



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 148

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JULY 22, 2002

No. 100

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 22, 2002.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God and provider of all good gifts, whenever Your people assemble to pray, we praise You as the source of all we have and are. Preserve in the Members of Congress grateful hearts for all You have given them and this Nation. With this gracious attitude, the tasks You set before Your people can be accomplished with humility. Decisions can be made with confidence in Your guiding wisdom. Accomplishments, though limited in our eyes, can be to Your honor and glory, and bring the world closer to attaining the goals of Your Kingdom here on Earth.

As Your conscientious and grateful servants we pray now and forever. 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 Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER 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 PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 19, 2002.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER, Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 19, 2002 at 2:09 p.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2175.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 413.

Appointment: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH,
Clerk of the House.

BOMBING IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, news accounts indicate that hundreds upon hundreds of innocent Afghans have been killed by mistakes by U.S. war planes. Stop the bombing. We have no quarrel with the Afghan people. The Taliban are overthrown. Al Qaeda has fled. bin Laden has vanished, and yet the bombs still drop indiscriminately. Is there any American who has not been shaken at the mere thought of the horror of U.S. war planes bombing a wedding celebration in the village of Kakrak killing dozens of civilians? Whatever moral authority our Nation has had at the beginning of the conflict is rapidly being lost. This act does not represent America. Democracy does

□ 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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not wed terror. This act must not be cloaked in the irresponsible and inhuman euphemism of "collateral damage." Stop the bombing. Let an international police force continue in Afghanistan. Let the humble people of Afghanistan be spared friendly fire issued from the skies. Enough of the bombing of villages to save the villages. Stop the bombing.

CORPORATE GREED

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, a scandal-weary American people awoke this morning to more unpleasant news. WorldCom, an employer of 60,000 people, \$107 billion in assets, announced that it would seek bankruptcy court protection.

Millions of Americans have watched their retirement accounts evaporate because of fraud, rampant greed, and misgovernance in some of America's largest corporations. Ordinary investors and Wall Street alike have demanded stronger oversight of the accounting industry, rules that prohibit accounting firms from consulting the companies they audit, new authorities for Federal prosecutors to investigate and to punish corporate criminals, and a requirement that top executives personally certify the accuracy of their companies' financial statements.

Legislation that would make these needed reforms passed the other body unanimously last week. Throughout the 1990s, Republicans rushed to unravel regulations and block needed reforms and helped create the permissive regulatory environment that has led to recent corporate scandals. Now the Republican leadership has stubbornly refused to bring meaningful accounting reform to the floor. Why, Mr. Speaker?

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

RECORD votes on motions to suspend the rules ordered prior to 6:30 p.m. may be taken today. RECORD votes on remaining motions to suspend the rules will be taken tomorrow.

EXTENSION OF IRISH PEACE PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAINING PROGRAM

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4558) to extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4558

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF IRISH PEACE PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAINING PROGRAM.

Section 2 of the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (a)(2)(A) by striking "3" and inserting "4";
- (2) in subsection (a)(3) by striking "3" and inserting "4";
- (3) in subsection (d)(1) by striking "2005," and inserting "2006,"; and
- (4) in subsection (d)(2) by striking "2005," and inserting "2006,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4558, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 4558 amends the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998, which established a cultural training program for disadvantaged individuals to assist the Irish peace process. The program creates 12,000 3-year nonimmigrant visas of the Q classification for adults between the ages of 18 and 35 who live in disadvantaged areas in northern Ireland and the border counties of the Irish Republic. The program enacted in 1998 is set to sunset on October 1, 2005. This bill extends it for 1 year to 2006.

The purpose of the visa is to provide practical training, employment, and the experience of co-existence and conflict resolution in a diverse society and a strong economy such as ours. After trainees return home, they can provide the critical skill base needed to attract private investment in their local economies. The program currently operates in Washington, D.C.; Colorado Springs; Boston; and Pittsburgh. Because the program has been so successful, it also began in Syracuse, New York, within the past few months.

The program got off to a late start due to funding trouble. As such, H.R. 4558 would extend the program for 1 year to make up for the delay so that additional young people can take advantage of this successful program and become peacemakers for Northern Ireland.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) will manage the time on his side of the aisle.

There was no objection.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This appears to be a very worthwhile bill, as it amends the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 to extend through fiscal year 2006. The Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program provides for admission into the U.S. each fiscal year of up to 4,000 young disadvantaged aliens from designated counties in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. These youths suffer from sectarian violence and high unemployment.

The need for these programs is highlighted by the recent outbreak of violence in the country. The Guardian newspaper reports today that a young 20-year-old Catholic man was shot dead in north Belfast. This shooting is a continuation of a series of shootings. Earlier, a 19-year-old Protestant man was shot in the groin in Ardoyne close to the site of last year's loyalist picket at Holy Cross School. The shootings followed a series of violent clashes in north Belfast over the weekend in which an elderly disabled man narrowly escaped death when a petrol bomb was thrown into his home as he slept. Officials and residents are concerned that the renewed attacks will escalate violence in the country.

Hopefully, Mr. Speaker, this program will help put an end to such violence. This program helps these young people develop job and conflict resolution skills in a diverse and peaceful environment so they can return to their homes better able to contribute toward economic regeneration and a lasting peace in Ireland. America's vibrant Irish community welcomes this. I think it is a good idea.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH).

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 4558, a bill to extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program. This legislation would simply extend the current program for 1 year and allow another group of participants from Northern Ireland and the border counties to enter into the program in fiscal year 2003. I would like to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS), who has been such a wonderful advocate for this bill and also the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), who, despite an incredibly heavy workload in the Committee on the Judiciary, fast-tracked this bill. We are very grateful to both of them.