

the incentive for the Senate vote. And there are multiple Members of the Senate who are potential principal sponsors in the other body.

Mr. KINGSTON. But the reality is this has a long, long way to go. As far as the gentleman from Oklahoma has gone with it, he is only at the starting gate still.

Mr. ISTOOK. But we are at a key position, because this amendment has been approved by the Subcommittee on the Constitution of the Committee on the Judiciary, and approved by the House Committee on the Judiciary. That is the first time a committee of this House has ever approved an amendment on voluntary school prayer. Only one other time, in 1971, did we have a vote in this body on such a proposal, and that was done with a mechanism that bypassed the committee process.

So even though, as the gentleman correctly notes, the Constitution establishes a deliberately difficult process for any constitutional amendment, we have come through the necessary stages to bring it to a vote in this House. And it will be the first vote in this body since 1971.

And that is something that, frankly, ought to embarrass the many Congresses that have met year after year since then. Because if we look at public opinion polls since 1962, consistently three-fourths of the American people say we want a constitutional amendment to make it possible to have voluntary prayer in public schools again. Not compulsory, but not with the kind of restrictions they put on efforts to have prayer in public schools today. So it is long overdue for this body to act.

And I want to make note, too, that this is what has happened before, when the U.S. Supreme Court went in one direction and the Congress and the American people said it is the wrong direction. The most prominent of the constitutional amendments that have been adopted to correct the Supreme Court was the 13th amendment to abolish slavery, because the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott decision had said Congress and the States do not have the power and do not have the right to abolish slavery. That took a constitutional amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time and the opportunity this evening to address this important issue to restore the full range of religious freedom that the Founding Fathers intended; that the first amendment in its simple terms was meant to represent before it was twisted, unfortunately, by the court decisions. And I certainly look forward to the vote that we will be having in this House in a month, and I hope that the citizens who are represented by the Members of this Congress will talk to the Members of this Congress and tell them that they need to be supporting the religious freedom amendment.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DIXON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of medical reasons.

Mr. DOYLE (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of family illness.

Mr. MCHUGH (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today after 2 p.m., on account of official business.

Mr. PARKER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week, on account of attending a funeral.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. STENHOLM) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BONIOR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BENTSEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCGOVERN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CARSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STENHOLM, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DOGGETT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PAPPAS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BRADY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MICA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. STENHOLM) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. KIND.

Mr. ORTIZ.

Mr. MILLER of California.

Mr. BAESLER.

Mr. MCGOVERN.

Mr. BENTSEN.

Mr. BOYD.

Mr. CUMMINGS.

Mr. LIPINSKI.

Mr. KUCINICH.

Mr. LEVIN, in two instances.

Ms. STABENOW.

Mr. ALLEN.

Mr. TOWNS.

Ms. LOFGREN.

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH.

Mr. MANTON.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PAPPAS) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. GEKAS.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, in two instances.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma.

Mr. COLLINS.

Mr. EHRLICH.

Mr. JOHNSON of Texas.

Mr. BONILLA.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan.

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. ROHRBACHER) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. MATSUI.

Mr. PACKARD.

Mr. GINGRICH.

Mr. LANTOS.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Mr. GORDON.

Mr. CRANE.

Mr. GEKAS.

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon.

Mr. LOBIONDO.

Mr. CONYERS.

Mr. ALLEN.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), under its previous order the House adjourned until Monday, May 11, 1998, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9006. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 1997-1998 Marketing Year [FV98-985-2 IFR] received May 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9007. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Pine Shoot Beetle; Quarantined Areas [Docket No. 97-100-2] received May 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9008. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Peroxyacetic Acid; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [OPP-300654; FRL-5789-3] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received May 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9009. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Hydrogen Peroxide; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [OPP-300655; FRL-5789-4] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received May 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9010. A letter from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, transmitting the