

North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) that preceded me in the well talked about the surplus.

The surplus he talked about is the Social Security trust fund. It is raised through an unfair, flat, regressive tax capped at \$80,000 a year income. So the rich people are not putting in a penny over the little bit they pay on their first \$80,000 of income. Most working families are paying more in Social Security taxes than they are in income taxes to the Federal Government. In fact, many working Americans are not getting back a rebate because of that fact, but they do not mind too much because they know their money is going in the lock box created.

Now, what is in the lock box? Oops, well, not much money. There is something in here, though. Good, I owe you \$9 billion, signed Secretary Paul O'Neill, Secretary of the Treasury for George Bush, President of the United States.

So it seems that they are going back on their promise, are they not? We were going to have a lock box. They made a great show of voting on the lock box in the Clinton administration, but now with the Bush administration all things are changed.

It really doesn't matter whether we spend the Social Security surplus, that money intended for the trust fund for future retirees, today because the administration changed. Nothing else changed. We had all those votes to create the lock box, but suddenly the lock box isn't so important anymore, not as important as tax cuts.

Make no mistake, the tax cuts are the thing that are putting us in the hole. The Federal Government is borrowing, borrowing the money to send out those rebate checks which are against this year's estimated surplus which does not exist but is calculated on your last year's income. Follow that? Okay. What it means is cash the check quickly. It might bounce soon.

So this is the bizarre situation we find ourselves in. The Republican majority after touting lock boxes and saving Social Security and Medicare for so long, in their rush to please their wealthy benefactors and pass a massive \$2 trillion tax cut, particularly heavily oriented to those who earn over \$273,000 a year and estates over \$5 billion, they have already frittered away the surplus, and things look even more bleak for the future.

They are depositing IOUs back into the Social Security trust fund, spending the money today, now that it is time to talk about the possibility of, oh, my God, now they are in panic, some people are pointing this out, mindless, across-the-board cuts. First, let us jack up the military spending by 10 percent, then we will cut it by 3 percent and we might get back to putting something in the lock box. I doubt it. It is fuzzy math.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning hour debates, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 20 minutes a.m.) the House stood in recess until 10 a.m. today.

□ 0952

AFTER RECESS

The House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Goss) at 9 o'clock and 52 minutes a.m., thereby terminating the recess.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Due to the circumstances of today, the Chair calls the House to order at this time.

The prayer will be offered by the guest chaplain.

PRAYER

The Reverend Gerard Creedon, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, offered the following prayer:

God of peace and life, send Your spirit to heal our country; bring consolation to all injured in today's tragedy in New York and Washington. Protect us and help our leaders to lead us out of this moment of crisis to a new day of peace. Amen.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair, pursuant to clause 12 of rule I.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 53 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1003

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 10 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: O God, come to our assistance.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Yesterday we were stunned, angry and violated. Today, Lord, we stand strong and together. Yesterday changed our world. Today we are changed.

We have humbly prayed to You, O Lord God of Heaven and Earth, yesterday and through the night. Now we turn to You for Your guidance and sense of eternal truths which built this Nation as we begin a new day of building security and peace through justice.

We mourn our dead and reach out with prayer and acts of compassion to all those families splattered with blood and exhausted by tears. Heal the

wounded. Strengthen all civil servants, medical and religious leaders as they attempt to fill the gaping holes left in the fabric of our Nation.

Send forth Your Holy Spirit, Lord, upon all the Members of Congress, the President, and all government leaders across this Nation. Free them of fear, any prejudice whatsoever, remove all doubt and confusion from their minds. With clear insight which comes from You and You alone, reveal all that is unholy, and renew the desire of Your people to lives of deepening faith, unbounding commitment, and lasting freedom here where liberty has made her home.

We place our trust in You now and forever. 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. The Speaker will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Due to the events of yesterday, the Chair wishes to announce that the joint meeting to receive the Honorable John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia, scheduled for today will not take place.

The Chair wishes to acknowledge, however, the presence of the Prime Minister here today, and extends, on behalf of the House, his appreciation for the solidarity of the Australian people and the presence of the Prime Minister today in this very difficult time. Thank you.

HOUSE SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, as you have directed, the House is convening now. We will stay in session from now until 11 o'clock where Members will have time for 1-minute speeches. At 11 o'clock this morning we will take a recess until 12:30 while the Chamber is cleared. Members of the body will be invited back to the Chamber at 12:30, at which time we will have a Member briefing on the floor that will last until 2 o'clock.

At 2 o'clock, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT)

and I will call up by unanimous consent a joint resolution to condemn yesterday's terrorist acts. That resolution will be addressed by this body under that unanimous consent request with an understanding that we will continue to address it until each Member of this Chamber has had ample time to address this issue as he or she sees fit.

I want to thank all the Members of this body for their patience, their commitment, their understanding, and their resolve during this trying time. Let me assure you, Mr. Speaker, by the time the 435 Members of this body have spoken today, the world will have no doubt about who we are, what we will stand for, and what we will not stand for.

AMERICA SUFFERS TODAY

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, America, our blessed Nation, suffers today. Terribly. Terrorists sought to use fear as a weapon against every person in this Nation. They do not know America, and they do not know Americans. They think freedom is our vulnerability. It is our strength. We will need that strength in the days ahead. Throughout our proud history we have met every challenge, and we will meet this challenge.

Mr. Speaker, we are united in mourning for all of our fellow citizens who were injured and died. I have been so moved while watching television and seeing the heroism, the courage, the patriotism, the bravery, the goodness of our people trying to help one another, save one another, bind up our wounds, and find those who have been lost. Our hearts go out to every person, every family that has been touched by this awful tragedy, and to all the families at this very moment who are enduring an unspeakable, unimaginable horror in their lives.

In times of national tragedy, Americans have always come together, strengthened our resolve, and faced adversity squarely while giving aid and comfort to every victim, every family member, every relative, every person affected by the tragedy. On this occasion, we are once again showing the world what it means to be an American.

We make a solemn pledge that we will honor all of the victims by committing ourselves to defend our land, our families and our freedom. Today we go back to work in Washington, in New York, and all around the country; and we are determined to show the world that America will not be defeated by anyone.

Finally, we will do everything within our power to bring these heinous terrorists to justice, to address this act of horrible, despicable cowardice, and to ensure that something like this never, ever happens to our people again.

We should also recognize that our public spaces, the heart and soul of

American freedom, American ingenuity and American entrepreneurship, were violated yesterday in the most heinous way. We must, in one voice, work to reassure the American people that they are safe on the streets, in the air, and in all of our buildings no matter where they live or work. This Congress, in a nonpartisan way, will work as hard as humanly possible to make sure that our people have the safety they demand and deserve, and that terror is defeated completely and finally.

Make no mistake, this was an act of war against the United States and all of our people; and we will not be divided. All of us, the President, the Congress, and the American people, are today, and will be tomorrow and in all of the tomorrows, totally and completely united in our determination to begin the process of healing and to take swift action to see that the people who committed this horrible crime are properly punished.

May God shed His grace on this great and wonderful country and all of our people.

□ 1015

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will receive 1-minute speeches on each side until 11 o'clock.

AVENGING TERRORIST ATTACK

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

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, the events of yesterday, September 11, are forever seared into our minds as with branding irons. We grieve for the victims and their families. We pray for them.

Let the word go forth to our enemies. We are united in our resolve to avenge the deaths of our brothers and sisters, our mothers and fathers, our husbands and wives.

In righteousness, the United States Government will hunt down to the ends of the earth the assassins of our innocent kin and strike them down.

TERRORIST ATTACKS WERE ACTS OF WAR

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the darkest day in American history. Pearl Harbor pales in comparison.

I join all other Americans who are shocked and outraged by the terrorist hijackings and attacks on the World Trade Center and on the Pentagon. Last night I saw firsthand the carnage resulting from the attack on the Pentagon.

Let there be no mistake, the United States Government will investigate

and pursue those who were behind this cowardly attack. These terrorist attacks were truly acts of war, and we will respond forcefully and appropriately. The United States will take action against the terrorists and punish those governments that support and harbor such criminals.

This incomprehensible tragedy is a terrible reminder that we must take the threat of terrorism seriously. If Congress and the administration are willing to develop an overall strategy and commit adequate resources, we can prepare an effective defense to protect our American people.

I extend my deepest sympathy to the families of the victims, and I especially express my gratitude to all emergency and law enforcement personnel and other volunteers, many of whom have lost their lives.

I urge all Americans who have a flag, to fly it high and demonstrate we stand united in this moment of tragedy.

CONDEMNING TERRORIST ATTACK

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I join the countless others in this Chamber, in this great Nation, and throughout the world in expressing condolences to the families of the victims of yesterday's deplorable attack. Our thoughts and our prayers are with them.

Mr. Speaker, I also feel a sense of pride for the strength of character and humanity shown by the American people, strength which is shining as a beacon of light, guiding us through this time of darkness and sorrow.

The response of our President, the U.S. Government, and our American society is a testament to this Republic and to our free and democratic system of government. It demonstrates that democracy will always triumph over terrorism. Through the ash-filled sky of New York City, Lady Liberty's torch pierces through as a reminder of American resolve.

I express my full support to the President, his national security team, our military, our intelligence officials as they develop a swift, precise and unequivocal response to the perpetrators of these heinous acts, as well as against those who made it possible by providing them with safe haven, training areas and funding.

We will prevail. God bless the United States of America.

AMERICA WILL SEEK JUSTICE

(Mrs. TAUSCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, last night, in spite of the horror and terror of what happened yesterday, I went to bed