become effective on February 15, 2002.

My decision to leave was made after much prayer and consideration for the constituents I now serve. It has been an honor and a privilege to have served as the Representative for the people of the First District.

Sincerely,

STEVE LARGENT,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6:30 p.m. today.

Any record vote, if ordered, on a concurrent resolution expressing the gratitude of the House of Representatives to the General Accounting Office and its employees will be taken tomorrow.

AFGHAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN RELIEF ACT OF 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1573) to authorize the provision of educational and health care assistance to the women and children of Afghanistan.

The Clerk read as follows:

□ 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.