

Jones who said "Don't give up the ship," it's the other Jones who might have said "Don't give up the shipping subsidy."

□ 1300

REV. RANDY ALBANO

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

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Reverend Randy Albano, who works in my district assisting seafarers throughout the world who travel to the Port of Houston, in their personal and spiritual needs. Father Albano recently brought to light the vicious murder of three Romanian stowaways beaten and thrown overboard from a ship off the coast of Spain and, through his contacts, was able to assure the safety of the vessel's crew members in bringing the responsible parties to justice.

Father Albano, working out of the Barbours Cut Seafarers' Center in LaPorte, TX, intervened with the Canadian Government on behalf of eight Filipino seamen who wrote to him that they had witnessed their officers murder three Romanian stowaways. Two of the Romanians were set adrift on a small makeshift raft after they were discovered, and the raft subsequently fell apart in the high seas, and the third Romanian was stabbed to death on the deck of the ship and then cast overboard.

The Filipino crewmen, fearing for their lives, contacted Father Albano for guidance. He referred the matter to the Canadian Government, which detained the captain in Halifax, NS.

I have contacted the Canadian Ambassador to express my concern that the Filipino seamen be granted refugee status and that the captain and officers of the ship be prosecuted for these unspeakable crimes.

I would especially like to express my deep appreciation for Father Albano for the important work that he does and also to the Barbours Cut Seafarers' Center and its many civic volunteers from LaPorte, including Lou Lawler. Father Albano, and the volunteers at the Seafarers' Center in Barbours Cut have done so much to ensure safe travel on the high seas and to improve working conditions and the quality of life for seafarers.

Once again, Father Albano has courageously helped to ensure that the rule of law and basic respect for humanity are observed on the high seas.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

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

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Rabbi Edward Davis, Young Israel Temple, Hollywood, FL, offered the following prayer:

Avinu Shebashamayim, Our Heavenly Father, we seek Your blessing for wisdom every day of our lives. Recognizing our limitations, we find it necessary to ask You for Your guidance. There are times when we feel incapable of solving our problems. Yet our vision is global and optimistic. We feel confident that with Your assistance we will be successful in creating and maintaining a safe and secure environment for our neighborhoods, our country, and our world. Bestow Your blessing upon the Members of this House. Grant them good health, family enrichment, financial security, and the wisdom to decide issues with prudence and compassion. These men and women make decisions that effect us all. May America be rewarded by our faith in them; and may our faith in You, O God, be strong. 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.

STAND FOR CHILDREN

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, this weekend in Washington, there was a march. It was entitled "Stand for Children." And I could not agree more that we should put politics aside and give our children a better nation than what we had inherited. If the President this year is willing to act and not just talk, I think that we can do this.

In my hand is the world's most expensive credit card. It is a credit card that has accumulated 5 trillion dollars' worth of debt and accumulating budget deficits of \$150 to \$200 billion a year. This is a voting card for a Member of Congress. This is the most unconscion-

able thing that any government could do to its children, because the adults in our country will not pay this. It will be our children and theirs who get to pay off this massive debt.

Mr. Speaker, we can pass legislation this year that will balance the budget while at the same time providing \$500 more for parents with dependent children at home, lowering the average cost of a college loan by \$2,100, saving families over \$100 a month on their mortgage, and will provide real opportunities for children when they get out of school and look for jobs. All we have to do is balance the budget.

If the President really does feel the pain of kids today, he should put politics aside and begin to act.

MEDICARE CUTS PROPOSED

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Medicare trustees are going to issue their annual report to Congress and to the American people, and we already know that the Republican leadership is going to take advantage of this to try to suggest that the trustees' report justifies their severe and extreme changes in the Medicare Program for senior citizens.

I would suggest that the Democrats in the House of Representatives last year, with an amendment that was brought forward by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GIBBONS] and this year in the budget that was proposed by the President that we voted on, suggested minor changes or cuts, if you will, in the Medicare Program that would keep the Medicare Program solvent well into the next century.

The extreme cuts and changes in Medicare that the Republicans are proposing are not needed. The Medicare trustees' report should not be an excuse to justify, if you will, the changes that the Republican leadership is proposed in Medicare. Rather, we should be getting together to make those minor cuts, if you will, to save the program and keep it solvent on a bipartisan basis.

A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, no one doubts the importance of a balanced budget to America's families. But what we are doubting is President Clinton's commitment.

Well, the Senate vote this week on a balanced budget amendment is his chance to actually prove his commitment to a balanced budget. All he has to do is use his widely acclaimed oratorical skills, and lead the Somersault Six down the path to a balanced budget.

These Somersault Six are six Senators of his own party who had previously voted in favor of the amendment, but then switched their vote last

year in order to defeat the amendment. They are the sole obstacle to delivering a balanced budget to the American people.

We call on the President to show leadership and do the right thing for our children and grandchildren. If the President really believes that big Government and wasteful Washington spending are a thing of the past, he shouldn't be afraid to legally require a balanced Washington budget.

CHILDREN DID NOT RUN UP THE DEBT

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I rally thank the wonderful citizens around America who came this weekend to stand for children. We have heard some speeches this morning about how the best thing we can do for children is not run up a debt. That is absolutely right. We should not run up a debt. But let us also remind people that children did not run up the debt that is already there.

Mr. Speaker, we should not try to balance the debt on the backs of children, because children are going to be the ones that inherit this debt and are going to have to pay it off. The things that we desperately need for children are to make sure that they have the educational skills that they can get out and compete globally in the 21st century and make enough money so they can pay this off and get this country going the right way.

So to cut student loans, to cut aid to education, to cut after-school programs and summer programs, to cut math and science programs are all terribly short-sighted. Those who cause the debt should pay for the debt, not the children.

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE FUNDS AND REGULATORY RELIEF ACT OF 1996

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, this Member introduced the Federal Deposit Insurance Funds and Regulatory Relief Act of 1996, which constitutes a comprehensive plan to: First, fully capitalize the Savings Association insurance fund; second, guarantee payment of interest on Financing Corporation bonds; third, merge the bank and thrift charters; fourth, merge the bank insurance fund and the Savings Association insurance fund into a new deposit insurance fund; and fifth, provide solid regulatory relief to all financial institutions.

Mr. Speaker, this Member will be circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter explaining the provisions in the bill and he invites his colleagues to join in co-sponsoring this comprehensive legislation.

FIGHT THE ATTACK ON AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee's bill is a slap in the face to rural America. Last week the subcommittee approved a bill that would provide \$581 million less in budget authority for agriculture programs for fiscal year 1997.

The subcommittee's bill demonstrates the blatant lack of understanding many in Congress have for the 1996 farm bill and for America's farmers.

The Agriculture Committee worked for more than a year on a farm bill that would meet the needs of farmers, and our obligations in balancing the budget. We created a program of fixed, but declining payments to transition farmers from dependence on the government, to market-based production. The subcommittee's bill invalidates the farm bill and these contracts.

Today, I'm speaking especially to all of my colleagues from rural districts. Let's drop this partisanship. As aggies we must work together to fight, once again, this attack on agriculture.

THE WARNING BY DR. BILLY GRAHAM

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, Dr. Billy Graham received a well-deserved Congressional Medal of Honor here in the Capitol.

In his acceptance speech, he said that our Nation had "confused liberty with license" and that we are now "a society poised on the brink of self-destruction."

I am a little more optimistic than Dr. Graham, but unfortunately, almost no one would say that he had no reason or justification for his statements.

Let me quickly note three recent incidents which would cause Dr. Graham further concern.

First, a Federal judge ruled yesterday that a rural Mississippi school had violated the Constitution by allowing prayers over the intercom and classes about the Bible.

Second, the top legal adviser for the Governor of Florida said a school prayer bill was illegal because "we are officially now mandated to be a country with no formal recognition of God."

Third, a Maryland school superintendent revoked an invitation to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas because he happens to be both black and conservative.

Another high official in Prince George's County, where this occurred, called it "the epitome of intolerance and bigotry."

These things would not have happened in this country just a few years ago.

We should think very seriously about the warning by Dr. Billy Graham.

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, June 5, 1996.

AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR FACILITY PROJECTS AND MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, FISCAL YEAR 1997

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3376) to authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 1997, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I—CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS.

(a) AMBULATORY CARE ADDITION PROJECTS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following ambulatory care addition major medical facility projects, with each project to be carried out in the amount specified for that project:

(1) Addition of ambulatory care facilities for mental health enhancements at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Dallas, Texas, \$19,900,000.

(2) Addition of ambulatory care facilities at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Brockton, Massachusetts, \$13,500,000.

(3) Addition of ambulatory care facilities for outpatient improvements at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Shreveport, Louisiana, \$25,000,000.

(4) Addition of ambulatory care facilities at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Lyons, New Jersey, \$21,100,000.

(5) Addition of ambulatory care facilities at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Tomah, Wisconsin, \$12,700,000.

(6) Addition of ambulatory care facilities at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Asheville, North Carolina, in the amount of \$28,800,000.

(7) Addition of ambulatory care facilities at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Temple, Texas, in the amount of \$9,800,000.

(8) Addition of ambulatory care facilities at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Tucson, Arizona, in the amount of \$35,500,000.

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following environmental improvement major medical facility projects, with each project to be carried out in the amount specified for that project:

(1) Environmental improvements for the renovation of nursing home facilities at the