



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 143

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1997

No. 58

House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SHAW].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 7, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable E. CLAY SHAW, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are grateful, O God, that Your word points us in the way of peace and reconciliation in our lives, our communities, and in our world. And just as Your design calls us to be Your people and to do Your will, so too You have given us minds and strength to use in ways that heal the wounds of division in the land and promote justice for every person. Thus we pray, gracious God, for discernment and wisdom in our common tasks, that we will use the abilities You have given us in honor of all and in service to every person. In Your 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 his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr.

PASCRELL] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PASCRELL 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.

JUVENILE JUSTICE BILL PROMOTES SAFETY IN THE CLASSROOM

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, this week we are honoring this Nation's teachers, those hardworking men and women who under increasingly difficult circumstances train and mold young minds. The work teachers do today will influence those young Americans every day of their lives, and they are to be commended for their dedication.

As my colleagues know, too many of our Nation's schools have become havens for drugs and gangs, endangering our children and our teachers. When we consider the Juvenile Crime Control Act later today, we are going to do something about this problem. Language I was able to incorporate into the legislation with the cooperation and support of the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM], the chairman, will permit cities and counties to use Federal block grant funds to protect students and teachers from gangs and drugs and violent crime in their schools.

Mr. Speaker, when parents send their children off to school, they should not have to worry about their safety. The same goes for the families of those who teach our children. Sadly, we cannot guarantee their safety, but we can help. We can pass the Juvenile Crime Control Act today.

IN MEMORY OF REV. DR. ALBERT MOSES TYLER

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, today I address the House on the passing of a great man, a great American, Rev. Dr. Albert Moses Tyler, who died at 93 years of age in Paterson, NJ.

He was a minister for 69 years, and head of St. Luke's Baptist Church in Paterson for 62 years. He spoke softly about our dignity and human rights but always intensified his efforts to make sure that our civil rights are protected.

We have lost a great American, but his legacy lives on. I try in this House to carry on his great model of principles which he brought forth.

SUPPORT H.R. 3, JUVENILE CRIME CONTROL ACT

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, the junior high school that I went to in Athens, GA, had strict discipline. Students were taught to respect each other, to respect teachers, and to respect the institution.

The high school, however, that I went to had a different view of discipline, that is to say, a very spotty record, if any, on it. When I was in 10th grade, a student pulled a gun on another one in a basketball game I was playing in, and then another time a student was shot on the campus. When I was in high school, I had a group of students jump on me and beat me up. Without discipline, students somewhat behaved in a bad fashion.

Currently today teenagers account for the largest portion of all violent crime in America. Offenders under the age of 18 commit more than one-fifth of

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

H2257

all violent crime. If this trend continues, we will have a 31 percent increase in juvenile offenders by the year 2010.

H.R. 3 addresses this. It tries to make our school yards and our streets safer from juvenile offenders. I hope that my colleagues will support me in supporting it.

FAIRNESS IN HIGHWAY FUNDING

(Mr. CLEMENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the transportation bill, better known as the ISTEA bill. It is a bill which has brought unprecedented flexibility and authority to local governments and provided our communities with valuable means of intermodal transportation. But there is one problem with the transportation bill: the highway funding formula.

Since the passage of ISTEA in 1991, Tennessee has received a mere 79 cents on the dollar for every dollar contributed to the Federal Highway Trust Fund by State motor fuel users. This formula, based on outdated historic percentages from the years prior to 1991, perpetuates the strength of Northeastern States and does not follow the growth trends of the Sunbelt States like Tennessee.

This nonsense must end this year and a new transportation bill must guarantee a more equitable minimum allocation to all 50 States. Tennessee is the Volunteer State, but we will no longer volunteer unjustly our funds to States with less growth and more roads and rail. Let us bring about equity and fairness to all 50 States and do it this year.

SAFE SCHOOLS

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, as Members probably know by now, this week is Teacher Appreciation Week, and we are very grateful for all of them. As a former teacher, I have learned from experience that the best way we can truly appreciate teachers and their students is to make certain that they are provided with the safest possible learning environment.

This week in Congress we are going to begin to work on legislation to ensure safe classrooms by removing violent juveniles. We are going to work to accomplish this by reforming our juvenile justice system.

But this will only be the first step in a series we are going to take in this Congress to reduce crime in our schools and in our communities. The next step will be through strong prevention programs when we move to reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Act this summer.

We need safe classrooms for teachers and for students. We can accomplish this through our focus on both the

areas of prevention and punishment. I ask for all of my colleagues to join me in support of safer schools when we pass both the Juvenile Crime Control Act and reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Act.

CONDOMS SUBJECT TO MILITARY SCRUTINY

(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, even though the Pentagon is cutting costs and talented officers are being forced out, the Pentagon spent \$90,000 last year to study condom preference and the failure rates of condoms in the military.

If that is not enough to kill your rabbit, the Pentagon still does not know if a Patriot missile can stop the Silk-worm, but they know for sure which condom can save the Republic. What is next, Mr. Speaker, a \$100,000 study to find out if soldiers prefer boxer shorts over briefs? If women in the military prefer Maidenform over Wonder Bra?

Beam me up. I say with this study the Pentagon has reached the apex of their condominium. There is no budget crisis in the District of Columbia. There is a common sense crisis in the District of Columbia.

I yield back the balance of any heretofore untested condoms still subject to military scrutiny.

NUCLEAR WASTE BILL

(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, the nuclear waste bill currently before the House is a bill that will destroy the environment and endanger the lives of our constituents. In a letter to my office, Deputy Secretary of Energy Charles B. Curtis stated the following: "If S. 104 and its companion bill, H.R. 1270, were presented to the President in its current form, the President would veto the bill." Mr. Curtis goes on to say: "This bill would provide no practical opportunity to designate an alternative to Yucca Mountain as an interim storage site because it does not provide enough time to designate, license and construct a facility at another site by the year 2002."

The situation is very clear. This bill could potentially devastate our districts, the environment in our districts, and will be vetoed by the President. Is it really worth voting to destroy the environment in order to bail out the nuclear power companies on a bill that has no chance of becoming law?

FUNDING FOR WIC

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Appropriations has rejected the Clinton administration request for WIC funding. What a surprise.

The WIC Program is one of the most successful Federal programs that has ever been created. The WIC Program reduces the incidence of low-birth-weight babies, infant mortality and anemia. This is a program that serves some of the most at-risk infants in the country, many of whom are Latino or Afro-American babies.

The Republicans say we do not need to spend that money on these needy children. Instead, the Republicans tell us we need a capital gains tax cut which will put billions of dollars in the pockets of their rich friends. This is crazy. First they try to cut school lunches to hungry children. Now they literally want to take milk away from hungry infants. For shame.

SUPPORT HIGHWAY TRUST FUND FAIRNESS ACT

(Mr. SANFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, ISTEA will be reauthorized this year. ISTEA sets the funding formula by which gas taxes are spread across our country, and I think with it will come the chance to make a real stand for the simple theme of fairness.

Fairness is the most fundamental of all American precepts. It is the idea on which the Revolutionary War was built. It was the idea behind the Boston Tea Party. It was the idea behind the civil rights movement. Yet right now with our gas tax formula, we have a formula that leaves South Carolina losing \$50 million a year, California losing over \$200 million a year, Florida losing over \$200 million a year, while a handful of States up in the Northeast receive disproportionate amounts of money. That is not fair.

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LARGENT), the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT), and myself have a Highway Trust Fund Fairness Act which would address this inequity. There are a number of other proposals to address this inequity. The point that I think we all need to remember is that it needs to be addressed and it needs to be fixed.

FAIRNESS IN BALANCED BUDGET PROCESS

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I regard it as an outrage that more and more pressure is being placed on the Bureau of Labor Statistics to change their approach of determining how the Consumer Price Index, the CPI, is being determined, with the goal of lowering it. Frankly, this is nothing more than a cheap, back-door way of balancing the budget on the backs of the