

PRAYER

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

How can we praise You, our God and our King,
 How can we serve You with hands that we bring,
 How can we love You with hearts that grow weak,
 How can we cherish the gifts that we seek.
 Yes we can praise You, for You lived us first,
 Yes we can serve You, with faith be immersed,
 Yes, we can love you, be deeds of good will,
 Yes we can cherish Your peace to fulfill. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCREST] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GILCREST 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.

RANK AND FILE OF AFL-CIO WILL CONTINUE TO REJECT THE OLD-STYLE LIBERAL POLICIES OF CLINTON ADMINISTRATION AND LIBERAL UNION BOSSES

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues news of the AFL-CIO's recent convention where the highest officials of the AFL-CIO, under newly elected union president John Sweeney, levied a \$35 million tax increase on the rank and file men and women of our Nation's unions. This \$35 million tax is being used to support an orchestrated, and highly political campaign to divide our Nation along class and income lines.

Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, the American people, especially the rank and file of our Nation's labor unions, will not allow Mr. Sweeney and the other liberal union bosses to turn back the clock on this Congress' pledge of fundamental change. We will continue our efforts to respond to the people of this great country. We will make the Federal Government smaller, more efficient and more user friendly. We will fight the bureaucrats here in Washing-

ton who refuse to let parents and families decide what should be taught in schools. And we will cut wasteful Federal spending so we can put more money back in to the pockets of working families.

Despite the rhetoric of the liberal, elite union leaders, I believe the working men and women of the AFL-CIO, will continue to reject the old-style liberal policies of Mr. Sweeney and the Clinton administration, and support of vision of a stronger, more prosperous America.

GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE STUDIES, A LITTLE GOOFY?

(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, I thought the Federal Government was a little goofy when they studied bovine flatulence, but there have been a couple of private studies that got my attention. One was the dynamics of peeling adhesive tape. The private study found out that it is very difficult to peel off tape in just one piece.

The second one was the pigeon discrimination of paintings by Monet and Picasso. They determined that, really, pigeons do not discriminate. They may defecate, but no discrimination is involved.

Then there is the big one: the impact of wet underwear on thermoregulatory responses and thermal comfort in cold. What they determined was if you wear wet underwear in frigid weather, you freeze your buns off.

If we think this is a waste of money, check this out, Congress: The FDA has spent \$200,000 for tea tasters, \$200,000 for a tea-tasting commission.

Mr. Speaker, beam me up. I yield back the balance of all of this money, both private and public.

MAKING HEALTH CARE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, last Congress I introduced the only health reform legislation that truly had bipartisan support. The Rowland-Bilirakis bill focused on areas where there was widespread agreement about the need for reform. Unfortunately, this legislation never made it to the House floor.

I recently introduced the Health Coverage Availability and Affordability Act. This bill allows portability, thus permitting people to move from job to job without losing their health coverage.

The bill eliminates prohibitions on preexisting conditions so that individuals can change jobs and still have access to affordable health care. This simple change will dramatically improve the lives of millions of American

families. Right now, 25 million Americans are denied health insurance coverage because of a preexisting condition.

Mr. Speaker, we have the best health care system in the world—but there is room for improvement. Our plan improves health care in this country by making it both accessible and, just as important, affordable. I would encourage my colleagues to join me in eliminating job-lock by supporting the Health Coverage Availability and Affordability Act.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE EDMUND S. MUSKIE

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

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty this afternoon to inform the House of the passing of Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine this morning at about 4 a.m.

Senator Muskie was 81 years of age, a graduate of Bates College and Cornell University Law School, a very distinguished public servant of the citizens of Maine and of the United States. He served three terms in the Maine House of Representatives in 1946 and 1948 and 1950, including a final term as the Democratic floor leader. In 1955, he was elected Governor, he served a second term, and he followed that with a career in the U.S. Senate that began in 1958.

In 1968, he was Democratic candidate for Vice President of the United States and built and earned a tremendous national reputation for his decency, his compassion and his moderation during that difficult time during the end of the Vietnam war. He also served as Secretary of State in the Cabinet of President Jimmy Carter from 1980 to 1981.

While there are many distinctions that we can discuss, not the least among them is the Senator's accomplishment in creating a second party, making Maine a two-party State, which is in the best interest of all of our citizens, but certainly as his legislative accomplishments on the national level are beyond peer, particularly in the area of environmental protection.

Senator Muskie was the author of many of the first pieces of legislation that this body passed back in the early 1960's dealing with the need to protect the quality of our air and our water. There are other issues that I could mention, but I think none more important than the fact that Senator Muskie was a kind and decent man who exercised and practiced respect for all of his constituents and all those with whom he had dealings. His demeanor is going to be missed. Certainly his integrity and his honesty are universally respected.

So we mourn his passing and we also express to his wife, Jane, and his five

children, Steven, Ellen, Melinda, Martha, and Edmund, Jr., our deep and sincere regret at his passing.

ON SENATOR EDMUND MUSKIE

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Democratic minority, it is appropriate to take note of a distinguished Governor, U.S. Senator, Secretary of State, and Vice Presidential candidate. It is on Ed Muskie's shoulders that much of the intellectual foundation of our foreign policy rests in terms of the primary of human rights and the sustainable progress of economic development throughout the world. It was on Senator Muskie's watch and on his shoulders that these priorities were defined and promoted.

It is also appropriate to say that it was on his giant shoulders, that were so strong with integrity, that many of us lesser public servants have attempted to stand. Senator Muskie always stood tall and made us all proud to be public servants, and we deeply mourn his passing.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken on Wednesday, March 27, 1996.

AUTHORIZING RUNNING OF 1996 SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RELAY THROUGH CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 146) authorizing the 1996 Special Olympics Torch Relay to be run through the Capitol Grounds.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 146

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF RUNNING OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RELAY THROUGH CAPITOL GROUNDS.

On May 24, 1996, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate may jointly designate, the 1996 Special Olympics Torch Relay may be run through the Capitol Grounds, as part of the journey of the Special Olympics torch to the District of Columbia Special Olympics summer games at Gallaudet University in the District of Columbia.

SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITY OF CAPITOL POLICE BOARD.

The Capitol Police Board shall take such actions as may be necessary to carry out section 1.

SEC. 3. CONDITIONS RELATING TO PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS.

The Architect of the Capitol may prescribe conditions for physical preparations for the event authorized by section 1.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST].

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 146 would authorize the Special Olympics torch to be run on the Capitol Grounds on May 24, 1996, as part of the journey of this torch to the Special Olympics summer games at Gallaudet University here in the District of Columbia.

This is an annual event and one which this committee has supported several times through resolutions authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for this purpose. This year approximately 3,000 members of 60 local and Federal law enforcement agencies throughout the region will participate in this 26-mile relay run through the city in support of the Special Olympics.

This program gives handicapped children and adults the opportunity to participate in sporting events.

Because of laws prohibiting open flames on Capitol Grounds, and because of safety concerns about activities taking place thereon, this resolution is necessary to permit the relay to occur. The resolution authorizes the Capitol Police Board to take necessary action to insure the safety of the Capitol, and the Architect of the Capitol may set forth conditions on the participation of this event.

This is a very worthwhile endeavor and I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] for the fine job he has done with our subcommittee, and I wholeheartedly support House Concurrent Resolution 146 to authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for this special event, the Special Olympics Torch Relay. This relay event is traditionally part of the opening ceremonies for the Special Olympics, which takes place at Gallaudet University here in the District. It is a fine annual event.

The games provide athletic competitive opportunities for over 2,200 Special Olympians in 17 respective events. The goal of the games is to help bring all mentally handicapped individuals into the large society under conditions whereby they are accepted and respected. Today more than 1 million children and adults with mental retar-

dation participate in Special Olympics programs worldwide.

I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] for bringing the resolution to the floor and for the fine job he and his staff have done with our subcommittee, and I urge support on this very worthwhile cause.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume in order to thank the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] and the gentleman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] for their participation in this worthy event, and for this worthy resolution.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I want to echo those remarks by the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the distinguished gentleman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON], who has done an outstanding job in our Congress.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me, and for his kind remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. GILCHREST, as well as the ranking member, the gentleman from Ohio, JIM TRAFICANT, for their leadership on House Concurrent Resolution 146, the Special Olympics torch relay bill.

This body rarely authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for staging special events. The 11th annual torch relay for the D.C. Special Olympics is a worthy exception. This event, organized by more than 650 Federal and local law enforcement agencies in the District, is a special part of the opening ceremony for the D.C. Special Olympics at Gallaudet University. This year I am pleased that Coolidge High School in my district is also providing playing fields for some of the events.

The law enforcement torch relay raises both funds and awareness for D.C. Special Olympics. More than 2,400 officers follow the lighted torch through the District. This outpouring is a fitting tribute to the D.C. Special Olympics, and to the 2,200 local Special Olympians in 17 events. I applaud the Downtown Jaycees who started the Special Olympics in 1969, Eunice Shriver, the founder, the law enforcement officers who will participate, and especially, this year's Special Olympians.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution to allow the Special Olympics Torch Relay to be run through the Capitol Grounds. The District of Columbia Special Olympics will be held May 13-23, 1996. The Special Olympics torch will be run across Capitol Grounds as part of the opening ceremonies which take place at Gallaudet University. As in the past, local law enforcement officials will participate in carrying the torch to the opening ceremony.

The DC Special Olympics provides opportunity for approximately 2,200 local Special Olympians in 17 events. Worldwide, over 1 million mentally challenged adults and children