

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, July 12, 2001

The House met at 10 a.m.

Rabbi Solomon Schiff, Director, Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Miami, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Creator, we ask for Thy blessings upon the Members of this sanctified chamber who have accepted the sacred responsibility to serve with partiality to none and compassion to all. May their deliberations be guided by wisdom, purpose, and dedication.

Bless, we pray, our Nation. Thou has created this land as a haven of hope for the tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free. From the raw elements of justice, liberty, and equality, Thou has created here Heaven on Earth. May we ever remain worthy of this precious gift.

May this Nation serve as an inspiring beacon, whose light will dispel the darkness of despair and will guide the ship of mankind safely home to the port of peace. 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.

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

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. 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. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS 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 concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 174. Concurrent resolution authorizing the Rotunda of the Capitol to be used on July 26, 2001, for a ceremony to present Congressional Gold Medals to the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers.

WELCOMING RABBI SOLOMON SCHIFF, DIRECTOR, GREATER MIAMI JEWISH FEDERATION, MIAMI, FLORIDA

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am so very pleased to introduce my congressional constituent, Rabbi Solomon Schiff, of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, who led us in our opening prayer today.

I am proud to have a spiritual leader from Miami chosen for this special opportunity, and I thank Rabbi Schiff for sharing his compassionate prayer of hope and peace with our colleagues.

Within the south Florida community, Rabbi Schiff is well-known for his many acts of kindness and charity. In addition to his many duties, he finds time to serve as a member of the Governor's Commission on Aging with Dignity, as well as the People United to Lead the Struggle for Equality, an African American clergy group.

Rabbi Schiff is currently the executive vice president of the Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami, a position he has held since 1964. He is the longest-serving executive of any board of rabbis.

Additionally, he has served as the President of the Florida Chaplains Association and the South Florida Chaplains Association, and was recently elected as President of the National Association of Jewish Chaplains.

Rabbi Schiff is married to the former Shirley Miller, and they have three sons, Elliott, Jeffrey and Steven, as well as seven grandchildren.

Rabbi Schiff is an exemplary man of faith, and all of us in south Florida share tremendous pride that he is here with us today.

Welcome, Solomon Schiff, the rabbi of our community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The Chair will entertain 10 one-minute speeches per side.

SUPPORT ENERGY SECURITY ACT TO MEET ENERGY NEEDS

(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, due to recent current events, I do not think anyone can deny nor can anyone argue that this country needs more energy. Every estimate I have seen points to a sharp rise in our Nation's energy demands over the next 20 years. The demand for electricity, for example, is expected to rise 45 percent, according to the DOE, and the demand for natural gas will be even greater. It is expected to rise 62 percent by the year 2020.

Now, everyone knows that conservation can take the edge off that demand, and, in fact, the Republican energy package offers a framework for energy conservation that we have long needed. But, as Californians know quite well, even the best conservation efforts will not solve this problem. They are experiencing about a 15 percent gain in that demand due to conservation. That still leaves us about 40 to 50 percent short, and, without new energy supplies, more businesses, more hospitals, and more homes are going to go dark unnecessarily. We need to produce more energy.

Therefore, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 2436 the Energy Security Act, which provides a multifaceted energy package.

ALLOW UP OR DOWN VOTE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today was the day that we were supposed to debate at long last campaign finance reform. The public understands that if we are to pass campaign finance reform, it will be embodied in the principles of McCain-Feingold or Shays-Meehan. But, unfortunately, the Committee on Rules is recommending a rule that will make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for this body to have an up-or-down vote on the McCain-Feingold/

□ 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.

Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform proposal.

That is not right. Those of us who favor reform, unfortunately, will have to oppose this rule so that we can, in fact, have an honest debate and vote up or down campaign finance reform.

IMPLEMENT PRESIDENT'S ENERGY PLAN

(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, in the last few weeks we have seen gas prices go up and down, and I think we all hope they keep coming down. Energy prices are still too high, supply is not meeting demand, and we are still expecting rolling blackouts in California, and we could still see gas prices as high as \$2 a gallon.

This is the time for leadership. We need real solutions. The President has taken the initiative and is working hard to implement his 105-point plan to increase supply and correct the market, but some politicians just cannot resist the temptation to politicize this for personal gain. They are telling people that there is a quick fix and pointing fingers at anyone who says there is not.

But we cannot just put price caps on energy. If anything, that will make the problem worse, by removing any incentive to increase production. We need to remove impediments to production so supply can go up and prices can come down.

The last two economic recessions were preceded by similar energy crunches. Hopefully we can still avert a recession, but only if we stop playing games and implement the President's energy plan.

RETURN GOVERNMENT BACK TO THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is most unfortunate that the Committee on Rules of this House is thwarting the will of the Members of this House and of the American people to clean up our campaign finance system in this country.

For all too long we have seen the flow of special interest money into the coffers of politicians on both sides of the aisle, in the House and the Senate and the White House, and we have seen the effect of this flow of money. It is now corroding the very pillars of our democracy. It is undermining the foundations of our deliberations in the House and the Senate and at the White House. It means that the people's business does not get done on a fair and

level playing field. It means that there is special access for those who can give huge amounts of money, but there is very little access for those who simply have their voice.

This is not about the first amendment; this is about whether or not this House, this Congress, this Presidency, will return the Government of the United States back to the people and take it away from those who have no end to the amount of money that they can contribute to Members of Congress or the President, those who have so often distorted the debate about the real needs of the American people at this time in our history.

INFLUENCE PEDDLING OF SO-CALLED REFORMERS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the words of my friend from California, and I just find it ironic; he hails from a State that once championed the free speech movement at Berkeley, and today on this floor, with a rule that will allow to come to the floor amendments that doctor the so-called campaign reform bill, we will have a chance to see just how corrupting a process can be.

Talk about dirty money, Mr. Speaker. Take a look at the influence-peddling of the so-called reformers.

The simplest way to handle this would be to heed the words of Mr. Justice Brandeis who said that sunlight is the best disinfectant. Yes, it is going to be very enlightening, and I find it fascinating that my friends on the left suddenly now find it unfair to completely debate this important issue. Curiouser and curiouser, said Alice. Today the American people will find out just how corrupt and curious the process has become.

SUCKER FISH DESTROYING LIVELIHOOD OF OREGON FARMERS

(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, the endangered sucker fish is living up to its reputation, sucking the livelihood from 1,400 farmers in Oregon. That is right. This protected bottom feeder now has more rights than farmers out there. If that is not enough to fry your mackerel, this region has now been without irrigated water since April, turning 200,000 acres of farmland into near desert.

Beam me up. Stop this sucker fish crusade. Free these farmers.

I yield back the fact that this sucker fish sucks.

THE PROMISE OF STEM CELLS

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the NIH guidelines for stem cell research. We must look to the promise of stem cell research. The NIH guidelines will enable scientists to proceed with this revolutionary medical breakthrough.

Pluripotent stem cells have the ability to develop into nearly any cell in the human body. This research initiative gives hopes to millions of Americans. Stem cells offer hope to patients suffering from diabetes, Parkinson's disease, cancer and AIDS.

□ 1015

In addition, the research offers hope to those suffering from spinal cord injuries, neurological disorders, sickle cell anemia and muscular dystrophy. Stem cells could also help determine the cause of many birth defects.

Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans are depending on stem cell research to help rid them of painful diseases. Millions of Americans continue to wait as our Government delays in considering this critical form of research. We have a genuine bipartisan opportunity to apply innovative research to take real steps in treating and eliminating a wide range of diseases. The NIH guidelines will help us do that.

MOMENT OF TRUTH FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a very proud cosponsor of the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act. It was one of the first bills that I cosponsored in this House because it puts people first.

Earlier this week, I had the privilege of standing with our colleagues, Senators McCain and Feingold and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. Shays) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Meehan), at the birthplace of one of America's truly great reformers, President Teddy Roosevelt. We stood together in a bipartisan call for campaign finance reform, united in an urgency to restore faith in our democracy.

In his day, President Roosevelt said this: "One of the fundamental necessities in a representative government such as ours is to make certain that the men to whom they delegate their power shall serve the people by whom they are elected and not the special interests."

Mr. Speaker, today is literally the moment of truth in this House on campaign finance reform. We can keep our