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No. 105

House of Representatives

The House met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 30, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable JO ANN EMERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend W. Douglas Tanner, Jr., Faith & Politics Institute, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Almighty God, we come before You this day with hearts still heavy from the tragic events of last Friday. Even as we begin to heal, we are conscious that the pain of this week has been seared into our souls.

And yet, in our sorrow and vulnerability, we have deeply experienced our common humanity. Fierce political adversaries have reached out to each other. Mutual respect and genuine appreciation have been accorded across the lines of party, ideology and station. We have known in our hearts that every elected official, every police person, every staff member, every tourist is, first, a fellow human being. For that we are grateful.

We pray that a constant awareness of each other's humanity in this often fractious Capitol Hill community might become the lasting legacy of officers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson. 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 Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3152. An act to provide that certain volunteers at private nonprofit food banks are not employees for purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

The message also announced that the Senate passed a concurrent resolution of the following title, in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 97. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress concerning the human rights and humanitarian situation facing the women and girls of Afghanistan.

The message also announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1260) "An Act to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to limit the conduct of securities class actions under State law, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. DODD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain five 1-minutes from each side.

RESPONSIBLE GAMING EDUCATION WEEK, AUGUST 3 TO AUGUST 7

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, as Members of Congress, we should always be encouraged when the private sector tackles one of the social problems facing our Nation. Such is the case with the Nation's gaming industry. However, a vast majority of Americans who choose to gamble do so responsibly.

In an effort to emphasize the casino gaming entertainment industry's commitment to responsible gaming, the American Gaming Association, along with International Gaming Technology, a company headquartered in my district, has designated August 3 through August 7 as Responsible Gaming Education Week. This campaign was designed to raise the awareness of disordered gaming and to educate casino employees and customers about the importance of responsible gaming.

During this week, all casino employees will be asked to actively promote responsible gaming practices within their companies. As part of this effort, over 200,000 educational brochures on disordered gambling and the importance of responsible gaming will be provided to casino employees across America.

THE QUESTIONABLE VALUE OF NEW GOVERNMENT STUDIES

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

□ 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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Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, a new government study says if you are rich, you will live longer. If you are educated, you will live longer. If you do not smoke, you will probably live longer. If you can avoid cancer, you will live longer.

No kidding, Sherlock. After \$1 million, our government is telling us what Grandma told us years ago: If you smoke, you will probably die; if you do not get an education, you are not going to get a job; and if you do not have a job, you are going to be poor and you are not going to eat.

Beam me up. What is next? Do we give these people more millions to tell us if you commit suicide, you will not live long? If there is any consolation to poor people in America who happen to smoke and do not have a job, I never heard of anybody committing suicide by jumping out of a basement window. There is some dignity in poverty. Poor people are God's people, too.

Madam Speaker, I think we should slow down the money for these scientific mind-benders.

GRENADA'S INVITATION TO CASTRO DENIES PAST MARXIST OPPRESSION AND AMERICAN SACRIFICES

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, in 1983, 19 American soldiers gave their lives to liberate the island of Grenada from the Marxist regime which, under the manipulation of the Cuban dictator, Fidel Castro, had taken over that small nation. Thanks to U.S. troops and the leadership of President Ronald Reagan, the people of Grenada regained the freedom they had lost to the puppet regime backed by Castro.

Now it seems that the government of Grenada has forgotten about the repression imposed upon their Nation by Castro and has invited the dictator to visit the island this weekend. Castro's goal in this visit is to obtain support for his regime's membership to the Caribbean economic community, CARICOM, that will help him attain new financial resources to maintain in power.

How tragic that the government of Grenada has turned its back on its own people, who suffered under the Castro-sponsored Marxist regime. It has ignored and forgotten the 19 dead U.S. soldiers and the 115 wounded American patriots. Shame on the government of Grenada.

ONLY PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT ENSURES A GOOD EDUCATION FOR EVERY AMERICAN CHILD

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

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, recently President Clinton vetoed the

Education Savings Account Bill. In a letter to the House, he justified his action by calling the bill's provisions "bad education policy and bad tax policy."

Madam Speaker, how ironic. Americans have made it clear that parental involvement is essential to ensure our children receive a good education. Yet our President just vetoed a bill that would have extended tax relief to families who take part in the education of our Nation's children.

The Education Savings Account Bill would have offered parents the opportunity to save money in accounts that earn tax-free interest to pay for tuition, books and tools to help their children learn. It seems to me, by the President's veto, that he thinks parents and families do not deserve the right to take part in the education of their children.

Madam Speaker, the President is wrong. Only when we allow parental involvement can we ensure a good education is within the reach of every child in America.

WICKER AMENDMENT TO SHAYSMEEHAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE PROPOSAL ALLOWS STATES TO REQUIRE PROPER IDENTIFICATION FOR VOTERS

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

Mr. WICKER. Madam Speaker, later today Members will be given the opportunity to support a commonsense reform amendment to the Shays-Meehan campaign finance proposal. In far too many States and districts across this country, ineligible persons are voting. People are going to the polls without identification, and it turns out they are not eligible to vote.

Despite the resources and technology available to our government, cases of voter fraud continue to be brought to our attention year after year. My amendment simply permits States to require a valid photo identification before receiving a ballot; nothing more, nothing less. This is not a mandate. It grants permission to the States in the true sense of Federalism.

Madam Speaker, it is our duty as elected officials to preserve the integrity of the electoral process. Requiring proper ID is one step we can take to ensure valid elections.

THE DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM ACT

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to focus on the schoolchildren of our Nation. Parents in all 50 States are concerned that their children's classrooms are overcrowded, that their kids do not receive enough individual atten-

tion from their teachers, that classrooms are not yet connected to the Internet and many schools are not safe and well-supplied, and that basic academics are not being effectively learned.

For 30 years, the Federal Government has been trying to improve America's schools by creating big Federal programs. While the goal was admirable, this strategy has failed the schoolchildren of America. It is time for a new approach.

We know that effective teaching takes place when we begin helping children master basic academics, when parents are engaged and involved in their children's education, when a safe and orderly learning environment is created in a classroom, and when dollars actually reach the classroom.

The Dollars to the Classroom Act addresses the linchpin of these four key education premises, directing dollars to the classroom so that a teacher that knows the name of your child can educate more effectively.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to improve the education of America's kids by supporting the Dollars to the Classroom Act.

PROVIDING SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY FOR THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

Mr. SOLOMON. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 507 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 507

Resolved,

SECTION 1. APPLICATION.

This resolution shall apply to the investigation by the Committee on Education and the Workforce into the administration of labor laws by Government agencies, including the Departments of Labor and Justice, concerning the International Brotherhood of the Teamsters, and other related matters.

SEC. 2. HANDLING OF INFORMATION.

Information obtained under the authority of this resolution shall be—

(1) considered as taken in the District of Columbia as well as at the location actually taken; and

(2) considered as taken in executive session by the subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

SEC. 3. DISPOSITION AND INTERROGATORIES.

The Chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, after consultation with the ranking minority member of the committee, may—

(1) order the taking of depositions or interrogatories anywhere within the United States, under oath and pursuant to notice or subpoena; and

(2) designate a member or staff of the committee to conduct any such proceeding.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the committee amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Committee amendment: