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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 29, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable RICHARD BURR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray using words of the penitential Psalm 51:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. 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 Virginia (Mr. BATE-

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

Mr. BATEMAN 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. 3096. An act to correct a provision relating to termination of benefits for convicted persons.

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

S. 2392. An act to encourage the disclosure and exchange of information about computer processing problems, solutions, test practices and test results, and related matters in connection with the transition to the year 2000.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 1194

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, this sounds a little crooked, but I will see if I can get it straight. Four years ago Republicans inherited a Congress run by liberals for 40 years.

Now, during that time, our friends on the other side of the aisle passed some pretty cute environmental laws. Well, most of these laws make about as much sense as letting the fox guard the hen house. So what has happened? Federal entities like my friends at the Savannah District of the Corps of Engineers claim sovereign immunity so they do not have to comply with environmental laws.

On the other hand, private industry just gets sued so groups like the Sierra Club can make ends meet. Pretty clever.

I think it is time that my friends at the Corps of Engineers and all other Federal entities, for that matter, abide by the laws they set for you and me. Then instead of sneaking out the back door like they do now with this large loophole, they will realize how frivolous some of these laws actually are.

Cosponsor H.R. 1194 and stay tuned.

TAX CUTS

(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, it was last year that Republicans passed tax cuts as part of the bipartisan balanced budget agreement. The President signed that legislation last summer.

This year the Congress and especially the leadership of the Republicans passed another tax cut. But this year the Democrats are attacking these tax cuts, calling them an election year gimmick.

This is a very strange attitude, but one that speaks volumes about what liberal Democrats think about tax cuts. Liberal Democrats do not think that Americans are overtaxed. They see no problem with a government that requires average Americans to work until mid-May, Tax Freedom Day, before having the right to keep the fruits of their labor. In fact, they act as if politicians are actually doing you a favor by letting you keep what already belongs to you.

The money that people earn belongs to them, not to the politicians here in Washington. It is time that the liberals and the Democratic leadership understand that and show some respect for the hard-working people of America.

□ 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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CONGRATULATIONS TO SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL HONORS CHOIR

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Southeastern Minnesota High School Honors Choir and their director, Richard Kvam, on the successful completion of their European concert tour.

As the American representatives to an international competition of high school choirs, these 73 high schoolers from across the First Congressional District represented the best our country has to offer. They did not disappoint us, taking first place in the competition over choirs from as far away as South Africa, Denmark and Japan.

More important than their award, however, was the way that the students conducted themselves in concerts and impromptu performances throughout Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic. Whether singing in historic churches or modern airport terminals, they were always respectful of their European hosts. Best of all, they made beautiful music.

We in Minnesota have been blessed with an unusually strong choral music heritage. Our Honors Choir follows in the tradition of such internationally-acclaimed groups as the St. Olaf College Choir and the Dale Warland Singers.

As someone who has heard the Honors Choir perform on more than one occasion, I can attest to the fact that they deserve to be called the best in the world.

Congratulations, once again.

ADJOURNMENT TO THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1998

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Thursday October 1, 1998.

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

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

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

(Mr. STEARNS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

tleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ON THE DEATH OF MARY MATHEWS

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

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with exceeding regret that I advise my colleagues of the death of a great American and one of the most beloved Virginians of this era in the illustrious history of our Commonwealth.

My reference is to Mary Mathews, a Greek American who has been a towering example of patriotism. Mary had a love affair with her adopted country and, of all the people I have known, none surpassed her in her caring for those who serve our Nation in our military service.

Mary Mathews was the widow of Nick Mathews, himself a great American patriot. Together they founded and built Nick's Seafood Pavilion in Yorktown, Virginia and made it a highly successful and profitable restaurant operation. Their success, founded on their hard work and dedication to quality, was shared with their community, State and Nation. Their joint philanthropy while Nick lived and Mary's continued generosity after his death are legendary.

As a resident of Yorktown, which is the site of the battle that procured our Nation's independence, Mary had a special reverence for what Yorktown and the success of the American Revolution meant, not only to Americans but to people throughout the globe. Most appropriately, Mary Mathews was chosen by the Navy to be the sponsor of the Aegis Class Cruiser, U.S.S. Yorktown. She understood this to be a signal honor, and no ship or its crew were ever more generously recognized by their sponsor than the cruiser U.S.S. Yorktown by their sponsor Mary Mathews.

My wife, Laura, and I have had a warm, close relationship with Nick and Mary Mathews since at least May 29, 1954, when we stopped there for our first dinner as husband and wife following our wedding on that date. We were with Mary in Pascagoula, Mississippi when she, with great elan, christened the U.S.S. Yorktown, the day following the death of her beloved husband, Nick, before yielding to her grief.

We were with Mary when the U.S.S. Yorktown was sent by the Navy to Yorktown for its commissioning ceremony. You would have had to have been there to fully appreciate the joy that occasion gave to Mary Mathews and the special relationship between her and the crew of the U.S.S. Yorktown.

Finally, you needed to be on the site of the Battle of Yorktown, on October

19, 1981, when Mary Mathews, immigrant patriot, stood on the 200th anniversary of the surrender of Cornwallis, alongside President Reagan and President Mitterand of France, basking in the pride of being an American and living in one of America's special places, commemorating a very special event.

God bless Mary Mathews, and as she would say, God bless America, the land she so truly loved.

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

(Mr. DIXON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring the attention of the House to a veritable scandal occurring in our country today. Seniors on the central coast of California and throughout the country are paying outrageously high prices for their prescription drugs. Even worse, these inflated prices subsidize the discounts that high-profit HMOs get for the very same drugs.

Yesterday I released a report on the cost of prescription drugs for seniors in my district and, more importantly, a major reason that these costs are so high. The findings are startling.

Seniors in my district pay on average 133 percent more for the 10 most widely prescribed drugs than do HMOs buying the same drugs. These are drugs like Zocor for reducing cholesterol, Norvasc for reducing blood pressure, and Relafen for relief from arthritis, common prescription drugs.

Prescription drug companies give huge discounts to managed care companies for these and other drugs. Other buyers, like pharmacists, pay substantially more for the same drugs and must pass these higher costs on to seniors.

For example, my study found that Ticlid, one of the most widely prescribed medications for persons who have had strokes, sells to an HMO for around \$34 for 60 tablets. Yet in my district the average price for seniors who have to pay for this drug themselves is more than \$130, nearly a 300 percent markup over the price the HMO pays.

The huge difference in prices is not going to the retail pharmacist in Santa Barbara or Santa Maria or Arroyo