

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, April 4, 2001

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 4, 2001.

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

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

PRAYER

Rabbi Jimmy Kessler, Congregation B'nai Israel, Galveston, Texas, offered the following prayer:

When my grandparents Sol Aron, Pincus Kessler, Fred Nussenblatt, and Ralph Hoffman fled inhuman treatment in Europe, I wonder what their prayers would be this day. Surely, standing in this hallowed place inspires my deepest gratitude for their courage and faith and for the freedom and strength of our great Nation. Moreover, though it may be routine for some of you in this room today, it is truly an awesome moment for me to realize those who have stood here before me and to be privileged to occupy that same space.

Cognizant of this precious moment, I have chosen words that I believe echo feelings shared by many of my fellow citizens that in this Chamber are 435 of the choicest blessings our country possesses. In each of you are our dearest wishes, our choicest hopes, and our sincerest aspirations for today and all the tomorrows. Please know that you carry in your words and in your hands our special trust, and by your actions and words you bless us.

Our God and God of our Ancestors:

Watch over those who stand in this House. Keep them ever mindful of our expectations and the trust we place in them. Give them wisdom for their actions and grant to each of them when they leave this Chamber daily the joy of being able to say that the words of their mouths and the meditations of their hearts are acceptable in Your sight, and, therefore, truly know that they are a blessing to those of us for whom they stand here. 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 gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GRANGER 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.

WELCOME TO RABBI JIMMY KESSLER

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it is a real pleasure for me today to welcome Rabbi Jimmy Kessler to Washington and to thank him for his inspirational invocation. Rabbi Kessler, a native Houstonian, is rabbi of Congregation B'nai Israel of Galveston, the oldest Reform congregation in Texas. I am proud that he is a part of my congressional district and proud that he can be here today.

Rabbi Kessler is not only a spiritual leader in Galveston County and throughout Texas, but he is a civic leader as well. People of all faiths turn to him for his counsel and his wisdom. He and his wife, Shelley Nussenblatt Kessler, are personal friends of my wife Susan and me. They are people who we count on for guidance and support.

Rabbi Kessler is a leader throughout Texas when it comes to speaking out against discrimination and bigotry. He is a shining example of the diversity that makes the 9th Congressional District the beautiful mosaic that it is. Some of my colleagues may not know this, but the word "rabbi" in Hebrew means teacher, and that Rabbi Kessler truly is.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues, regardless of their faith, to reflect on the words that the rabbi said today when he addressed this body. I think my colleagues will see the wisdom in this teacher's words.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 5 1-minute speeches on each side.

CHINA IS AT FAULT

(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, China's President should apologize to the United States for its aggression in the accident with one of our airplanes over international waters. This is not the first time Chinese Air Force fighter pilots have recklessly and aggressively flown by our slower-moving planes over international waters well outside of China's boundaries to harass our Air Force planes. They have done this repeatedly and have been warned of the danger. Unfortunately, this time, the Chinese fighter caused an accident.

This reckless aggression, the forced landing of our disabled plane, and now the holding of our crew and plane as hostages, and now China's belligerence is outrageous. It violates international agreements that China has signed; it damages U.S.-China relations.

President Bush should stand firm and strong and demand an apology from the dictators in Beijing, the immediate return of the American crew and plane. China is at fault on this one.

CHINA TESTING AMERICAN RESOLVE

(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, after holding 24 Americans as prisoners, China now demands an apology, an apology for spying on a country who has missiles pointed at us. Beam me up. China is now testing American resolve, piece by piece, incident by incident.

Mr. Speaker, we need to tell it like it is. China is trying to determine what Congress and Uncle Sam will do when China attacks Taiwan. That is the way it is, folks. I say the dragon is going too far.

I yield back the fact that an attack on Taiwan is an attack on democracy, and, by God, that should be considered an attack on the United States of America.

SUPPORT CRUCIAL FUNDING FOR RYAN WHITE CARE ACT

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

□ 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.