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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ISSA).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 9, 2003.

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1308. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to end certain abusive tax practices, to provide tax relief and simplification, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendments to the bill (H.R. 1308) "An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to end certain abusive tax practices, to provide tax relief and simplification, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. LOTT, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mrs. LINCOLN, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for

morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

HONORING PRESIDENT CHEN OF TAIWAN

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Chen Shui-bian, president of Taiwan, on his third anniversary in office. On March 18, 2000, Mr. Chen Shui-bian and Ms. Annette Lu were elected as the 10th-term president and vice president of the Republic of China.

With their inauguration on May 20, 2000, the peaceful transfer of presidential power to another political party is a profound reminder to all of us that the democratic process is rapidly maturing in Taiwan. In fact, it is an outstanding example for developing democracies around the world, as well as in the Chinese mainland.

Mr. Chen's story is one that is often heard in America, but it is an extraordinary one considering the political climate in Taiwan at the time he was born. He was born in 1950, but because he was a sickly child and not expected to live, his family did not officially register his birth until 1951. He was born to a tenant farmer family in rural Taiwan; but despite serious poverty, his family encouraged their son to pursue a brighter future. So important was education to him and his family that the family borrowed money to help pay for his schooling. He excelled academically all through grade school and finally into law school where he first developed his deep passion for true democracy in Taiwan.

Now, in 1980, there was an incident. It was called the "Kaohsiung Incident,"

and what happened is it resulted in the arrests of many activists after a mass demonstration turned violent with hundreds injured. Now, the defendants were sent for trial under martial law. The arrests and trials clearly articulated a need for changes in the government and focused world attention on the political situation in Taiwan.

Mr. Chen used his legal skills to defend their right to protest an authoritarian government. For his service, he was imprisoned for 8 months.

President Chen has served as a Taipei city council member and, of course, as the mayor of Taipei and in the legislative Yuan. Now, all of these experiences helped him to govern Taiwan in a way in which I think will prioritize peace and security without relinquishing democratic principles.

He has continuously expressed his good will to the Chinese mainland and opened the possibility of holding a dialogue and conducting cooperation, under the premise of maintaining Taiwan's sovereignty, its dignity and security.

Taiwan and the United States have enjoyed a close relationship with each other for almost 50 years. It is a politically, economically, and culturally rich association for both. In fact, despite its size, Taiwan is our eighth largest trading partner, and we are Taiwan's largest trading partner. For this and other reasons, the United States must unabashedly stand behind the Taiwan Relations Act, which will communicate our resolve for a peaceful resolution in Taiwan.

Taiwan also deserves our congratulations on the recent accession to the World Trade Organization, though that is only the first step. We must support Taiwan's movement to gain membership in the International Civil Aviation Organization and especially observer status in the World Health Organization. The recent outbreak of SARS is a good demonstration of what Secretary

□ 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.



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