

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, December 5, 2001

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 5, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable PAUL E. GILLMOR 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:

Lord, we seek Your blessing upon all Members of the House of Representatives and the people of this Nation.

Once Abram responded to Your call of faith he was given Your promise: "I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make your name so great that it shall be used in blessings."

You fulfilled Your promise to our father in faith even as now You fulfill Your promise in us and in our time. Ever since the founding of this Nation in faith, You have blessed this land and its people. As in the past, so now and forever, we seek Your blessing and hope that these United States will be the Nation You design; the place where Your promise is fulfilled.

In turbulent times, Lord, do not allow us to lose our primal focus: It is You who will make us into a great Nation.

In present circumstances of war and economics, let us not simply react as if we alone counted, but guide us to wisely respond as a great Nation. By Your blessing upon us and our daily work, make us a great people called to do noble deeds and truly be a blessing upon the world both 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 his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr.

MCNULTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNULTY 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.

AMERICA NEEDS STIMULUS BILL

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, how low will the Democratic Party go? I read in USA Today that the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the chairman of the DCCC, was planning on running ads blaming President Bush for the recession, calling it his recession. Well, for those Americans who are out of work and unemployed, it is a personal recession; and I take great umbrage at the gentlewoman for running ads at a time when we are in a national crisis fighting an evil enemy in Afghanistan and would make this a political opportunity to attack our Commander in Chief. It is regrettable, it is shameful, and it is out of bounds.

Mr. Speaker, Members should cease these kind of play games and start working. On the other side of this building, the Senate dawdles, fails to address a stimulus bill because the majority leader wants to run for President of the United States. If he was President now, we would have real problems because he cannot make a basic decision. I urge my colleagues to insist that the Senate pass a stimulus bill so we can repair the economy and move forward, and say to the Democrats and the DCCC, take your ads and shove them.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded not to criticize the Senate in their remarks.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

(Mr. CLEMENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, President Bush has said let us get back to normal as much as we possibly can. We had a football game, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and I

know, that happened in Florida between the University of Tennessee and Florida, and we had not beaten Florida in 30 years in Florida, in Gainesville, but we won that battle.

Mr. Speaker, we were an 18-point underdog, but we did very well and now are playing for the SEC championship, and I want to congratulate the University of Tennessee, my alma mater. I am a former college president at Cumberland University, and I want my colleagues to know that we hold the distinction at Cumberland of being defeated worse in football than any other school in America: Cumberland 0, Georgia Tech 222.

If Members want to know more about that game, there is a book written about that game, "You Dropped It, You Pick It Up." One of the Cumberland players dropped the ball during the game. The Cumberland player said, "Pick it up, pick it up." Another Cumberland player said, "You dropped it, you pick it up."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The previous speaker and all Members are reminded to observe proper decorum in the House during 1-minute speeches.

MILITARY TRIBUNALS

(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, much debate has occurred recently on President Bush's decision to utilize military tribunals to hold all terrorists responsible for their actions. I come to the floor to state my whole-hearted support for his decision. Let us get one thing straight. Terrorists do not, by definition, conduct themselves as lawful combatants. They began this war with us; and, consequently, they should be treated as war criminals if captured.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly disagree with the arguments of the other side that say using military tribunals would not ensure a fair trial. To the contrary, it allows for an appeals process through all levels of the military courts and ultimately to the United States Supreme Court.

I remind my colleagues that President Bush's decision to use military tribunals as a means of bringing terrorists to justice has historical precedence dating back to Presidents Franklin

□ 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.

Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln, and even George Washington.

Mr. Speaker, terrorists are not abiding by the rules of a civil society. They should be held accountable for their actions as war criminals.

AMERICA'S STEEL INDUSTRY IS DYING

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Congress has bailed out everybody, airlines, insurance companies, even car makers. Chrysler is now owned by Germans. Bailout for almost everyone except America's steel industry, which is dying. Since 1998, 25 American steel companies have filed for bankruptcy, with thousands and thousands of unemployed steelworkers losing their benefits, losing their health care, losing their families, losing their homes. Unbelievable. Meanwhile, Daimler Chrysler is now lighting up cigars. Beam me up.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the fact that America cannot build smart bombs with Styrofoam; and we had better take a look at our domestic ability to produce steel for our national defense.

CLONING BAN MUST BE PASSED BY SENATE

(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, Congress' job is to represent the people. That does not mean that we should be a rubber stamp for every poll that is taken. The American people expect us to exercise our judgment; and, in fact, that is our constitutional duty. But when the Gallup organization tells us that 88 percent of the American people oppose cloning, it is pretty hard to deny the will of this country.

Mr. Speaker, creating human life through cloning is unethical, and it is bad science. Creating human life with the intent to kill it in experiments is even worse. Yet that is the justification we are hearing. The scientists that are cloning human beings say that it is okay as long as they kill them off before they reach maturity. That is sick. It is time to demonstrate that at least we can still tell right from wrong.

Mr. Speaker, the House has already passed a ban on human cloning. The other body needs to act immediately. There is no time to wait.

HOMELAND SECURITY NEEDS TO BE STRENGTHENED

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the war that our country is waging in response to the attacks of September 11 and to eliminate the terrorists who are responsible for it is, without question, necessary and important. But so are our homeland security needs.

The U.S. Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Coast Guard and regional defense forces need more staff, assets and funding. Our public health infrastructure, which will be our frontline biological and chemical defense, is full of holes and needs to be strengthened, especially in poor communities.

Our children, who must be prepared to carry out the long-term security mission, are being undereducated in rundown schools and need a major investment of our time and capital.

The biggest obstacles to meeting our obligations for security for our communities, including access to quality health care and a sound education for our children, is the tax cut. The insistence that we move forward and, worse, move it up at this time is putting our country and every citizen at risk.

Mr. Speaker, we need to roll back the tax cut so that we can properly prepare this country to meet our critical health, education and security needs.

PASS TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, more than 95 percent of the world's population lives outside of the United States. For most American businesses this means that, in order to remain competitive, they must be allowed to market their goods and services across borders. This is particularly true for small business. There are more than 25 million small businesses in America, and they employ more than half the country's private workforce. Small businesses create three out of four new jobs and account for half of the America's annual economic production. Undoubtedly, small businesses are vital to the United States, and trade in turn is vital to them.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 97 percent of U.S. merchandise exporters are small- and medium-sized businesses. Companies with less than 20 employees account for more than two-thirds of all U.S. exporting firms. Further, the number of American small businesses that export grew by more than 200 percent between 1987 and 1997.

The United States is the single most competitive nation in the world. Tomorrow, Congress will have an opportunity to enable America's small businesses to prove their global competi-

tiveness. We must pass Trade Promotion Authority and allow our small businesses to compete.

PASS TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in strong support of the bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority that this House will take up tomorrow. Just like a labor union designates one person to negotiate its contract with management, America needs one voice empowered to put our interest first at the world trade negotiating table.

As my colleague from Georgia just expressed so well, Trade Promotion Authority is in the interest of small business. Ninety percent of exports come from companies with less than 500 employees. For every \$1 billion in increased exports, we create 20,000 new jobs that pay an average of 17 percent more than the domestic economy.

Mr. Speaker, the only question for my colleagues is simply this: Do Members trust this President to put America's interests first at the trade negotiating table? I say proudly, along with some 80 percent of the American people, I trust this President. President Bush deserves a vote of confidence from this House. He deserves Trade Promotion Authority, and I urge a "yes" vote tomorrow.

□ 1015

DECREASING DELAY AND INCREASING SECURITY AT AIRPORTS

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the National Air Transportation Association and its leader, James K. Coyne, for coming up with an innovative Sky ID program. This plan would identify frequent flyers on commercial and general aviation planes and aviation personnel who could be classified as trusted travelers. They would have to undergo an intensive background check to be included in this program, but it would be completely voluntary, and people would be free to choose whether to participate or not. Their carry-on and other bags would still be screened, but this plan would be a significant step toward the goal of shortening the lines and reducing the delays at our Nation's airports.

The plan would use advanced digital identification technology and would produce smart cards with biometric template information so they could not be used by others. This plan would be