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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. KOLBE].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 8, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable JIM KOLBE 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:

O gracious God, from whom we have received our very lives and in whom is our hope and confidence, we express our thanksgiving for this new day and the opportunities that are before us. We place before You our needs, those attitudes and feelings and hopes that are dear to us, asking that You would bless us so we choose the better way, confirm us in all truth, and forgive us in the depths of our hearts. May what we say and do and think this day be to Your glory and honor. In Your name, we pray. 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 California [Mr.

CUNNINGHAM] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM 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.

DISAPPROVING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 2908 of Public Law 101-510 and by direction of the Committee on National Security, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 102) disapproving the recommendations of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of House Joint Resolution 102 is as follows:

H.J. RES. 102

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the recommendations of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission as submitted by the President on July 13, 1995.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2908 of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SPENCE] and the gentleman from Texas [Mr. TEJEDA] will each be recognized for 1 hour.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SPENCE].

(Mr. SPENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, the House will consider whether to disapprove the recommendations of the independent Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission to close 28 major military installations and realign the mission at another 77 bases. I rise in opposition to House Joint Resolution 102, which would disapprove the Commission's recommendations, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it as well.

We are currently in the fourth round of base closures since 1989, and the third and final round under the Commission's present charter. We all recognize that base closures are a reality in the post-cold-war world, particularly in view of the reductions in force structure that have taken place over the past 6 years.

The Department of Defense is counting on the savings resulting from base closure and realignment to fund currently underfunded modernization and infrastructure improvements late this decade and into the next century. According to the Commission, implementation of their recommendations would result in one-time costs of approximately \$3.6 billion. However, the Commission expects \$1.6 billion in annual savings and net present value savings of \$19.3 billion over the next 20 years to result from the 1995 base closure recommendations.

Personally, I am concerned about ongoing force structure reductions as well as the closing of a number of installations already in the works under BRAC. At least some of these bases are unique national assets that we will never reconstitute even if needed in the future.

A number of Members, including myself, have been skeptical when it comes to the rosy projections that have been made in previous base closure rounds concerning the savings that will accrue

□ 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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