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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, Chief Rabbi of Israel, offered the following prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, bless and grace the House of Representatives of the United States of America, and lead them in the right way to bring peace in the United States of America and in the entire universe, for the benefit of all mankind.

I am very happy to be here and to thank you for the declaration and proclamation offering the Congressional Golden Medal and tribute in honor of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, spiritual leader not only for the Jewish people but for all mankind, leading us as a scholar, as a guide, in the period, in the age of the end of the Second World War, out of the Holocaust, from the darkness of the Holocaust, which I was personally very lucky to be one of its survivors, to show us there is a light in the edge of the tunnel. He showed us the way of spirit, of hope, of faith, of education, to all the good and the best it can be.

His colleagues, his students, his followers, the Chabad Movement of Lubavitch, in its over 2,000 educational and social institutions, bring to a world which will be improved in peace, in health, in happiness.

So I appreciate on behalf of the State of Israel, of the people of Israel, of the people, the Jewish people all over the world, your brilliant idea, the House of Representatives of the leaders of the free world, United States of America, for this contribution to peace all over the world.

Let us say, all of us, He, the Almighty who makes peace in His heights, will make peace upon us, upon the entire universe.

And let us say: 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 Pledge of Allegiance will be led by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. STEARNS].

Mr. STEARNS 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.

OPENING PRAYER BY ISRAELI CHIEF RABBI YISRAEL MEIR LAU

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join our colleagues in welcoming to the House this morning the Chief Rabbi of Israel, Yisrael Meir Lau, who today led our opening prayer in Congress.

We are very honored to have Israel's Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Lau, present with us as we commemorate the awarding of a Congressional Gold Medal to the late leader of the Lubavitch Chassidim, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, of blessed memory.

Rabbi Lau has come to the United States because of his admiration for the late Rabbi Schneerson, and because of his commitment to the Jewish people as a child survivor of the Holocaust.

Prior to his becoming Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Lau served as the Chief Rabbi for the cities of Netanya and Tel Aviv.

I know my colleagues join in extending our heartiest good wishes upon his visit to the United States, and look forward to being with him at today's historic events.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). The Chair will announce that there will be 10 1-minutes per side starting at this time by previous order of the Speaker and with agreement of the minority leader.

HONORING THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE

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

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, today the President will fulfill a congressional mandate to honor a lifetime of good words and good deeds by the late Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, by presenting a Congressional Gold Medal in his memory.

I am honored this morning to speak about a very extraordinary American.

Born in Russia in 1902, educated at Sorbonne University in Paris, Rabbi Schneerson emigrated to America and built a worldwide organization dedicated to goodness out of the ashes of the Holocaust.

The Rebbe exemplified the meaning of Chabad—an acronym that stands for wisdom, understanding, and knowledge. The Chabad movement he led became the world's largest Jewish education and outreach organization, active in 42 countries and almost every State in our Union.

We honor his memory today because the Rebbe's work on behalf of morality, education, and charity and his essential goodness made him a respected and

□ 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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beloved religious leader around the world. The Rebbe's good work reached far beyond the Chassidic community he led so well from a small brownstone building in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn.

Awarding a Congressional Gold Medal in the Rebbe's memory is a fitting tribute to a great humanitarian whose work on behalf of all people will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI MENACHEM MENDEL SCHNEERSON

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

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I also join my colleagues in a very special opportunity to remind the world and this country and this Congress about the work of the Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson, someone who in his lifetime probably influenced as many people as anyone else maybe in the history of the world in terms of good works and good deeds.

I also thank the Chief Rabbi of Israel for being with us today and being part of a ceremony. Most Members, I think, are aware that today the gold medal that this Congress voted for the late Rebbe will be given at a ceremony at the White House, and there are activities throughout the day in terms of speeches in memory of the Rebbe.

I can speak, in a sense from a personal perspective, from the community that I represent in south Florida. Before I move to that community, there was no presence of the Chabad movement. In the near 15 years, there are six centers of learning, a school that has several hundred students. It is not just a community that, in a sense, the Rebbe taught to, but the entire community of the world in terms of education and really faith that we have the opportunity today in a special way to thank and to bless his memory.

OCALA: ALL-AMERICAN CITY

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the city of Ocala, FL. This past weekend it won the prestigious title of All-American City from the National Civic League.

Competing against 30 other communities from across the Nation, Ocala-Marion County was one of 10 towns to earn recognition for its ability to creatively overcome problems and bring its citizens together. In a time when civic pride and strong community spirit are on the wane, it is refreshing to see a city like my hometown travel a different course, one where the residents still embrace the duties and reap the rewards of citizenship.

This city is worthy of this honor. Ocala-Marion County is a town experi-

encing rapid growth while at the same time preserving those values—thrift, industry, faith, and patriotism—that keep America strong. This Nation could do far worse, and could hardly do better, than to make Ocala a model for communities everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, I want to wish Ocala-Marion County continued good fortune, and I encourage the citizens and all its elected officials to wear their new title of All-American City with pride. Truly, they have earned it.

HONORING HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ADVOCACY DAY

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, today is denoted as Historically Black Colleges and Universities Advocacy Day.

HBCU presidents have taken on the challenge to confront the wrong-headed assault on knowledge being waged by this Congress.

Slashing education funding in general and funding for the Nation's historically black colleges and universities in particular is not only shortsighted, it is counterproductive. HBCU's have been in the forefront of providing leadership for black communities and for America.

If you look at the ranks of virtually any profession, you see the indelible mark made by historically black colleges and universities. No group of institutions has done so much with so little for so long.

I want to commend those presidents and chancellors who are here today to participate in this significant undertaking. I want to encourage them to inform Members of Congress of the critical role these schools play in educating a segment of the population that only they are capable, experienced, and proficient in educating.

I also want to pledge my support to help preserve and strengthen the unique and critical role played by historically black colleges and universities.

REPUBLICANS ARE KEEPING THEIR PROMISES

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the budget plan the House will debate and vote on this week is one of the most important pieces of legislation this Congress will vote on for the next 2 years. It is important because this Federal Government cannot continue on the path it has been on for generations now.

We can no longer afford massive social spending programs that have little impact on the problems they were created to solve. We can no longer afford to bury future generations under a mountain of debt.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come to put to rest the idea the Government has all the answers and if we throw more money at the problems we can solve those problems.

It is time to let American families keep more of what they earn. Republicans are keeping our promises. We are finally balancing the budget, not by raising taxes but by cutting spending.

VIOLATION OF THE RULES OF THE HOUSE

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, this little book here many Members undoubtedly have not read, but it is the rules of the House that were adopted January 4, and the majority of Republican Members said they were going to reform the House, and you could only serve on four subcommittee.

Well, how come 30 Members of the majority now serve on 5 or 6 subcommittees? Are the rules made just to be broken?

I would like to ask the couple of gentleman from North Carolina, the gentlewoman from New York, the gentleman from Indiana, the gentleman from Maryland, all freshmen, do you tell your children that rules are made to be broken, because that is what you are doing? Or do you teach them that you do not have to follow the rules, because you are in the majority, and as long as you are running the place you can do whatever you want to do, no matter what the rules say? Because that is what you are doing right now.

That is the Republican majority. They are violating the rules, because they have more than four subcommittees, and the rules say you can only have four subcommittees.

ALLOWING FAMILIES TO KEEP MORE OF THEIR OWN MONEY

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, Republicans in Congress are keeping our promises to the American people. Our budget resolution eliminates the deficit, saves Medicare from bankruptcy, and lowers taxes on working families.

Contrary to the rhetoric emanating from the other side of the aisle, our tax relief package will not bust the budget. Our tax cuts represent only 2 percent of the \$12.1 trillion in Federal spending over the next 7 years, and are fully paid for.

Furthermore, we prove our commitment to balancing the budget, by delaying the implementation of our tax cuts until CBO certifies we have produced a plan that eliminates the deficit by 2002.