

people of the Virgin Islands, the friendship you have shown me over the years, and I wish you well in your new adventure. I am sure that many of us are going to wish that there were times when you were here that we can come to you for counsel, but perhaps you will leave a phone number where you can be reached.

Again, thank you for the help and assistance and recognition of the people in the islands and their position of almost helplessness. You have taken it on on our behalf. God bless you for that assistance, and God speed in your new adventure.

LOSING THE NO. 1 MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, in the RECORD, I guess my remarks will appear last for my dear friend, SAM, who decided to leave the Congress and to leave the Committee on Ways and Means. Politically and legislatively that puts me as the No. 1 Democrat. But, quite frankly, we are losing the No. 1 Committee on Ways and Means member, a person that served with Wilbur Mills, a person that has been on the committee since 1969 even though he came to the Congress in 1962, one that no one challenges has done more to promote U.S. trade with NAFTA and with GATT as well as being the lead person with President Johnson on social issues.

We are going to miss SAM because he is the only one on the committee that had a sense of institutional memory. And I know one thing, I feel a lot more strong knowing that SAM will be there with me in the next year whereby every possible poll and every moral reason, the Democrats will be in charge of this particular House.

So Mr. Speaker, we will make certain that the gentleman's leadership carries on in the House and try to reverse some of the setbacks that we have had in terms of legislation that gentleman has been promoting, and I regret that I am last, but I am glad that I got here in time.

□ 1315

PARTING REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE SAM GIBBONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELLER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GIBBONS] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this every much. First I want to thank my colleague, Ms. BROWN, for arranging this and her staff for doing all of this. I realize that many Members could not be here today and have sub-

mitted their remarks for the RECORD, for which I am most grateful. I am very grateful, too, for those who were able to show up today and pay me this honor. I am very proud that my wife, Martha, is here in the gallery to my left hearing all of this. I am overwhelmed by it. I do not deserve it all, but I darn sure appreciate every bit of it.

This is not my last speech, and for that many of you can take a deep breath, because I am sure there are going to be many more battles in which we will agree and disagree, and I intend to participate in them.

I retire now because I think it is time to do so. I have enjoyed every minute of the service I have been privileged to have for my constituents and for the American people.

I am proud of the Congress. Oftentimes the Congress is misunderstood. We do not deal with the easy issues, and Americans really do not like conflict and they do not like us to express differences of opinion. They are very uncomfortable when they do that. Therefore, the Congress is often misunderstood.

This is a group of very dedicated people and vary skillful people, and people who have deep convictions about what they are doing. It takes a lot of patience to understand them and to tolerate the differences in views, but we must do that. That is democracy in action. That is what America is all about.

I have become acquainted with most of the other parliamentary bodies on Earth, and none has the responsibility or the power that is possessed by the Congress, and particularly by the House of Representatives of the Congress. That is a form of government that most other nations have looked at and have decided not to adopt, for one reason or another, but I think it has served our country well for all these years. It will always be a tremendous privilege to me to look back and say I was able to participate in all that deliberation and all that work.

Martha and I will go to a new career. I am not exactly sure what it is going to be. I hope to teach a little. I hope to practice law with my sons a little. I hope to come back up here and work with some of my colleagues and all of my colleagues on two particular issues that I am interested in. One is keeping the markets of the world open, because I believe that nations that trade with each other do not end up fighting each other, and I think it is good for America and good for the world that we keep the markets of the world open. I am proud of the small contributions I have made in that.

The other is to do something about our revenue system. America cannot afford the terrible revenue system that we now have. It is not that the tax burden is so high on Americans; it is the clumsy way in which we collect the taxes that really irritates the Americans.

Frankly, our misunderstood tax system extracts less on a per capita basis from our people than the tax systems of 25 other industrialized nations who inhabit this globe. But our very clumsy system of collecting taxes makes it a heavy burden for all of us to carry. That needs to be changed, because we cannot remain competitive, we cannot maintain our standard of living, unless we change our tax system, unless we keep our markets open, unless we educate our people, because from the brains and the bodies of our people comes the strength of our country and the standard of living which we all love to have and which is going to be more and more difficult to maintain.

So I get ready to leave here at the end of this term in a happy frame of mind and, fortunately, in good health, and very, very grateful for the friendships, for the experience, and for what I was allowed to do while here.

Martha and I love this place. We love the people. We love the staff and all those who work around here. Particularly we are grateful to those people who elected us year after year after year and allowed us to serve here.

Thank you, and God bless America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House, and any manifestation of approval or disapproval of the proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House stands in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. CLINGER] at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Luis Leon, rector, St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, Who has given us this good land for our heritage, we humbly pray that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of the grace You have granted us. Bless our land with honorable industry and sound learning and faithful leadership. Save us from violence and discord, confusion and chaos, pride and arrogance. Defend our liberties and fashion into one nation the good people brought here out of many lands and languages. Endue

with a spirit of wisdom those to whom in Your name we entrust the authority of government, especially the President and the Congress of the United States, that there may be justice and mercy in this land. Strengthen our resolve to see fulfilled all hopes for a lasting peace among all nations. In a time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in a day of trouble, remind us that we still belong to You. All this we ask in Your name. 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 Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MONTGOMERY 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 had passed a joint resolution of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S.J. Res. 53. Joint resolution making corrections to Public Law 104-134.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND LUIS LEON AS GUEST CHAPLAIN

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

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome the Reverend Luis Leon to the U.S. House of Representatives to be our Chaplain for the day and thank him for the prayer just given.

Reverend Leon was born in Guantánamo, Cuba, and was baptized in Guantánamo Episcopal Church. He moved to the United States at the age of 12 and lived with his mother and sister in Miami. He later attended the University of the South in Sewanee, TN. In 1977, Reverend Leon received his master's in divinity degree from the Virginia Theological Seminary.

Reverend Leon has spent many years in religious service at churches in North Carolina, New Jersey, and Delaware. He moved to Washington, DC, with his wife, Lu, and his two daughters are living here, too. He is now the 14th Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church at Lafayette Square here in Washington, DC.

Since its inauguration in 1815 St. John's has been a fixture in our Nation's Capital. Organized to serve as a parish church for occupants of the White House and their families, it is now known as the "Church of the Presidents" because every President since James Madison has attended services there at least once. President Clinton continues the tradition by quite often attending St. John's 8 o'clock services on Sunday mornings.

Again, we welcome Rev. Luis Leon as our Chaplain for the day.

MAKING CORRECTIONS TO PUBLIC LAW 104-134

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 53) making corrections to Public Law 104-134, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate joint resolution, as follows:

S.J. RES. 53

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That:

(a) In Public Law 104-134, insert after the enacting clause:

"TITLE I—OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS".

(b) The two penultimate undesignated paragraphs under the subheading "ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS, FOREST SERVICE" under the heading "TITLE II—RELATED AGENCIES, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE" of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996, as contained in section 101(c) of Public Law 104-134, are repealed.

(c) Section 520 under the heading "TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS" of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996, as contained in section 101(e) of Public Law 104-134, is repealed.

(d) Strike out section 337 under the heading "TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS" of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996, as contained in section 101(c) of Public Law 104-134, and insert in lieu thereof:

"SEC. 337. The Secretary of the Interior shall promptly convey to the Daughters of the American Colonists, without reimbursement, all right, title and interest in the plaque that in 1933 was placed on the Great Southern Hotel in Saint Louis, Missouri by the Daughters of the American Colonists to mark the site of Fort San Carlos."

(e) Section 21104 of Public Law 104-134 is repealed.

The Senate joint resolution was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REALITY CHECK ON CONGRESS

(Mr. FUNDERBURK asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, it's time for a reality check on the accomplishments of the 104th Congress. At the moment Clinton is riding high in the polls—a result pleasing to the liberal media in America.

But the facts are these: this Congress majority voted for real welfare reform, but Bill Clinton vetoed it; this Congress voted for a balanced budget but Clinton vetoed it; this Congress voted to cut wasteful spending including foreign aid but Clinton vetoed it; this Congress voted to defend second amendment rights but Clinton chose another path. Let's give credit where credit is due.

If the American people want true reform in our country for those who work and pay taxes, those who farm and run small businesses, those who want to put America's interests ahead of the U.N. and world government; those who support traditional family values; then this majority in Congress must be increased and a new President must be elected. It's time to think of vetoing Clinton—he's the obstacle to real reform in America. That's the reality.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE IS THE ECONOMIC AND MORAL ISSUE OF THE DAY

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon the leadership of the House to bring up legislation increasing the minimum wage, and in doing so I ask the question, how long does it take to earn \$8,440?

I call the attention of our colleagues to this cartoon, which states that it takes a full-time minimum-wage earner 1 year, while it takes the average CEO of a large U.S. corporation one-half a day. This cartoon is not funny and it is not fair.

Yes, we salute the success of the entrepreneur and the businessperson. Yes, we recognize that business must make a profit. But in a country as great and as decent as ours, this cannot all be at the expense of exploiting our work force.

For a minimum-wage earner a pay raise to \$5.15 per hour would mean to have enough money for food, textbooks, simple things. We must raise the minimum wage to a decent living wage, to a wage that makes work pay.