

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, May 25, 2001

The House met at 10 a.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,
May 25, 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

Captain Leroy Gilbert, CHC, USN, The Chaplain of the Coast Guard, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, before transacting the business of this country, we the people of the United States of America reverently pause to invoke Your blessings and presence upon the Representatives and the proceedings of this House today.

Lord, we are most grateful for our system of government inspired into existence by Your divine principles of humanity, service, freedom, equality and justice for all.

May Members of this governing body propose, debate, chisel and bring forth bills and ideas that are pleasing in Your sight and serve as a beacon of light to other nations of what can be accomplished by a country whose motto is "In God We Trust."

Lord, we live in a rapidly changing world and we are faced with challenges that compel our country to make changes. Nevertheless, grant us the wisdom that our first response to a changing world will not be, "How should it be changed?" but "What do we stand for that should never change," and then figure out how to change everything else.

As the decisionmakers in Congress contemplate the best course of action for the future of America, may the words of 2 Chronicles 7:14 be planted in their minds and hearts.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

May God bless America. In Thy name we pray. 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.

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 581. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to use funds appropriated for wildland fire management in the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001, to reimburse the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to facilitate the interagency cooperation required under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 in connection with wildland fire management.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 143. An act to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, to reduce securities fees in excess of

those required to fund the operations of the Securities and Exchange Commission, to adjust compensation provisions for employees of the Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 378. An act to redesignate the Federal building located at 3348 South Kedzie Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, as the "Paul Simon Chicago Job Corps Center".

S. 468. An act to designate the Federal building located at 6230 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the "James C. Corman Federal Building".

S. 757. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 504 West Hamilton Street in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as the "Edward N. Cahn Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

S. 774. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 121 West Spring Street in New Albany, Indiana, as the "Lee H. Hamilton Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

IT IS TIME FOR THE IRS TO GO

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, an investigation revealed that 16,000 IRS employees illegally used their computers. The report states IRS agents spent 50 percent of their time at work on personal business. If that is not enough to service your revenue, IRS agents illegally used their computers for shopping, stock trading, gambling and pornography. Unbelievable.

Think about it. While 60 percent of taxpayer calls to the IRS go unanswered, the IRS agents were watching Marilyn Chambers do the Rotary International. Beam me up here. It is time to pass a flat 15 percent sales tax and abolish this gambling, porno-watching IRS completely.

I yield back the internal rectal service of the United States of America.

THE REAL ISSUE AT HAND IS ENERGY

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, today is a very important day. The one-party government in the United States is done. We had a vote of confidence in the other body today or yesterday and we are now back to two party government, and maybe, just maybe, we can get back to the issues the people really care about.

□ 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.

We are hanging around here today because we cannot seem to get the President's tax bill through. They cannot figure out how to give it all to the rich.

At the same time, we are failing to deal with energy. Now, the energy prices in my district, in Seattle, are facing a potential 250 percent increase from the Bonneville Power Administration. The estimates are that 102,000 jobs are at risk and that a whole quarter of a million jobs in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana are at risk because of the runaway gouging costs of energy in the northwest.

Seattle City Light has already raised it 30 percent and it is coming up another 30 percent. When will we get down to the issues that matters?

SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, I again want to salute our veterans. I was in Berlin in the spring of 1990 when the people were out there with their hammers and chisels taking down the Berlin Wall piece by piece, and then I listened to the East Berliners thank our American soldiers for their vigilance through the period of the Cold War.

The following year in September of 1991, I was in Armenia when people went out in overwhelming numbers to vote for their independence from the former Soviet Union. Then I was with them the next day in the streets of Yerevan and they danced and shouted and sang, "Ketse azat ankakh Hayastan," long live free and independent Armenia; and then pointing to the United States of America as their example of what they wanted to be as a democracy.

So it is important for all of us to know that we owe our freedom here in the United States to our American soldiers but also hundreds of millions of people all around the world today are enjoying the blessings of freedom because of the sacrifices of American soldiers. We salute them all.

CONSUMERS NEED HELP WITH EN- ERGY COSTS AND THEY NEED IT NOW

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, each and every day all across America families are paying higher energy prices. In my State of Connecticut, a gallon of gas now goes for \$1.82. In Illinois, the price has gone as high as \$2.39.

California citizens are being held hostage by out-of-state generators who

have held down the production of energy in order to increase their own profits. In fact, if the price of milk had increased at the same rate as California's energy prices a gallon would cost \$190. No family would accept such price gouging. Consumers need help with energy costs and they need it now.

What does the President and the Republican leadership do today in the midst of this crisis? They are locked behind closed doors deciding how much of a tax cut to give to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans, while working- and middle-class families spend more of their hard-earned dollars on unfair gas and electricity prices.

Republicans remain focused on passing a tax cut that does little for these families but lines the pocket of people making more than \$300,000 a year.

The Vice President says the energy crisis is only an issue of supply and demand. His friends in the energy issue have the supply, and they are demanding an arm, a leg and family savings for it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for special order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

IT IS ALL ABOUT ENERGY, ENERGY, ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, it is Memorial Day weekend, and while gasoline prices in my district are among the Nation's highest, at well over \$2.00 a gallon, in fact it was about \$2.22 for regular, it still does not appear that President Bush and Vice President CHENEY have any plans to bring relief to my constituents at the gas pump.

While big oil is getting bigger, consumers in my district and across the country are getting gouged, and the President's energy plan does nothing to address that. Instead, the administration has proposed relief for its oil industry friends.

Big oil hit the jackpot last year, thanks to consumers in Chicago and across the country that paved the way for big oil's record profits. The top oil company profits last year went up over

100 percent on the average from the previous year, combining for almost \$50 billion in profits. Now Exxon Mobile is number one on the Fortune 500 list.

None of us should be surprised at the give-aways big oil is reaping from this administration and the Republicans. President Bush received \$2 million in contributions for his campaign, and the Republican Party received over \$25 million from big oil, with Enron and Exxon Mobile giving the most. It looks like those companies made the right bet.

Mr. President, I am again calling on you to persuade, in fact to jawbone, your friends in the industry to bring these prices down now. I hope you will think about that while you are relaxing at Camp David and my constituents are cancelling their family's summer vacations.

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois for yielding.

It turns out that we are talking about a very similar sort of thing.

I wanted to point out to people today that the President's energy plan utterly ignores a key fact; that if we are to put limits on global warming and the inevitable resulting climate change, we must cut back on burning fossil fuels that release carbon dioxide, the most important greenhouse gas, into our atmosphere.

One of the simplest and most effective ways to reduce oil consumption is to increase the fuel efficiency of our cars and trucks. Currently, cars and trucks guzzle 40 percent of all the oil used in the United States and they produce 20 percent of the Nation's carbon dioxide pollution. Improved fuel efficiency would protect consumers from higher prices at the gas pump, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and decrease carbon dioxide emissions.

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCREST), from the Republican Party, and I have together introduced, with bipartisan sponsors, a bill that would require light trucks and SUVs to meet the same fuel efficiency standards as passenger cars, gradually, by the year 2007. Once fully implemented, that would save the U.S. 1 million barrels of oil every day, reduce oil imports by 10 percent, and prevent over 200 million tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere every year.

Before we consider drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or other ecologically sensitive areas, which could include the coastline of Florida on the West Coast of Florida in the Gulf of Mexico, we should first use common sense solutions like improving fuel efficiency, by simply improving the gas mileage that our cars and trucks achieve.