

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.

It is the political, economic and moral—yes, I repeat, moral issue of our day.

REPEALING GAS TAX WILL HELP AMERICANS AT LOWEST RUNG ON ECONOMIC LADDER

(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 listened with great interest to my good friend and colleague from California and her editorial cartoon that she brought out, but I thought she and other Members on the liberal side of the aisle would be interested in this statement from President Clinton when he was freed from the strictures of campaign fever.

"It", raising the minimum wage, "is the wrong way to raise the incomes of low-wage earners." So said the President in Time magazine February 6 of last year.

Mr. Speaker, the challenge for us is not to prescribe some artificial wage mandated by Government. The challenge for us is to allow hard-working Americans to hang on to more of the money they earn and send less of it to the Federal Government, beginning with this regressive, horrible Clinton tax on gasoline. Let us repeal that today in true bipartisan fashion and that will help American workers at the lowest rung of the economic ladder and on up.

MANHATTAN JUDGE OKAYS TAX BREAKS FOR PEDOPHILES

(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, a Manhattan judge has okayed tax breaks for pedophiles. The judge upheld the tax exempt status for Zymurgy, Inc., an organization that advocates sex between men and boys. The judge ruled freedom of speech extends even to those who advocate man-boy sex.

Mr. Speaker, where did this judge get his law degree, the back cover of Bazooka bubble gum trading cards or what? Will America, now Congress, subsidize pedophilia?

The truth of the matter is some of these judges have become so book smart, they are actually street dumb. I think it is time for Congress to take a look at some of this judicial branch decision-making process. Sounds pretty constipating to me.

IT IS TIME TO REPEAL REGRESSIVE GAS TAX

(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, I once again return to the point I have been

making since I got here, and that is that working families in this country are taxed far, far too much. Working families are being ripped off by the Federal Government and by the special interests that demand more and more money and higher and higher taxes.

So I am glad to hear the rumors that the President may at least be willing to roll back the ill-conceived gas tax that he imposed a couple of years back. That gas tax was part of the biggest tax increase in history, a tax increase that even the President later admitted was a mistake.

The President and the old Congress thought that higher taxes would fuel the economy, but a lot of working families are just about running on empty. Taxes are too high. Let us quit siphoning an extra 50, or 60 or 70 cents out of the pockets of American citizens each time they fill up their gas tanks. Let us agree right now, in a bipartisan way, to repeal this ridiculous regressive gas tax and ensure Americans get more mileage out of their own paychecks. It is time to cut taxes and get the lead out.

CONGRESS SUPPORTS HEAD START WITH \$36 MILLION OVER FISCAL YEAR 1995

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

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, I had the great pleasure of being a guest of some of my youngest constituents at the Dorothy Grant and William Bell Head Start Preschool Centers in Fontana, CA. I salute the dedicated staff and outstanding students of these two centers.

Since its enactment in 1965, Head Start has provided comprehensive child development services to more than 12 million low-income preschool children and their families.

I was proud to vote for this legislation in 1965, and I am proud of the accomplishments it is still making. While the thrust of Head Start is the same as it was 30 years ago, the program has evolved greatly and now encompasses more community and parental support.

Head Start has a proven role in reducing drop outs, providing access to health care, and assisting in preventing delinquency.

I applaud supportive Members of Congress for their recent work in the budget negotiations to fund head Start at \$36 million over and above fiscal year 1995. This action shows our strong commitment to providing a solid footing in educating our children.

OSHA SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF

(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, last week my office received a copy of a let-

ter which the AFL-CIO is circulating to Members of Congress opposing the Small Business OSHA Relief Act, H.R. 3234.

Not surprisingly, the letter never mentions the fact that every single item in the Small Business OSHA Relief Act has been taken directly from policy pronouncements of the Clinton administration. The AFL-CIO has shown how extreme its own agenda is when it opposes this very modest legislation, which is limited in scope and represents areas of agreement between the Clinton administration's initiatives and our desire to make OSHA less adversarial and more commonsensical.

The Clinton administration has repeatedly said that OSHA needs to be reinvented. But will the Clinton administration have the backbone to stand by its own words and initiatives when the AFL-CIO comes calling?

CONGRESS SHOULD BRING MINIMUM WAGE TO VOTE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would urge Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican leadership to let us vote on an increase in the minimum wage. In my State of New Jersey the minimum wage was increased to \$5.05 an hour, two Princeton University economists, David Card and Alan Kruger, surveyed patterns in fast food restaurants in New Jersey and Pennsylvania after the minimum wage went into effect. The result suggested a moderate hike, much like the one President Clinton is proposing, has actually increased total employment.

The reason is that minimum wage earners do not have the ability to save. They spend their money on basic necessities, and raising the minimum wage put more money into our local economy. The money was spent to purchase more goods, adding eventually to an increase in profits for our local businesses. The fast food industry that Card and Kruger studied found most of the people earning the minimum wage were the same people who used that increase to in fact buy more fast food.

So the bottom line is a higher minimum wage increased economic activities in New Jersey. It is supported by the President and supported by most Members in both the House and the Senate, and the leadership of the Republican Party should bring it up for a vote now.

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A SEAT ON THE COURT FOR \$10 MILLION

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, \$10 million is not a big deal to most liberal Democrats. But to Bill Clinton it's just