

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105^{th} congress, second session

Vol. 144

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1998

No. 111

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, August 31, 1998, at 12 noon.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1998

The House met at 11 a.m.

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

On this special day, we pray, gracious God, that we would receive every blessing and we would meet each concern or care so we remain always in Your grace and mercy. Renew us in our civic endeavors so that the great human issue of understanding between peoples is ever before us. Open our hearts so we relate our faith to the needs of our communities and our world and so serve You with all truth and justice.

In your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance.
Mr. PALLONE 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.

SADDAM HUSSEIN AT IT AGAIN

(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, well, Saddam Hussein and Iraq are at it again. I am not surprised, are you?

It seems that Saddam Hussein has decided to stop cooperating once again with the United Nations weapons inspectors. As expected, the United Nations have offered another olive branch to Iraq if they would just cooperate with the disarmament process.

Oh, please, give us a break. At what point is the United Nations going to stop coddling Saddam Hussein? I do not think any of us were surprised at this dictator's last demands. Sadly, I do not think any of us were surprised at the United Nations Secretary General's response either.

Iraq is thumbing their nose at the world. They are again ignoring their obligations under the U.N. resolutions, defying the U.S. and playing a very dangerous game, all the while they are insulting our intelligence.

Now, barely 6 months after our threat to use force, inspectors have been turned away again, and Saddam is laughing at the world. It is time for this administration to get its head out of the sand and start by developing a real strategy designed to show the world and Saddam that we are serious.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back any foreign policy and national security that this Nation may have left.

CALLING FOR NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AS CHILDREN GO BACK TO SCHOOL

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I rise to call on my colleagues to join me in praying for our children, teachers, and administrators as a new school year begins. Why is it important that we pray for our children? Well, it is because our kids face so many more risks today than I ever dreamed possible when I was a child going to school, going to public school, or even as a high school teacher. People of all faiths and convictions throughout this country must come together in prayer for the safety of our own children.

Tomorrow, I will hold a prayer breakfast and luncheon with students, parents, clergy, and educators to focus our community on the importance of prayer for our children as they prepare to go back to school.

I also ask that we pray for our law enforcement officials who are charged with the responsibility of protecting our children. It takes all of us to ensure the continued well-being of our children and their success throughout the new school year. May God bless us all

ATTACK ON U.S. EMBASSIES IN AFRICA

(Mr. MICA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

 \square This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., \square 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.



minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House this morning, having heard the news of the attack on the United States Embassies in Africa.

Even though our President has particular problems at this time, it is important that the Congress join with the President and this administration to make it clear to anyone who attacks an American Embassy anywhere in the world, that an attack on an American Embassy and American officials is an attack on the United States of America and will not be tolerated.

In fact, this Congress, this administration, will track down the perpetrators of those horrendous attacks on American Embassies and American personnel and those who work for the United States. They will, in fact, be brought to justice.

We will not tolerate lawlessness anywhere in the globe and particularly against American facilities and American personnel. I know other Members join me in that commitment.

MCINTOSH TO BE ADDED AS CO-SPONSOR TO H.R. 4422, FEDERAL-ISM ACT OF 1998

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

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to join my colleagues in expressing condolences to the families of those Americans and others who were killed in the recent car bombing in our embassies in eastern Africa.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to ask that a cosponsor be added to H.R. 4422, the Federalism Act of 1998. That cosponsor is the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. McIntosh). He has taken the lead in this Congress on federalism

This legislation is to codify the preexisting federalism executive orders by President Reagan and President Clinton, and he was inadvertently left off as an original cosponsor yesterday when we introduced the legislation. The legislation was introduced by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman be added as a cosponsor. We are working with the Parliamentarian's office as to the specific addition into the RECORD.

But, again, just to commend the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. McIntosh) for his work and his effort and ask that he be added as a cosponsor to this important legislation that our cities and States are so interested in, which would codify existing executive orders in area federalism.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The statement of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) will

be entered in the RECORD, but adding the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH) as a cosponsor will require the proper procedure.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, VIVIAN CORREIA

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to take a minute this morning to wish happy birthday to Vivian Correia, who is the matriarch of one of our leading fishing families in San Diego.

The fishing industry, the tuna industry, has been a great part of our heritage. It is mostly gone now because of a lot of regulations with respect to the tuna industry and a lot of economic factors. But that community gave great character to our city and county in San Diego, California. We hope someday to be able to retrieve that industry.

But, for the time being, to Vivian, and to Joe, her loving husband, and to her children who served that industry so well, happy birthday.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Lahood). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TRANSIT PASSES FOR HOUSE EMPLOYEES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, sometimes the action of this Chamber can confuse or disappoint even those of us on the floor. We find occasionally people switching sides of debate on the great issues, seemingly to suit their mood or whim.

Everybody agrees, at a time of great need for the wise use of Federal dollars, that too much is not used as wisely as possible. Despite the rhetoric about Washington living by the rules that we impose on the rest of America, we still have some very frustrating things happening, like the Post Office building in Flood Plains.

I am pleased that the House leaves to return to our districts this week having done one thing that benefits everyone, that saves money, improves the quality of life in Washington, D.C. and its environs, without acrimony or micromanagement.

I am pleased that this week the Committee on House Oversight took action on a proposal that I have been working on here for the last 2 years. We have acquired some 256 cosponsors, enlisted

the assistance of dozens of people around the country and an alliance with able Members of this Chamber, like the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

That proposal that was approved will enable us to provide transit passes for our employees. It is a small step towards improving the quality of life and having us do what we ask the rest of America to do. It gives, for the first time, employees on the House side the choice between free parking or subsidized transit. It provides savings for hundreds of our employees who already use transit and incentives for hundreds more who will, in fact, take advantage of it.

It is a smaller step for clean air. It is a nudge for people to live nearer to where they work or near transit stations and not drive on the streets of the second most congested area of the country that are sadly in need of repair.

It is a move for us to have more authority behind our urging America to be more sensitive in how we use our environmental resources.

Last but not least, it is an important step towards uniformity in Federal transit and parking policies for our employees.

But in a sense, Mr. Speaker, it is a very important part of a larger picture. It shows how the Federal Government can use its great powers and solemn responsibilities as a partner for a more livable community.

In the final analysis, America often sort of looks askance at what we talk about on the floor of this House, when what they care about is making sure their children are safe when they go out the door to go out to school in the morning, that they are economically secure and healthy.

I look forward to more steps, in this Congress and beyond, where we harness our resources planning for a more livable future, using the land, the infrastructure, environmental protection, and housing for more livable communities.

This transit pass is an important step in showing that we know how to put the pieces together. I appreciate the steps that the Committee on House Oversight has taken on behalf of our employees and a better environment.

RETRIBUTION FOR STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to convey my personal sympathies and to say that our heart goes out to the families of the Americans who were apparently killed earlier this morning in eastern Africa, yet another two terrorist attacks against Americans overseas; and to say that, apparently, there