

and it has been eye-opening and certainly they have been extremely responsive.

Last week was, in fact, the week that was, first of all with the tragedy of TWA flight 800 and the condolences that all of us extended to their families along with our prayers. Certainly my constituents wanted to solicit from me the response that whatever was the occurrence, that if it was found to be something that was criminal in nature, that justice would be had, and I committed that to them.

But also they reflected on the welfare reform and to a one, coming from a diverse district, as I do, with African-Americans and Hispanics and Anglos and Asians in Texas, indicated that we can have welfare reform without being harsh and terminating individuals' ability to survive. So they were inclined to say that we needed job training and child care and that we needed an opportunity for those individuals to have health care and, yes, we needed a job; quite contrary to the welfare reform of our Republican friends who simply believe that the harshness of saying no, no to teenage parents, no to the seniors in senior citizens' homes who need Medicaid, no to those who need job training and child care, is the way to go.

I rise today to say there has to be a better way, so I have supported President Clinton's method of enforcement of child support payments and giving to the Nation the list of deadbeat parents, because we all must show responsibility and that is a real part of welfare reform. So I would argue to my Republican colleagues that one does not always have to hit someone upside the head, but one can soften the blow by saying we will give them an extended hand of assistance.

Then as I have listened to the debate this morning about Medicare, I think it is important to respond to those who might say that the Speaker's comments were taken out of context. I would only offer to say that when we are in places of responsibility, we have to mean what we say and say what we mean.

The Medicare proposals by the Republicans last year were in fact to eliminate \$245 billion for a tax cut for those making over \$100,000, \$187 billion taken out of Medicaid. Might I remind Members that 60 percent of Medicaid is indigent senior citizens in nursing homes, your parents and my parents.

Mr. Speaker, it is important when we begin this debate to tell the American people the real facts so that we can get the job done.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House stands in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Daniel R. Leslie, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Vineland, NJ, offered the following prayer:

Creator God, You call us to manage the world You have made. You bless us with the abundant gifts of life, liberty, and love for which we are most grateful. You grant us a nation comprised of people from many nations. Guide those who lead our Nation, especially those who now gather in this body to deliberate and make decisions for the common good. Instill in our leaders wisdom, courage, and compassion so that the actions they take will lead to justice and peace on Earth. Empower us so that the seeds we sow never be seeds of discouragement that lead to discontent, but rather seeds of hope that lead to Your shalom. All this we pray in Your name. 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 clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. CHABOT 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 PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

WELCOME TO REV. DR. DANIEL R. LESLIE

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

Mr. LoBiondo. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of welcoming to the Chamber this morning Rev. Dr. Daniel R. Leslie. I want to take this time to thank him for initiating today's proceedings as guest Chaplain.

I first met Dr. Leslie when he and his family moved to Vineland, NJ, nearly 7 years ago. Dr. Leslie was called to serve as pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in my hometown of Vineland, NJ. Redeemer has been involved in ministry to the greater Vineland area for more than 72 years and I was pleased to participate in its 70th anniversary festivities just 2 years ago.

In addition to Redeemer's ongoing spiritual ministry among members and family, the congregation is active in its involvement with three community outreach ministries. Dr. Leslie serves on the boards of all three.

Luther Acres is a 100-unit, low-income housing facility for senior citizens. Little Acres Learning Center provides education and day care for 200 children each day. Together with three other Vineland congregations, Redeemer sponsors the Vineland Regional Counseling Service which provides family and individual therapy to those in the community with emotional and mental distress.

Dr. Leslie also tirelessly contributes his time to important community organizations and services. He is vice president of the Vineland Ministerial Fellowship which is made up of local churches and a synagogue. The ministerium sponsors numerous programs to feed the hungry, house the homeless, advocate justice for the needy, and provide special times during the year for the people of Vineland to gather and worship God. As a matter of fact, I worship with Dr. Leslie at the communitywide Thanksgiving service each year in Vineland.

Dr. Leslie is also on the Board of Directors at the Vineland YMCA and a fellow Rotarian. Dr. Leslie is joined today by his wife, Bonnie, a math teacher at Vineland High School, and their daughters, Jennifer and Laura, who will be a freshman at Bucknell University this fall. Their son, Dan, attends medical school.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to welcome Dr. Leslie to the House this morning.

GAGGING THE TRUTH ON MEDICARE

(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 wanted to express outrage over Republican efforts to take off the air a commercial that has been running by many of the labor organizations that is critical of the Republican record on Medicare.

As we know, many times Democrats have gotten up here in the House to point out that the cuts proposed by the Republican leadership in Medicare are going to hurt America's seniors and ultimately destroy and eliminate the Medicare Program as we know it. This is nothing more than another effort by the Republican leadership to gag the efforts of working Americans. Essentially, labor unions represent working Americans, who want to tell the truth about Medicare and what the Republicans are proposing to do to a program that is important for seniors, to working people, to those who have to go into nursing homes.

This is not the first time we have seen a Republican effort to gag those who want to speak the truth on the Medicare issue. When the Medicare debate began in my committee, the Committee on Commerce, there was only one hearing on the issue and the senior citizens who showed up to want to speak were arrested. Once again the Republicans are trying to gag the truth on Medicare.

THE PASSING OF HON. HAMILTON FISH, JR., A FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM NEW YORK

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to inform this body of the passing of our former colleague who was one of the outstanding Members of this body in this century.

Hamilton Fish, Jr., served in this Chamber for over a quarter of a century, from his first election in 1968 until his retirement in 1994. Throughout his career in this House, Ham Fish earned respect on both sides of the aisle and throughout the Nation for his commitments to civil rights and justice, and to commonsense principles of government.

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, the spotlight of the Nation shown on his wisdom during the hearings on the impeachment of President Nixon. In later years, Ham Fish served as ranking Republican on that committee, where he was known for championing the revision of immigration law and of continuing the battle against prejudice, discrimination, and hate.

Ham Fish brought to this Chamber a sense of dignity and a sense of decency. As the scion of a family whose record of public service goes back to the days of the American Revolution, he compiled a record of which we can all be proud.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have served with Ham Fish, and I was privileged that Ham was my friend.

To his widow, Mary Ann, to his four children, and to his grandchildren, we extend our deepest condolences. Ham Fish was a true gentleman, and he will be missed.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the so-called Republican reform bill on campaign finance attempts to solve the problem of too much money in politics by putting much more money in politics.

The Republican bill raises the amount that wealthy contributors can give to Federal candidates to \$72,500 a year. The average American family of four makes \$48,000 a year. Clearly, the Republicans are out of touch with the average working American families.

In sharp contrast, the Democratic bill limits the amount of money in politics by voluntarily limiting contributions, expenditures, and soft money. We need a vote on this bill. This fall, when the American people go to vote, they need to know whether their candidate supports putting more money into politics or limiting the amount of money in politics.

REFORM WELFARE

(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, last week this House once again passed historic welfare reform legislation. Twice before we have passed welfare reform, but twice the President has blocked that reform with his veto pen, even though candidate Clinton said he wanted to end welfare as we know it. Remember that? Mr. President, please tear down this wall to full participation in our society.

Seldom has a government devised a program which has devastated so many lives in this country and only very, very rarely has the law of unintended consequences been so brutally applied. Families have been ripped apart. Attempts to work and save have been penalized, and generation after generation of children have grown up without seeing an adult go to work. This miserable welfare system must not continue. Let us replace welfare with work. Let us replace rigid bureaucracy with community and compassion, and let us replace vetoes with a signing ceremony.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH). The Chair would remind all Members it is appropriate to address remarks to the Chair and not to other persons.

UNITED STATES FINANCES CHINA'S SELLING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

(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, in 1995 China was found guilty of selling nuclear weapons to Pakistan. China was then found guilty of building poison gas factories in Iran. Now the CIA tells us that China is selling missiles to Syria. What gets me is we are financing this with \$40 billion a year pumped through most-favored-nation trade status.

What is next here, Congress: Tax breaks for Chinese heroin? How about a good old-fashioned Chinese Communist Party fundraiser on the East Lawn?

I say while we keep turning the other cheek, China is starting to point missiles right at our assets. With friends like this, who needs enemies?

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of any money we have left in the Pentagon budget.

GROWTH RATE OF WELFARE SPENDING ASTRONOMICALLY OUTPACED GROWTH IN POPULATION

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, since 1950 the population of the United States has increased from 151 million to roughly 260 million. This works out to a 72-percent increase.

Also, since 1950, social welfare spending at all levels of Government has increased from \$18.8 billion a year to \$324 billion a year. This is an increase of 1,623 percent.

In other words, the growth rate of welfare spending has astronomically outpaced the growth in population. Many liberals would argue that this probably is a good thing. But my question is this: What have we purchased with this huge investment in social welfare?

Broken families; a destroyed work ethic; rampant illegitimacy; and continued poverty. Not only is the modern welfare state economically unsound, it is spiritually and morally unsound.

We are doing our part to enact serious reform of welfare. It is time for Bill Clinton to show leadership, to keep his promises to end welfare as we know it.

□ 1015

AMERICA NEEDS A NEW GARDENER

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, what a contrast in Speaker GINGRICH's gardening abilities. When it comes to Medicare, he says, let it wither on the vine.