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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 14, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

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

Our hearts are full of thanksgiving, O God, when we meditate on the glories of Your promises to us and to all people. With Your gifts we can raise our eyes to see beauty and joy, to see new opportunities for service and a new vision of hope and peace in our world.

So we take this moment, gracious God, to offer our sincere prayers that we would be open to Your leading this day and grateful for all Your blessings. May Your peace that passes all human understanding be in our hearts now and evermore. 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 Kentucky (Mr.

WHITFIELD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WHITFIELD 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.

HALT THE BOMBINGS IN YUGOSLAVIA FOR CHANCE AT DIPLOMATIC PEACE

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

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, how long must the bombings of Yugoslavia continue? NATO has dropped over 15,000 bombs on the country of Yugoslavia and is causing the same pain and suffering as caused by Mr. Milosovic.

Hundreds of innocent civilians, men, women, and children have been killed. The infrastructure of the country is being destroyed. People are losing jobs, homes, and educational opportunities. In order to strengthen the chance for a diplomatic peace, the bombings of Yugoslavia should be halted.

IN MEMORY OF LEON HESS

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, last week, while our Nation lost one of its premier business leaders with the passing of Leon Hess, the owner of the New York Jets, my district, the United States Virgin Islands, lost more. We lost a valued friend.

Hess Oil of the Virgin Islands, which he established in the 1960's as an important part of his larger conglomerate Amerada Hess, continues to play an important role in the economy of the Virgin Islands, employing hundreds of Virgin Islanders.

But beyond the jobs and support of our local business community, he contributed substantially to St. Croix, where the refinery is housed, and to the entire Virgin Islands.

In addition to scholarships and support of local charities, his contributions include the St. Croix Central Police Station and a major portion of the St. Croix Vocational High School. After the major hurricanes which hit our islands in the past 10 years, his help and support of some of the plant operations were integral to our recovery.

Mr. Hess' most important contribution, however, is the example of his life. We join the many, great and small, who mourn his passing, and send our prayers to his wife Norma, son John, and daughters Marlene and Connie.

He has left a legacy to our Islands which will never be forgotten.

NEVADANS TODAY DELIVERING DONATIONS TO OKLAHOMA TORNADO VICTIMS

(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, when the fierce tornadoes recently ripped through Oklahoma and Kansas, many Americans stared in horror at the severe devastation tearing apart our Nation's heartland. In fact, many of us stopped to think what we could do just to help.

Such is the case with a dedicated group of people from my home State of Nevada. Four residents of Reno are presently gathering donations from area residents, such as clothes, blankets, baby diapers, and more, all loaded on triple trailer trucks, to be delivered in Oklahoma today as we speak.

Russell Rapon, his wife Holly, and Joey and Bonnie Blough have picked up donations all throughout the Truckee Meadows and Carson City so that

□ 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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they can show up with a message that Nevadans want to help.

Along with over 1,000 individual donations, local businesses have also chipped in to make this trip worthwhile for the Nevada foursome. This charitable spirit of the community volunteerism is certain to make the healing process of these tornado-ravaged victims just a bit easier.

I commend the efforts of these four Nevadans and wish upon them safe and prosperous travel this coming week. In speaking for the rest of my Nevada constituents, we wish for the strength and healing for all of those who were affected by this disaster.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I simply cannot understand why my Republican colleagues are so dead set against allowing a debate on campaign finance reform. One hundred and ninety-three Members have signed a discharge petition asking that we simply debate, only Democrats. Not one single Republican was willing to sign that discharge motion.

Americans know that special interest money unduly influences elections and policy. If my colleagues care about gun control, then campaign finance reform is their issue so that the NRA does not call all the shots. If health care is my colleagues' issue, campaign finance reform is for them so they can be heard over the HMOs and insurance companies.

Ordinary people are wondering what the heck we are doing here. I urge the Speaker and my colleagues to do something to debate campaign finance reform now. Let us do it next week and get this bill on the floor to debate it.

U.S. SETS EXAMPLE AGAINST ETHNIC CLEANSING

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I have been in the Congress just a bit over 5 years now, and what has impressed me is the breadth of issues we deal with and the number of troubles that we constantly are called to address, whether in this Nation or abroad. Some of them are heartbreaking.

Right now of course we have the situation in Kosovo, with over half a million and perhaps as many as a million refugees within Kosovo and outside its borders. It is heartbreaking to watch these people, to meet them, to talk to them.

We have had similar situations in Bosnia, where approximately 300,000 were killed in ethnic cleansing; in Haiti with the difficulties there; currently in the Sudan, with approxi-

mately 2 million people dead from either warfare or starvation and the situation getting worse.

Even in our Nation we have problems, whether it is the shooting in Littleton or a tornado in Oklahoma. Sometimes it is easy to get discouraged. But one thing that heartens me is this Nation and its faith in this country and its faith in God. We see evidences of that over and over again as we unite together to face adversity.

We do not engage in ethnic cleansing in this country. We try to learn about each other, to accommodate to each other, to help each other. We do not argue about our religions; we discuss them. We try to express our faith in the manner we best know how.

I believe that we set an example for many others, and I do thank every day the founders of this Nation and the God who guided them in the founding and forming of this Nation.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MAY 17, 1999

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1999

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, May 17, 1999, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 1999, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FUNDING IMPORTANT FOR LIFE-SAVING DISCOVERIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, as the Members well know, I am a scientist. In fact, I am the first physicist ever elected to the Congress. That is not a particular badge of merit, but it does give me a different perspective.

I just want to elaborate a bit on some of the issues surrounding basic research, or fundamental research as it is sometimes called. I am frequently asked by my colleagues, and by the citizens of this land, why should we spend money for all this esoteric research? What good can it possibly do? What can come of it?

I want to just give my colleagues one little example that I think is interesting and important. When I was a graduate student at the University of California (Berkeley) in the 1950s, some of my fellow graduate students and some professors down the hall from my laboratory were working on nuclear magnetic resonance.

This was a method that they expected would allow them to measure the magnetic moments of nuclei very accurately. The immediate question that a layman might ask, "Who cares?" The nucleus is so tiny, we cannot see it. In fact if one magnified it 10,000 times, one could barely see it with the world's best microscope. Why do we want to know what the magnetic moment of the nucleus is?

The answer at that time was simply, "It is there, and we would like to measure it and see what we can find out."

My colleagues succeeded. Just a bit earlier, Felix Bloch at Stanford and Ed Purcell at Harvard also succeeded, and they won Nobel Prizes for their discovery of nuclear magnetic resonance. It was used to measure the magnetic moments of a number of nuclei, and we learned a great deal more about the nucleus and its structure as a result of that. But that was not the end, as I will get to in just a few moments.

Also while I was at Berkeley, they had the world's largest particle accelerator there, the Bevatron, which succeeded in accelerating protons to very, very high speeds, very close to the speed of light, thus giving them a great deal of energy. Then they would use these protons to smash into other particles, other protons or other nuclear particles. This generated many sub-nuclear particles, and detectors were built to observe all the different particles generated, and to measure their charge, mass and velocity.

The bubble chamber was invented, and was very useful for this purpose. Its inventor also won a Nobel Prize. Then the spark chamber was developed, and was also useful for observing nuclear reactions.

But then a new problem developed. There was so much data flowing in, it was hard to collect it all and analyze it. So the physicists developed very sophisticated, computerized methods of collecting and analyzing the data. They were successful, and we learned a