

Congressional Record

United States of America

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th congress, second session

Vol. 144

WASHINGTON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1998

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 6, 1999, at 12 noon.

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC, December 19, 1998.

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I hereby designate the Honorable RAY LAHOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray using a benediction from the Book of Numbers:

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace. 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.

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1998

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

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore 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 pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were-yeas 277, nays 125, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 541]

| YEAS—277 | | | Hamilton | 1 |
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Ewing Kaptur Farr Fawell Kasich Kelly Kennedy (MA) Foley Forbes Kildee Fowler Kim Kind (WI) Franks (NJ) King (NY) Kingston Frelinghuysen Gallegly Kleczka Ganske Kolbe Gekas LaHood Gibbons Lampson Gilchrest Latham Gillmor LaTourette Gilman Lazio Leach Goode Goodlatte Lewis (CA) Goodling Lewis (KY) Gordon Linder Lipinski Graham Livingston LoBiondo Granger Greenwood Lofgren Gutknecht Lowey Hall (TX) Lucas Maloney (CT) Manzullo McCarthy (MO) McCollum McHale McHugh McInnis McIntosh McIntyre McKeon McKinney Metcalf Mica Miller (FL) Minge Moakley Mollohan Moran (KS) Moran (VA) Morella Murtha Mvrick Nadler Nethercutt Neumann Ney Northup

Fox

Goss

Norwood Nussle Obey Oxley Packard Pappas Parker Paxon Pease Peterson (PA) Petri Pitts Pombo Porter Portman Quinn Radanovich Rahall Ramstad Redmond Regula Riley Rivers Roemer Rogan Rogers Rohrabacher Ros-Lehtinen Rothman Roukema Royce Ryun Salmon Sanders Sandlin Sanford Saxton Scarborough Schaefer, Dan Schumer Scott Sensenbrenner Shadegg Shaw Shays Sherman Shimkus Shuster Sisisky Skeen Smith (MI) Smith (OR) Smith (TX)

□ 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.



H11967

No. 155

H11968

Smith, Adam Snowbarger Snyder Solomon Spence Spratt Stabenow Stearns Stenholm Stokes Stump Sununu Talent

Tanner

Abercrombie Ackerman Allen Baesler Baldacci Becerra Berry Bishop Bonior Borski Brady (PA) Brown (CA) Brown (FL) Brown (OH) Carson Clay Clayton Clyburn Condit Costello Coyne Cramer Davis (IL) DeFazio DeGette Delahunt DeLauro Deutsch Dickev Dicks Dixon Dovle Engel English Ensign Eshoo Etheridge Fattah Fazio Filner Ford Frost Furse

Weldon (FL) Tauzin Weldon (PA) Taylor (NC) Thomas Weller Thornberry Weygand Thune White Whitfield Tiahrt Torres Wicker Traficant Wilson Upton Wise Walsh Wolf Wamp Yates Young (AK) Watkins Watt (NC) Watts (OK) NAYS-125 Gejdenson Millender-Gephardt McDonald Mink Green Neal Gutierrez Oberstar Hall (OH) Harman Olver Hastings (FL) Ortiz Hefner Owens Hilliard Pallone Pascrell Hinchey Payne Hinojosa Holden Hooley Jackson-Lee (TX) Jefferson Johnson, E. B. Kanjorski Kennedy (RI) Kennelly Kilpatrick Klink Kucinich LaFalce Lantos

Peterson (MN) Pickett Pomerov Poshard Price (NC) Reyes Rodriguez Roybal-Allard Rush Sabo Sanchez Sawyer Schaffer, Bob Serrano Skaggs Skelton Stark Lewis (GA) Strickland Luther Stupak Manton Tauscher Markey Taylor (MS) Martinez Thompson Mascara Thurman Matsui Tiernev McCarthy (NY) Turner McDermott Velazquez McGovern Vento McNulty Waxman Meehan Wexler Meek (FL) Woolsev Meeks (NY) Wynn Menendez

NOT VOTING-32

Lee

Levin

| Barton | Largent | Riggs |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Burton | Maloney (NY) | Sessions |
| Chenoweth | McCrery | Slaughter |
| Crane | McDade | Smith (NJ) |
| Davis (VA) | Miller (CA) | Smith, Linda |
| Fossella | Pastor | Souder |
| Frank (MA) | Paul | Towns |
| Gonzalez | Pelosi | Visclosky |
| Johnson, Sam | Pickering | Waters |
| Klug | Pryce (OH) | Young (FL) |
| Knollenberg | Rangel | - |

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Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. BERRY and Mr. HINOJOSA changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. HALL of Texas changed their vote from "nay" to ''yea.'

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on December 18th and 19th, I was unavoidably detained due to a family illness. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Friday, December 18, 1998: Motion to Adjourn (Roll Call No. 540): "Nay." Saturday, December 19, 1998: Approval of the House Journal (Roll Call No. 541): "Aye."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SOLOMON 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.

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—IM-PEACHING WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, FOR HIGH CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 611), impeaching William Jefferson Clinton. President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Friday, December 18, 1998, the resolution is debatable for 1 additional hour equally divided between the gentleman from IIlinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), and the previous question is ordered on the resolution to final adoption without intervening motion except one motion to recommit

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN).

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, the evidence is overwhelming. The question is elementary. The President was obliged under his sacred oath faithfully to execute our Nation's laws. Yet he repeatedly perjured himself and obstructed justice, not for any noble purpose but to crush a humble lone woman's right to be afforded access to the courts. Now his defenders plead for no constitutional accountability for the one American uniquely able to defend or debase our Constitution and the rule of law

When they are old enough to appreciate today's solemnity, I want my young daughters to know that when the last roll was called, their father served in a House faithful to the guiding principle that no person is above the law. And he served with colleagues who counted it a privilege to risk political fortune in defense of the Constitution.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly oppose these articles of impeachment and this very flawed and undemocratic process. This process and this action are the real crimes against the American people and our democracy. This march to impeachment is an attempt to undo and overthrow a duly

elected President and ignores the will of the people.

Denying a vote on censure creates the appearance of a one-party autocracy which we condemn abroad and which history has proven can lead to authoritarian rule. This Republican Party coup underscores that their only goal is to turn back the clock on an agenda that puts people first; an agenda that will want to cancel policies that value and support basic human rights, such as a woman's right to choose, a good public education instead of vouchers; that insists on a living wage for working men and women; that protects our environment; that supports the Patient's Bill of Rights and that preserves Social Security.

The Republican process is cynical and it is dangerous. It will be recorded that they stood on the wrong side of history. We must restore the public trust and establish a Congress which communicates respect for the people of the United States, the Constitution and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly oppose these articles of impeachment. I join my Democratic colleagues in speaking out against this flawed, undemocratic process.

This process and this action are the real crimes against the American people and our democracy.

This Republican Congress is marching this country into an impeachment of President Clinton in an attempt to undo and overthrow a duly elected President. This ignores the will of the people.

We condemn single party rule abroad. But this Republican Congress refuses to allow the minority party to vote on censure. But squelching the minority's requests for debate, for fairness, and for reasonable alternatives, this Republican Congress demonstrates its contempt for the Presidency, for the democratic process, and for the will of the people of this nation.

It abridges the Constitution by restricting and closing off legislative options, and creates the appearances of a one-party autocracy, which history has proven can lead to authoritarian rule.

This Republican party coup underscore that their only goal is to turn back an agenda that puts people first. To cancel a program that values basis human rights. That values a woman's right to choose, and that supports good public education instead of vouchers. Their goal is to cancel an agenda that insists that working women and men have a right to a living wage. An agenda that protects our environment. An agenda that fights for a Patient's Bill of Rights and preserves Social Security.

Today's vote is one of the most important votes in American history. The Republican's process is cynical and dangerous. It will be recorded that the Republicans have stood on the wrong side of history. As Americans who value an open and just society, we must reject this madness and say yes to openness. Say yes to fairness.

We must restore public trust and establish a Congress which communicates respect for the people of the United States, the Constitution, and democracy. A vote on a censure motion will allow the opinion and the voice of millions of Americans to be heard.