



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 144

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1998

No. 150

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
October 20, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable JOEL HEFLEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 1997, 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 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. CHRISTENSEN) for 5 minutes.

### DISAPPOINTMENT OVER OMNIBUS SPENDING PACKAGE

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to express my disappointment in the bill that we are going to be voting on. The omnibus bill that will be brought up on the floor later today has over 4,000 pages in it and over 2,500 pages of actual budgets that are going to be hopefully debated a little bit today.

But, you know, it is now 12:30 p.m. Washington, DC, time. We will be taking up this debate sometime around 4

or 5 o'clock and probably make the vote around 6:30 or 7 o'clock Eastern Standard Time, and this Member of Congress has not seen the report yet. I have called a number of my other colleagues and they have not seen the report yet. The report is not out.

We are going to vote on a \$500 billion omnibus spending package, something that we have worked a year on, some have worked longer than that, and we have not even seen the work product yet.

The Republican cloakroom has put out the spin and the Republican Conference has put out our spin on why this is a great win for the American people. Well, I do not think it is too hard to figure out that when the Democrats, the President, the Vice President, the party, is gloating about their great win, and then we come and say that we won also, something just does not figure.

### NOTICE

If the 105th Congress adjourns sine die on or before October 21, 1998, a final issue of the Congressional Record for the 105th Congress will be published on October 28, 1998, in order to permit Members to revise and extend their remarks.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT-60 or S-123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through October 27. The final issue will be dated October 28, 1998, and will be delivered on Thursday, October 29.

If the 105th Congress does not adjourn until a later date in 1998, the final issue will be printed at a date to be announced.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the Congressional Record may contain subject matter, or relate to any event that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators' statements should also be submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at "Records@Reporters".

Members of the House of Representatives' statements may also be submitted electronically on a disk to accompany the signed statement and delivered to the Official Reporter's office in room HT-60.

Members of Congress desiring to purchase reprints of material submitted for inclusion in the Congressional Record may do so by contacting the Congressional Printing Management Division, at the Government Printing Office, on 512-0224, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily.

By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

JOHN W. WARNER, *Chairman.*

□ 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.

H11551

When I came here in 1994, we came here as part of a group of people that believed in fiscal restraint; believed that the government had spent too much of our money. We believed that Congress had gone awry of what the American people had sent it to do.

We promised a number of things. You will remember back in the Contract with America we promised to balance the budget, which we have done; we promised to overhaul the welfare system, which we have done; we went through that Contract with America, and the American people were proud of what was accomplished.

I just returned back from Omaha today, and I have to tell you that the people in my district, the Second Congressional District of Nebraska, are very disappointed. They are very disappointed with the Congress, with the leadership. They are disappointed with the fact that we could not pass a budget bill that stayed within the caps. This bill is \$20 billion over the budget caps.

There are a number of measures in this bill that are now called "emergency funded," emergency spending priority items. I talked with my staff and said, why do we not just declare the whole budget emergency, because that is basically what it is. Things have been thrown in at the last moment, items that nobody in this Congress has seen yet. I think when it comes out into the full light, we are going to be very disappointed with a lot of projects that have been thrown in at the very last moment.

The main paper in my district, the Omaha World-Herald, ran an editorial cartoon on Sunday which I thought was quite amusing. It is a picture of an elephant. It has the GOP leadership on that elephant. It is in a chiropractor's office, and the chiropractor is saying, "I believe I have discovered the problem with your spine—you don't have one."

Folks, that is what has happened to the conservative movement back here, when we pass a bill that is \$20 billion over the caps that has projected spending programs in there that the 1994 class would not have agreed to. And I do not know where we get off on the idea that we can come in here, pass a \$500 billion-plus spending program, not have an opportunity to look at the bill, not have an opportunity to examine all the various programs that have been thrown in there, and say to the American people at a 4 o'clock rally today, "This is a great product. You should be proud of this product, because we have passed it for you, the American people." That is not what this Congressman came to Washington to do.

I know there is a lot of compromise that must go on between the leadership, between the Senate and the House, the majority and minority leaders. But at a time when we are dealing with a weakened President, at a time when the American people have said enough of overspending the taxpayers'

money, you would think that our leadership, who professed to be the conservatives leading this revolution, could stand tough within that budget cap and stay true to the commitment that we came to and came here for in 1994. We have failed in this process.

#### COMMUNIST VIETNAM RELEASES 80-YEAR-OLD BUDDHIST MONK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, this year I joined the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) in establishing the formation of the "Adopt a Voice of Conscience in Vietnam Campaign" in this House of Representatives.

We established this task force to bring attention to the human rights violations in Vietnam and to generate pressure for the release of all prisoners who have been in house arrest, in prison or in other forms of detention. As Members of Congress, it is our responsibility to highlight what is going on in Vietnam against religion and freedom of speech.

We need to focus the public attention on Vietnam's repression against freedom of expression so that it becomes a part of the United States policy towards communist Vietnam. With Members of Congress adopting prisoners, we can successfully advocate for religious prisoners suffering persecution at the hands of this Vietnamese government.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we now have evidence that our efforts are working. On September 2, the Government of Vietnam released over 5,000 political and religious prisoners. Included in the release was Mr. Tran Huu Duyen, a Buddhist monk who is a member of the Hoa Hao Buddhist Church located in my district. I have been notified that he is now at home in Vietnam with his family, but in very poor health.

Well, what crimes did he commit to have spent the last two decades in prison? After the communist takeover, Mr. Huu was arrested and charged with plotting to overthrow the People's Government and for participating in a political party that was affiliated with his church. Despite his 78 years of age, he was forced to do hard labor eight hours a day.

By adopting these prisoners, Members of Congress can generate constant pressure on the Vietnamese authorities to release those who really have been detained for no reason, just because they choose to speak up against this government or just because they want to practice their religion.

This is an important date for all American-Vietnamese citizens, and it represents another major step in the fight to provide liberty to all political

prisoners around the world. I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort.

#### REMARKS ON THE OMNIBUS BUDGET COMPROMISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by commending the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. CHRISTENSEN) for his remarks. As a member of the other political party, I would like to join him in really condemning what the leadership on both the minority and majority side are trying to do to the 435 elected representatives of the people.

Mr. Speaker, all across our country, people hire tax accountants to help them make sure that they are not violating any laws. You can imagine how aghast they would be if when it came time to submit that form, the accountant told them they had never actually looked at the information that they had given them.

People hire lawyers from time to time to help them with contracts, and, again, you can imagine walking into negotiations and at the last minute your lawyer saying well, he has not quite bothered to read it; or having a purchasing agent who works for you who on a daily basis is signing forms for tens of thousands of dollars or hundreds of thousands of dollars, but who never bothered to see what he was really signing for and spending your money on.

Starting Friday at 9:30, the great young people who help me in my Congressional office started calling and asking for copies of this 4,000-page document that is going to spend over one-half of a trillion, that is \$500 billion, of the citizens' hard-earned money. They have been calling about every hour since then.

As of right now, 20 minutes to 1, a copy of this document is still not available. Yet the Democratic leadership and the Republican leadership are going to tell us to trust them, just go ahead and vote for it.

One of the people who is asking us to trust them is now being studied to see if he committed perjury. Another of the people who says "trust us" admitted lying to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. That is not a very good place to start.

Every Member of this body was elected. Not one of us was given this job. We had to go out and ask for it. Most of us went out and begged for it. We mortgaged our houses, we sold those things we really did not need and put ourselves in financial jeopardy because we wanted to come here and make things better.