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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Colin Kelly III, Trinity-on-the-Hill Episcopal Church, Los Alamos, NM, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, bless these men and women of the House of Representatives. Endow them with wisdom, courage, and strength to know and to do Your will. Inspire them to rise above differences and see common tasks with Your vision.

We pray for the President of these United States, and all in authority, that they may always remember to look in trust to You as they fulfill their daily responsibilities.

We pray also for all the people of our country. We seek justice, freedom, and peace. Help us always to remember that freedom comes with responsibility and peace comes at the price of lives sacrificed. Give us Your peace.

Purify our hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Through Christ Jesus 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. HEFLEY. 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. HEFLEY. 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 the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, further pro-

ceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND COLIN P. KELLY III

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to formally welcome and introduce today's guest chaplain, the Reverend Colin P. Kelly III of Trinity-on-the-Hill Episcopal Church in Los Alamos, NM.

Reverend Kelly has had a long and distinguished career of service to his congregants and to this Nation. A West Point graduate, he served his country in Germany and at Fort Riley, KS. After receiving a master of divinity degree from Philadelphia Divinity School, he returned to active duty military for extensive pastoral experience. Among his duties, he served as assistant chaplain at the Military Academy and also served as division chaplain at Fort Carson where he su-

pervised 21 Army chaplains who were responsible for the spiritual welfare of over 16,000 soldiers and their families.

After retiring from the Army, he settled in Los Alamos where he assumed duties as rector of Trinity-on-the-Hill Episcopal Church. He is married to Sue Ellen Kelly who just joined him on this mission to Washington and they have five children.

While we in New Mexico know and respect Colin P. Kelly III for his pastoral duties, others around the country might recognize his name—his father was a World War II hero. Colin P. Kelly, Jr., was shot down over the Philippines in December 1941, shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He had engaged the enemy in what was the first strike back by the United States in World War II.

In recognition of the outstanding service offered by the Kelly family to this great Nation, it is only fitting that Reverend Kelly be given the opportunity to offer his prayers before the House. I urge my colleagues to join me in welcoming and honoring Reverend Colin P. Kelly III.

HEALTH INSURANCE

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

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I simply wanted to rise to note that we are on the verge of a historic achievement. We have a bill which will extend guaranteed portability of health insurance to every American in the health insurance system. That is, you will never again have to worry about changing jobs. You will never again have job lock because of a precondition. You will never again have to worry about a precondition stopping you from getting health insurance once you are in the system. You can change jobs; you can

□ 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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move around; you can do what you need to do.

This is a vital, vital improvement for the people of America. It is the No. 1 concern of working Americans in health care.

In addition, this bill includes lower cost insurance for family farms, for small businesses, and for the self-employed; that is, the groups that have the lowest level of insurance participation, those who are the least covered by insurance.

We have developed a medical savings account plan which allows them to buy lower cost health insurance to cover any kind of major illness they might have. So this is a win/win. It is better health coverage for families already in the insurance system because it eliminates preconditions, and it is lower cost health insurance for the self-employed family farms and small businesses.

I simply hope that the liberals in the Senate who are blocking it will get out of the way and allow the American people to have better health insurance with better coverage at lower cost.

THE IRS

(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, the IRS does not tolerate mistakes. The IRS expects taxpayers to have every single receipt. But check this out. The GAO did an audit of the IRS, and guess what they found; the IRS cannot even tell the difference between income taxes and Social Security taxes. Also, the IRS cannot account for \$3 billion of spending. Also, the IRS says taxpayers owe \$130 billion in overdue taxes, but the GAO says they could find no proof of that.

Just think about it. If you could not account for massive spending, if your books were in a shambles, what would the IRS do to you, Mr. Speaker? You would be guilty, guilty, guilty. They would take you to court and you would have to prove yourself innocent.

Beam me up. No wonder the American people are taxed off. I think Congress should take the IRS, handcuff them to a chain-link fence, and flog them with their own damn Tax Code.

That is what the Congress should do. Yield back the balance of the taxes.

WHITE HOUSE AND CONFIDENTIAL FBI FILES

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we learned that among those former Reagan and Bush officials whose confidential FBI background files have been pawed through by the Clinton White House is a distinguished Cincinnati, Mr. Joseph W. Hagin.

The search of Mr. Hagin's file is noteworthy not only because Joe is a well

respected member of my community but also because the White House initially had said that it had only gotten through files from A through G. Mr. Hagin's last name, of course, begins with the letter "H" and I'm willing to bet that the FBI is good enough to have figured that out.

Now Mr. Speaker, President Clinton has said that the White House never should condone an enemies list and that all of this vast intrusion into the privacy of former public servants is simply the result of administration incompetence. I sure hope that's the case. But I can understand why some of the victims are skeptical. After all this administration had turned the Justice Department over to a political crony named Webster Hubble who now stands convicted of various felonies. And the administration had done little to quell suspicion that the FBI was urged to target and harass Mr. Billy Dale. The President has apologized to Billy Dale. He also should apologize to Mr. Hagin.

The whole thing stinks to high heaven.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I heard what Speaker GINGRICH said about the health care reform bill. My concern is that what he mentioned really is very far from the truth. The fact of the matter is the Democrats and Republicans want to see a bill passed that would increase portability and eliminate preexisting conditions as a factor. But the Republican leadership has insisted on the poison pill of MSA's medical savings accounts.

The effect of including medical savings accounts in this legislation is basically to drive up the cost of insurance for the average person. Instead of expanding the opportunities of health care coverage and eliminating the ranks of the uninsured, by including medical savings accounts only the healthy and the wealthy will be able to take advantage of that. The cost for the average person of health insurance will go up. Instead of having more people covered by health insurance, the effect is that there will be less and less people covered by health insurance because they will not be able to afford the higher premiums.

The poison pill in MSA's is still there. The suggestion by the Speaker that somehow this legislation, if it includes the MSA's is going to solve the health care problem, is not true.

BUREAUCRATIC SNAFUS

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration is quickly becoming a litany of bureaucratic snafus and mistakes. Clinton responds to all of

these mishaps the same way—"I was not aware of any wrongdoing." Notice that Clinton never says that the charges are completely false, they are just someone else's fault not his.

When Bill Clinton campaigned it was "I didn't inhale."

When Whitewater developed, it was "I am not aware of any wrongdoing."

Finally, as the X-files scandal has developed, Clinton's response: "It appears to have been a completely honest bureaucratic snafu."

Mr. Speaker, I believe it was a completely bureaucratic snafu. But this administration has had far too many snafus to fool the American people into believing that these are all honest bureaucratic snafus. It is time for this administration to start taking a small measure of responsibility for its unethical actions. The people want honesty and integrity from the President.

EXTREME, EXTREMER, AND EXTREMIST

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, the election in the Senate yesterday gives the American people some idea of where the Republican Party is going. The three top leaders in the Senate now, like the three top leaders in the House, are far over on the far right extreme, far away from the mainstream American. Not a single moderate Republican is in the House leadership or the Senate leadership. That relates to what the Speaker came to talk about today.

Americans want portability. They want portability in health care. They do not know about any newfangled proposal on MSA's that have come up because some big insurance magnet is pushing it with big contributions. Move portability without any of these other ideological bells and whistles, and you will help the American people. I say, in conclusion, we now have three leaders in the House and Senate: extreme, extremist, extremist. Do not let that vitiate the kind of mainstream health care policy that the American people want.

ABUSIVE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I was born in Eufaula, OK, on November 18, 1957. I graduated from Oklahoma University in May 1981. I was married on May 7, 1977, to Frankie Jean Jones.

I had three fights when I was in the third grade, and I was 3 and 0 for the year. My high school football coach was Paul Bell. My high school basketball coach was Perry Anderson, and my college football coach was Barry Switzer.