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House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m.
The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Your goodness to us, O God, is beyond our measure and Your grace to us is not restrained. In spite of missing the mark and seeing too much our own way, You allow your blessings to flow and Your mercies never to cease. We pray that this day we will open our hearts and minds to the daily gifts of faith and hope and love and pray that these gifts will brighten our day and make us faithful in Your service. 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.

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

The point or order is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT 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 SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 927), an act to seek international sanctions against the Castro government in Cuba, to plan for support of a transition government leading to a democratically elected government in Cuba, and for other purposes.

THE MIDDLE EAST

(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, Patrick Henry said "Gentlemen may cry peace, peace. But there is no peace." In quick succession, four blasts have extinguished 54 lives and scarred another 210.

Hamas has demonstrated again that it is a murderous group of fanatics who are so poisoned with hate—so obsessed with slaughter—that no innocent life is safe.

Terrorism experts have stated that Hamas and its allies will attempt to inflict this sort of horror on Americans. We must work together with the Israelis in stopping these madmen.

Arafat must also shoulder his share of the blame for this situation. He has failed to prevent the uses of territory under his administration from being used as a staging area for these plots.

He has failed to comply with the conditions of the Oslo peace accords that

required that he remove those sections of the Palestine National Covenant which call for the destruction of Israel.

Until such time as Arafat lives up to those agreements he has signed and eliminates Hamas from areas for which he bears responsibility, the United States should know that there is little good in negotiating with him.

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are uniting behind a proposal that would make modest but important improvements in America's health insurance. This is a bill that was sponsored by the gentlewoman from New Jersey [Mrs. ROUKEMA] that would basically guarantee that insurance companies could not deny health insurance coverage for preexisting conditions and also would improve what we call portability, the ability to take your insurance with you or to guarantee that your insurance is renewed even if you lose group coverage.

Today we have over 150 House Democrats who are cosponsoring the Roukema measure, including myself. We are challenging the House Republican leadership to let this bill come to the floor without loading it up with all kinds of other proposals that would make it less possible for the bill to pass. This is something that President Clinton endorsed in his State of the Union Address.

The time has come now for bipartisan support for this health security and health insurance reform for all Americans. I call upon the House leadership to bring this bill to the floor so that we can see better guarantees that preexisting conditions would not prevent someone from getting health insurance and that someone who loses their

□ 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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health insurance on the job can still get it in the individual market.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CONGRESSMAN JIM BUNNING

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, a great, great honor befell one of our colleagues yesterday. JIM BUNNING from Kentucky, a very good friend of mine. Everybody here in the front row was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. This is an honor that very few baseball players ever achieve. JIM pitched no-hitters in both the American and National Leagues. He did extraordinary things and it is high time he was recognized.

I remember when I was about 6 years old, and he was in the majors, how much I admired JIM BUNNING. Maybe I was a little bit older, but anyhow let me just say that JIM deserves this honor. I hope all of my colleagues will take the opportunity today to congratulate him. It is a great honor for JIM BUNNING and a great honor for the State of Kentucky.

DISTRICT'S FEDERAL PAYMENT

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, education is the motherhood and apple pie of Congress, yet the divergent ideology on education is punishing 80,000 schoolchildren in the Nation's Capital. Six months into the appropriation year, a third of the District's Federal payment is still here, yes, it is still here, and the District is going to run out of money at the end of the month.

The issue is not the District but whether tuition should go to private and religious schools. We passed it here with a compromise. There is very little money involved, yet nationally of course there is a proposal to cut a billion dollars and a million kids from the title I education and disadvantaged program.

The House is free to argue the point. It is a fair point to argue, as to whether vouchers should obtain or whether we should cut large amounts of money from public schoolchildren. I ask my colleagues, however, to care about the District's schoolchildren and about the survival of the Nation's Capital itself. Do not allow us to run out of money at the end of March because money you owe us is stuck here.

FOCUS ON RESULTS

(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, I appreciate the words of the delegate from the District of Columbia.

While we may have some philosophical differences that should be debated on this floor and while we may have problems from time to time, when I returned to the Sixth District of Arizona, one message was given to me overwhelmingly by liberals and conservatives, Democrats and Republicans. They said, Congressman, focus on results and what works.

Therefore, our mission is clear. To do, in the words of President Clinton, what he said he wanted to do, to end welfare as we know it, to find a way to cut into the bureaucracy so \$32 billion is not spent on the bureaucracy of education but instead put on the frontlines helping children learn and ultimately to allow the American people to hang onto more of their hard-earned money to decide how to spend that on their children instead of sending it here to Washington bureaucrats.

Those three broadly defined goals deal with results. Let us work together to see those results brought to fruition.

A MESSAGE FROM SARA LEE

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Sara Lee is closing their Virginia apparel factory; 42 workers lose their jobs. Sara Lee is also closing a T-shirt factory in North Carolina; another 370 workers lose their jobs.

But Sara Lee says there is a lot of good news here. They are going to keep open their distribution center in Martinsville, VA. Distributing center. They will not make the products here. They will distribute them so America can buy them but Americans cannot work in the factory.

My colleagues, America does not build a TV, a VCR, a typewriter, or a telephone, but they are distributing them all over our Nation. With NAFTA and GATT, this is not even trade anymore. This is a takeover. America is becoming a distribution center for foreign made imports.

Think about it, Congress. There is a serious message in there.

ARE MORE PROGRAMS THE ANSWER

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, despite large increases in Federal spending, test scores for students in the United States continue to fall. In fact, according to a recent study, United States students scored far below Japanese and British students in all subjects for which there were comparisons. In some subjects, Japanese students came very close to doubling scores of United States students. So, what is the President's answer to this problem? More spending and more programs.

This is not the answer. Last week, Chairman GOODLING held a press con-

ference to discuss his committee's finding that there are 760 Federal education programs scattered throughout 39 separate departments, agencies, and commissions. This web of Federal programs costs over \$120 billion per year to educate citizens on everything from the disposal of boat sewage to citizenship. Each of these programs has its own application process, and each requires large amounts of staff time to administer—on the Federal, State, and local levels. Money spent on redundant programs is money not spent on our children.

This must change.

PULLING THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER AMERICAN STUDENTS

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

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, as March 15 draws closer, we are reminded that Congress has failed to enact the fiscal year 1996 appropriation for education. Five months of uncertainty about Federal funding has had a devastating impact on schools in Maine and throughout the country.

I am concerned about the effect of this uncertainty, combined with deep spending cuts, on our schools. Schools are having to make plans for the next school year without even knowing what resources they will have available.

I visited a number of schools in my district over the February recess. I was so impressed with the students I saw who were eager to ask questions and to learn. The message I received is that we must invest more in our students, to help them grow and develop to their fullest potential.

Unfortunately, some of our majority colleagues seem determined to pull the rug out from under America's future by pushing cuts in education funding. That's moving in the wrong direction, and I urge my colleagues to oppose these efforts.

ELECTION YEAR POLITICS WITH THE WAR ON DRUGS

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

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today's Washington Post contains the following headline, "About Face, Clinton To Restore Staff He Cut From Antidrug Office."

First paragraph reads:

Moving full circle in this election year, President Clinton plans an ambitious upgrading of White House drug control policy office, 3 years after virtually wiping out that office.

Mr. Speaker, a recent survey shows huge increases in drug use amongst our children. Not only is there increasing drug use, but the average age at which children first use drugs is now age 13.

Mr. Speaker, the President has pursued a policy of appeasement in the