

At the meeting last week with White House officials, I want to share with Members some of the suggestions we made that would help send a message that the Nation's capital is open and, therefore, America is open: Allowing people who were screened through their Social Security numbers to tour the White House; opening E Street which was closed down again after September 11 even though the Secret Service had agreed that E Street could be reopened once it was widened; allowing a circulator or secured bus for tourists to go right across Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House. If that does not send a message to those who think we are afraid. And funding the National Capital Planning Commission so that we have a citywide plan to do security compatible with our national monuments.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly hope that the White House allows District schoolchildren to be the first to see the White House Christmas tree decorations as a sign that this does remain an open and free society.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 8 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 at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Lord God, King of heaven and earth, as Members of the U.S. House of Representatives gather today, let every Member know that the prayers of the great religious traditions across this Nation are with them. Guide them, sustain them, and bring them to solemn resolve for what is best for this Nation at this time.

Our Jewish brothers and sisters bring light to a dark world during Hanukkah, praying for the end of violence in the Middle East; they assure us that the lamp of faith is not diminished, but grows stronger day by day.

Our Christian brothers and sisters long for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. They pray that this assembly further the incarnation of peace, justice, and love in this world.

Our Muslim brothers and sisters, having finished their purifying fast, now with hearts and minds renewed, turn to You with greater faith that a new day of understanding, compassion, and prophetic truth is rapidly approaching.

May this House and this Nation place all their trust in You alone. Free the world of prejudice and violence in the name of religion as You manifest in us Your divine destiny 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 Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HEFLEY 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.

DISPENSING WITH CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR ON TODAY

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the call of the Private Calendar be dispensed with on today.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he 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.

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

TREATMENT OF RECEIPTS FROM MINERAL LEASING ACTIVITIES ON CERTAIN NAVAL OIL SHALE RESERVES

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2187) to amend title 10, United States Code, to make receipts collected from mineral leasing activities on certain naval oil shale reserves available to cover environmental restoration, waste management, and environmental compliance costs incurred by the United States with respect to the reserves, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2187

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. USE OF RECEIPTS FROM MINERAL LEASING ACTIVITIES ON CERTAIN NAVAL OIL SHALE RESERVES.

Section 7439 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)(1), by striking the second sentence; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) USE OF RECEIPTS.—(1) The Secretary of the Interior may use, without further appropriation, not more than \$1,500,000 of the moneys covered into the Treasury under subsection (f)(1) to cover the cost of any additional analysis, site characterization, and geotechnical studies deemed necessary by the Secretary to support environmental restoration, waste management, or environmental compliance with respect to Oil Shale Reserve Numbered 3. Upon the completion of such studies, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a report containing—

“(A) the results and conclusions of such studies; and

“(B) an estimate of the total cost of the Secretary's preferred alternative to address environmental restoration, waste management, and environmental compliance needs at Oil Shale Reserve Numbered 3.

“(2) If the cost estimate required by paragraph (1)(B) does not exceed the total of the moneys covered into the Treasury under subsection (f)(1) and remaining available for obligation as of the date of submission of the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior may access such moneys, beginning 60 days after submission of the report and without further appropriation, to cover the costs of implementing the preferred alternative to address environmental restoration, waste management, and environmental compliance needs at Oil Shale Reserve Numbered 3. If the cost estimate exceeds such available moneys, the Secretary of the Interior may only access such moneys as authorized by subsequent Act of Congress.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) and the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY).

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank my leadership for scheduling this bill today. It is my hope that, with the passage of this legislation, we can begin the cleanup work on certain naval oil shale reserves and proceed with the transfer we enacted on the floor 3 years ago.

I was the author of legislation which transferred these two oil shale reserves from the Department of Energy to the Bureau of Land Management in 1998. After a 10-year debate on the issue, even the Clinton administration came to agree that there was little future in using oil shale to fuel battleships and that these two reserves could be more useful to the public as BLM properties managed for multiple use and particularly for oil and gas leasing.

The State agency charged with promoting such development estimated as