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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

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

Help us, gracious God, to see other people as they truly are with their own ideas, with their own traditions, and with their own integrity. We admit that we too often portray the character of our neighbor and the motivation of others in ways that do not serve the common good and we ought to admit our shortcoming. Lead us, O God, to think with clarity, to acquit ourselves with honor, and to respect all people for that is a mark of our humanity and the stamp of Your creation.

In Your name we pray. 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. Will the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. ROEMER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROEMER 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. There will be ten 1-minute on each side.

CUBAN EMBARGO

(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, one of our colleagues has openly challenged the United States embargo against the Castro regime by announcing that he has accepted an invitation by Cuban tyrant Fidel Castro to visit Cuba in December with a group of Massachusetts businessmen.

I have asked the Treasury Department to deny my colleague, and his partners in crime, permission to travel to Cuba, for this trip clearly does not fall under the permissible guidelines. The presence of business leaders on this trip is an attempt at lobbying for the end of the trade embargo against Castro.

While some try to forge ties with the tyrant, the repression in Cuba goes unabated. While Castro fooled the United States media once again this week independent journalist Olanca Nogueras Roce was jailed in a high security prison in Cuba for trying to ask a question at the Ministry of Foreign Relations.

The obvious attempt to violate the embargo on Cuba by these United States businessmen is a clear test of the Clinton administration's resolve to enforce the law against Castro. The President must step up to the challenge by denying them visas.

CIVIL WAR

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, today the Republicans are starting the second civil war. The second civil war between the States and States rights.

What the Republicans are proposing in their block grant approach is a race to the bottom between the States. It is going to be a race between the States

on how unfriendly the States can be to the poor, the disabled, and our elderly.

By taking away the entitlement program for our senior citizens and poor children and the disabled, they are starting a war between the States on who can cut the elderly more than the next States in order to save money.

Make no mistake about it, I came from a State legislature. I know what it is like being in a State house and trying to make ends meet. With the Federal Government abandoning the most neediest of our citizens in our society, they are setting up a divided country in this Nation, and I think that this is something that we have got to stand up against.

Let us reject the civil war the Republicans are trying to wage.

Mr. Speaker, today we begin a race for the bottom.

Faster than you can say block grant, the leaders on the other side of the aisle have dismantled a program that said to children when they were most vulnerable and to seniors then they were most in need: If you are an American, you share a common right to basic health care.

Today, when we discard Medicaid, we throw out that entitlement and replace it with a lottery.

Well, as any one who plays the lottery can tell you—most people lose.

Children, poor mothers, and impoverished seniors will lose under this plan that throws all the decisions to the States without the money to do the job right.

We all know, States will not compete for who can do the most, but for who can do the least.

After today, it will not matter that you are an American.

What will matter is what side of the State line you live on.

We will 50 different answers to what it is to be an American.

I call upon my colleagues to remember that we are nation of United States and reject this plan that marches us down the road to a dis-united States.

□ 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.

