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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

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

We pray, gracious God, that we will not be content simply to follow old paths and repeat meaningless patterns, but that our hearts and minds would be open to new adventures and new opportunities of service. May Your good Spirit breathe into our souls a freshness that cleanses our ideas, our hopes, and our dreams and may we truly look to Your guidance for the days ahead. Teach us to grow in Your grace and trust in Your goodness, this day and every day. 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 North Carolina [Mr. JONES] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JONES 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 RELATIVE TO FLOOR PRIVILEGES OF FORMER MEMBERS

The SPEAKER. On June 9, 1994, Speaker Foley reminded former Mem-

bers of the prohibition of clause 3 of rule XXXII against former Members obtaining floor privileges during the pendency of a matter in which they have a personal or pecuniary interest, emphasizing that the test for whether the rule is being violated is the former Member's status as one with a personal or pecuniary interest rather than their intent to lobby. On that occasion Speaker Foley also admonished former Members from importuning the doorkeepers to waive the restrictions of the rule, since the Chair may not even recognize a unanimous-consent request to do so.

The Chair is taking this opportunity to reiterate the guidelines first announced by Speaker O'Neill under clause 3 of rule XXXII on January 6, 1977, and again on June 7, 1978, and by Speaker Foley last year in order to discourage former Members from attempting to exercise their limited floor privileges when they find themselves under this restriction and to remind former Members that the prohibition extends beyond the floor to rooms leading thereto, such as the Speaker's lobby and the respective Cloakrooms.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER RELATIVE TO 1-MINUTES

The SPEAKER. The Chair will take 20 1-minutes on each side.

VINE AND WINE

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, over the last 30 years, the Federal Government has become far too generous with the taxpayer's money. Washington bureaucrats not satisfied with wasting money on domestic programs find new and inventive ways to waste it in other countries.

Here are a few examples of what I am talking about: The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, the International Office of Vine and Wine, the Permanent International Association of Road Congresses, the Colombo Plan Council for Technical Cooperation, and the International Natural Rubber Study Organization.

All of these programs have two things in common: They are funded by the American taxpayer and they need desperately to be unfunded by the American taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, we realize that the Federal Government cannot continue spending money as if there were no tomorrow, and we can no longer afford overseas extravagance. It is time to streamline bureaucracy and eliminate the proliferation of silly named programs that have no real purpose and no real need to exist. The American Overseas Interests Act will reduce our monetary aid commitments overseas to one percent of the Federal budget, much more in line with what the American people want us to do in this Congress.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS FAVOR TAX CUTS FOR WEALTHY

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, now that the Republicans have forced their budget resolution through this House, it is easy to get lost in a sea of numbers and statistics—to forget about the impact this trickle-down travesty will have on the hard-working people of America.

But I cannot forget—because every time I walk the streets of my district in St. Louis, I meet the people who stand to lose health care benefits, pension benefits, and student loans—all to pay for a tax cut for the wealthy that is so unfair, so unnecessary, so

□ 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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unaffordable that even a Republican Senate rejected it.

This is a picture of Shawn D'Abreu, a student at Webster University in St. Louis. He depends on student loans, as well as college grants and a part-time job, to pay his way through college. To lose any part of his financial aid package could put Shawn's college career in jeopardy, forcing him to delay his degree, or find some source of outside income to make up the difference.

Under the new Republican budget plan, Shawn would have his student loan cut by about \$5,000. That is a cut he simply cannot afford to sustain.

If you ask me, a budget that sacrifices Shawn's college education to line the pockets of the wealthy is a dangerous reversal of priorities. The Republicans want to let billionaires renounce their citizenship and pay no taxes. But Shawn, who is the very future of this country, gets stuck with the bill.

That is what the Republicans voted for—tax cuts for the wealthy, and student loan cuts for struggling young people like Shawn. If you ask me, the Senate had it right: That kind of reckless redistribution of income is just plain wrong, and has no place in the United States of America.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS FAVOR FISCAL SANITY

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, once again the distinguished minority leader has given us ample evidence as to why my friends on the other side of the aisle will remain in the minority. I am sorry I did not blow up this picture as did the distinguished minority leader, but I have here a picture of my three children.

My oldest daughter is Nicole. She is preparing to go to Arizona State University and Nicole is very interested in getting a student loan. But Nicole is happy to step up and pay an extra 68 cents a day if it will help us restore fiscal sanity in this country.

To my friends on the other side of the aisle, again I appeal to you, please quit trying to play this baseless class warfare game. Put your shoulder to the wheel and help us govern, because this is not about redistribution of wealth, this is about saving a republic from fiscal disaster, and it is incumbent upon all of us to answer this clarion call to save this country, including students willing to pay an additional 68 cents a day because that is the average they would pay in an increase on their student loan.

HEART SURGERY IN THE OTHER BODY

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, perhaps my colleague from Arizona had best direct his remarks to his Republican colleagues in the U.S. Senate. You see, yesterday they did a little heart surgery over in the U.S. Senate. Yes, my colleague from Texas, PHIL GRAMM, said the heart, the very heart of this budget resolution was a tax cut for the privileged.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONILLA). The gentleman will state it. Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, is it appropriate under the rules to address specific actions taken in the other body?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair advises Members that they should avoid references to Members of the other body.

Mr. DOGGETT. Yesterday the U.S. Senate chose to perform heart surgery. Sixty-nine Members, including 23 Republicans in that body, decided to remove from the budget resolution any tax cut for the privileged. That is good news for Americans. We are still not there. We still do not have a reasonable budget resolution, but the fact that that heart surgery occurred over there in the Senate with joint bipartisan participation to add some reason to the budget resolution speaks volumes for Medicare recipients, speaks volumes for young people in this country, certainly speaks to the needs of Tina Henderson and her daughter Erica in my district who stand to lose substantially on student loans and student assistance, if the budget resolution the House passed is ever written into law.

CONGRESS ACTS TO OVERHAUL FOREIGN AID POLICY

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, this week, Congress has the opportunity to vote on legislation which would put American interests first. The American Overseas Interests Act overhauls our Nation's foreign aid policy to reflect our foreign policy and national security interests in the 1990's, not the 1950's. It defends our national security and supports our trade and economic interests while balancing the budget for our children's future.

We draw a line between offering a helping hand to countries which support us and countries who choose to work against our interests. We send a bold statement to our enemies by cutting off funds to countries that spy on us, provide weapons to terrorist states and consistently vote against us in the United Nations.

Most importantly, it eliminates three foreign policy agencies and cuts foreign aid spending by nearly \$1 billion. Finally, it sends a message to neighbors around the world that we know "we cannot buy friendship."

REPUBLICANS TO STUDENTS: NEED HELP? FORGET IT

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

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, America is the place that invented mass education, and that is one thing that made this the great country that it is.

For the past 50 years, great programs like the GI bill and the Student Loan Program have opened the doors of opportunity to generations of kids from poor, struggling families. The strongest, richest, most progressive regions in America are those regions where a fine education is within the reach of every worthy student, no matter how poor that student might be.

One would think that with millions of success stories, and one would think that with all the lessons of history, the Republicans would conclude that education ought to get a very high priority.

Nope. The Republicans want to strangle very form of student aid. They want to add thousands of dollars to the cost of student loans, and make deep cuts in every other kind of student aid. Hundreds of thousands of deserving kids will find it impossible to afford a good college education.

In my district alone there are almost 33,000 students who need student loans to make it through school. Losing the interest rate benefit will cost them millions of dollars. Since my district is among the Nation's poorest, many of those kids will lose their best chance for a decent life.

The Republican message to them is that hard work and studious habits do not pay. The Republican message to the 50 per cent of kids who need help to go to college is forget it. As a social policy it is tragic. As an economic policy, it is foolish. Our Government has assisted education as a high priority since the Northwest Ordinance of 1789. George Washington must be embarrassed to see the Republican budget.

IN SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS ACT

(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, the Committee on International Relations, under the excellent leadership of our chairman, BEN GILMAN, has brought to the floor a bill that combines wise policy guidance with sound fiscal discipline.

The bill represents a substantial cut-back in the level of discretionary spending proposed by the administration in its 1996 budget request.

It is fair that the foreign affairs programs of this Government join with the domestic programs in making the sacrifices that are necessary to bring our Federal budget into balance by the year 2002.

It is the administration's responsibility to manage the program entrusted