CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE
12277

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES AND COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 194), and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LaHood). The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. Res. 194
Resolved, That the following Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Armed Services: Mr. Forbes.
Science: Mr. Forbes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?
There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, FRIDAY, JULY 6, 2001 TO FILE REPORTS ON H.R. 2215, 21ST CENTURY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, AND H.R. 2137, CRIMINAL LAW TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2001

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary have until midnight on Friday, July 6 to file the reports to accompany H.R. 2215 and H.R. 2137.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?
There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER, THE MAJORITY LEADER, AND THE MINORITY LEADER TO ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS AND MAKE APPOINTMENTS AUTHORIZED BY LAW OR THE HOUSE NOTWITHSTANDING ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding any adjournment of the House until Tuesday, July 10, 2001, the Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments authorized by law or by the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?
There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2001

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, July 11, 2001.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?
There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1613

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name from H.R. 1613.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?
There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF THE HONORABLE TOM DAVIS TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH JULY 10, 2001

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


I hereby appoint the Honorable Tom Davis to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through July 10, 2001.

J. DENIS HASTERT. Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is agreed to.

There was no objection.

REPORT ON EMERGENCY REGARDING PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 100–93)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:
Enclosed is a report to the Congress on Executive Order 13228, as required by section 204 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)) and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641(c)).


PRESIDENT'S COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Science, the Committee on Resources, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce:

To the Congress of the United States:

One of the first actions I took when I became President in January was to create the National Energy Policy Development Group to examine America’s energy needs and to develop a policy to put our Nation’s energy future on sound footing.

I am hereby transmitting to the Congress proposals contained in the National Energy Policy report that require legislative action. In conjunction with executive actions that my Administration is already undertaking, these legislative initiatives will help address the underlying causes of the energy challenges that Americans face now and in the years to come. Energy has enormous implications for our economy, our environment, and our national security. We cannot let another year go by without addressing these issues together in a comprehensive and balanced package.

These important legislative initiatives, combined with regulatory and administrative actions, comprise a comprehensive and forward-looking plan that utilizes 21st century technology to allow us to promote conservation and diversify our energy supply. These actions will increase the quality of life of Americans by providing reliable energy and protecting the environment.

Our policy will modernize and increase conservation by ensuring that energy is used as efficiently as possible. In addition, the National Energy Policy will modernize and expand our energy infrastructure, creating a new high-tech energy delivery network that increases the reliability of our energy supply. Further, it will diversify our energy supply by encouraging renewable and alternative sources of energy as well as the latest technologies to increase environmentally friendly exploitation of domestic energy resources.

Importantly, our energy policy improves and accelerates environmental protection. By utilizing the latest in pollution control technologies to cut harmful emissions we can integrate our desire for a cleaner environment and a sufficient supply of energy for the future. We will also strengthen America’s energy security. We will do so by reducing our dependence on foreign sources of oil, and by protecting low-income Americans from soaring energy prices and supply shortages through programs like the Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program.
My Administration stands ready to work with the Congress to enact comprehensive energy legislation this year.

GEORGE W. BUSH

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain 1 minute requests.

CONSERVATION IS CRITICAL PIECE OF PUZZLE
(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, while we all know we cannot conserve our way out of the energy crunch, conservation is a critical piece of the puzzle if we are going to solve this problem. In times like these, each and every American must do their part. This means turning out the lights when leaving a room, walking more often instead of driving, and investing in new technologies and alternative renewable energy sources.

While some in this Chamber merely talk about conservation, President Bush is actually doing something about it.

Today, President Bush announced $77 million in Federal conservation grants which will help accelerate the development of fuel cells in new technology for tomorrow's cars and buildings. These grants will play a critical role in lowering emissions and improving energy efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, instead of throwing rocks and using America's energy problems for political gain, President Bush is providing leadership and solutions.

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.

HIGH COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about an issue that is of great concern to all Americans, but is of particular concern to the 53 million Americans that have no health insurance and to the 14 million American seniors that do not have prescription drug coverage under their Medicare benefit. What I am talking about is the high cost of prescription drugs.

I want to show a chart for the benefit of the Members that begins to illustrate just how serious this problem is. The first chart a lot over the last several years about how much difference there is between Canada and the United States and how much difference there is between Mexico and the United States.

We have heard a lot over the last several years about how much difference there is between Canada and the United States and how much difference there is between Mexico and the United States. But many Americans do not realize there are enormous differences between what we pay for exactly the same drugs made in the same plants here in the United States compared to what they pay in Europe.

For example, the first drug on this list is a drug called Allegra, 120 milligrams. It is triple in the United States what they pay in Europe for the same drug. Some people will say, well, they have price controls in Europe. In some countries in Europe, that is true. But in Germany and Switzerland, it is not true.

Take a look at the drug Coumadin, which is a drug that my father takes. In the United States, it is quadruple the $8.22, which they charge for the average price in Europe.

Glucophage, which is a very commonly prescribed drug for people who have diabetes. In the United States, it sells for $30.12 on average for a 1-month supply. In Europe, it is only $4.11. That is seven times more than Americans are required to pay.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues need to understand that, once a person is diagnosed, it is likely that they will stay on that drug for the rest of their lives. So we are talking about an enormous difference over the life-span of a patient who needs it.

Take a look at a drug Zithromax down here at the bottom. It is a new wonder drug in terms of being an antibiotic. It is a marvelous drug. But I wonder whether Americans should really have to pay triple what consumers in Europe have to pay.

As my colleagues can see, it is $486 for a month's supply here in the United States on average. In Europe, it is only $176.19.

The next chart I want to show is really one of the most troubling charts of all. Last year the average senior got in their cost of living adjustment in the United States a 3.5 percent increase in their Social Security. At the same time, prescription drugs went up 19 percent.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues need to understand that once a person is diagnosed, it is likely that they will stay on that drug for the rest of their lives. What I am talking about is the high cost of prescription drugs.

And we are trying to work out the language right now. That is all I want to do.

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