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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m.

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Since You have created each person, O God, and have breathed into all people the very breath of life, we offer these words of prayer and thanksgiving for the mighty gifts of life that we celebrate each day.

When we contemplate our blessings and as we meditate on our responsibilities, we become more aware of the grandeur of Your creation and the majesty of Your gifts to us. May we use these gifts wisely and courageously as we seek to be Your people, doing the works of faith and hope and love. This is our earnest prayer. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. TRAFICANT 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 clerk, announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 495. An act to provide criminal and civil penalties for the unlawful acquisition, trans-

fer, or use of any chemical weapon or biological weapon, and to reduce the threat of acts of terrorism or armed aggression involving the use of any such weapon against the United States, its citizens, or Armed Forces, or those of any allied country, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 104-201, the Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, after consultation with the Democratic leader, appoints the following individuals as members of the Commission on Maintaining United States Nuclear Weapons Expertise: Henry G. Chiles, Jr. of Virginia; and Robert A. Hoover of Idaho.

THE REPUBLICAN AGENDA

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I come here today to talk about the Republican agenda. I think that it is fitting and proper that we start to concentrate on those important areas of business left to this body and to this Congress.

Crime is and remains an important issue in the 15th District of Illinois and is an important part of our agenda. Securing our borders from threats of illegal entry by those trafficking drugs is very important in our battle to win the war on crime and drugs.

As recently as last Sunday, a Sunday evening news program, an exposé as you would have it, talked about the operation of our border patrols as we deal with those coming into our country who may be bringing drugs into this country. I think it was shocking to the American people. It was to me. If the evidence put forth in this television program were even partially true, we have a serious problem with our own enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to move on and to check this out.

ONE HUNDRED DAYS UNTIL ELDERLY AND DISABLED LEGAL IMMIGRANTS LOSE SSI BENEFITS

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, in exactly 100 days many thousands of elderly and disabled legal immigrants in our country will lose their only source of financial support, SSI, unless this Congress acts.

This is not about welfare reform, it is about community responsibility. It is not about moving a young parent from welfare to work, but about elderly people who cannot work. It is not about people who came here illegally, but people who came here under our laws, who now find themselves disabled, most often because of age and illness:

Asian-Americans caught up in the Vietnam war, often fighting on our side; Arab-Americans, many of whom fled the land of Saddam Hussein; people who, despite in numerous cases having defended their native land against Nazi invaders, left because of Soviet persecution against Jewish families; Hispanic-Americans dislocated by war or in pursuit of family reunification.

When the President signed the Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, he made it completely clear he would propose legislation this year to correct the provisions on legal immigrants. Today I am introducing the bill that the President has proposed.

WORLD BANK GIVING AMERICAN DOLLARS AWAY

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

□ 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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Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the World Bank, funded by American dollars, just gave another \$250 million to Russian coal miners. The problem is no one knows what happened to the first \$250 million. That is right, bye-bye, \$250 million.

Now, if that is not enough to massage your chapter 11, check this out: Russian officials say the \$250 million is lost. Where is the money, Mr. Speaker?

Since 1992, \$7 billion of American money going to the World Bank ends up in Russia. Where is the money?

I say, while the World Bank, with American dollars, is providing jobs for Soviet and old Soviet Russian coal miners, American coal workers are getting pink slips and black lung.

Beam me up. I say somebody at the World Bank is smoking dope and they are inhaling. I think we need some common sense here. Yield back the balance of our carcinogens involved with this.

PRESENT TO AMERICAN PEOPLE AN HONEST AND RESPONSIBLE BALANCED BUDGET PLAN

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, we talk about the 104th Congress as being a historic Congress. Well, we have an opportunity in this Congress to do something historic as well: to present the American people with an honest and responsible balanced budget plan.

The President and the Congress are having important budget negotiations right now. We have an opportunity. We can balance the budget by the year 2002. We can show decreasing deficits as we move toward that balanced budget. We can provide permanent tax relief for hard-working American families. We can solve the problem of the Social Security and the Medicare trust funds. And finally, and most importantly, we can lay the foundations for eliminating the national debt and leave our kids a debt-free future.

Mr. Speaker, these are principles and issues that are worth fighting for, and I think they are principles we can all agree to. This is a chance for us to set a higher standard, to make good on our promises of actually changing the way Washington does business, and simply do the right thing for our seniors, for our children, for everyone. Let us seize the day.

NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Science and Technology Week. National Science and Tech-

nology Week is an informal public education outreach program of the National Science Foundation.

National Science and Technology Week is celebrated across the country, providing special opportunities in communities throughout the Nation to notice the major impact and importance that science and technology have on all aspects of our daily lives.

This year's theme is "Webs, Wires and Waves: The Science and Technology of Communication." This theme recognizes the impact that telecommunications has had in shrinking the world and bringing people worldwide closer together.

Today, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., the National Science Foundation will again offer its "Ask a Scientist or Engineer" hotline by telephone and the Internet. The toll-free number for this public service is 1-800-682-2716. Online access will be provided throughout the week at asknstw@nsf.gov.

I encourage my fellow Members to strongly support this program and join with me in celebrating National Science and Technology Week, and if my colleagues did not catch the telephone numbers or the Internet address, feel free to call my office and get the correct numbers.

NEW WELFARE REFORM LAW UN- JUST, UNNECESSARY, AND UN- AMERICAN

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today the countdown begins.

One hundred days from now, the new welfare reform law, a law that is unjust, unnecessary, and un-American, will jeopardize the health of the elderly, blind, disabled, and economically vulnerable immigrants. Yes, the same immigrants who made American richer, stronger and free through their own hard work, their own contributions.

The new welfare law would be unfair if it affected one immigrant. Now multiply it hundreds of thousands of times, as much as 1.8 million times. This is the magnitude of the crisis we are facing.

We have 100 days to restore benefits to legal immigrants and 100 days to restore something else, too: To restore a sense of fairness and logic to the welfare debate, to restore the principle of compassion.

Two years ago, some of my House colleagues acted in 100 days on something called a Contract With America. Within the next 100 days Members of both parties should consider an older contract, a compact, a covenant really, that no matter our background, in America we are worthy of that freedom, worthy of our respect, worthy of our compassion.

America should be proud of its immigrants and ashamed of the new welfare law.

H.R. 400 IS THE STEAL AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES ACT

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

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, today, H.R. 400 comes before the House of Representatives for amendment and for an up and down vote. I call H.R. 400 the Steal American Technologies Act, so it is a good thing that we have discussed this bill on Science and Technology Week.

The fact is H.R. 400 would change the fundamental protections that have been in place guarding America's technological secrets and our innovation since the founding of our Republic.

□ 1415

It changes these fundamental protections. It guts the patent system. H.R. 400 would mandate that all of our technological secrets be published so our worst enemies will be able to use our innovations and technologies against us even before our patents are issued.

I ask my colleagues to join me in defeating H.R. 400, which is a Pearl Harbor attack on America's technological lead. Future generations of Americans will suffer if we let this dismal, this terrible bill through. I would ask my colleagues to join me in defeating H.R. 400, the Steal American Technologies Act.

EQUAL TREATMENT FOR MEN AND WOMEN

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Monday the Supreme Court let stand a title IX ruling requiring Brown University to give equal treatment to men and women in sports. This was not an affirmative action case. It was an old-fashioned deliberate discrimination case, even though affirmative action would have been justified given the exclusion of women from sports for decades. It did not come a moment too soon. This is the 25th anniversary of title XI. It did not come a moment too soon because everybody jumped and cheered for our women athletes at the Atlanta Olympics. It is now time for Congress to undo the damage it did last year when it erased all State compliance funds for title IX, for the injury was not to female athletes alone but to all school programs for girls, including our attempts to increase girls in math and science. This is not about men versus women. It is not a zero sum game. Equal treatment for men and women is win-win, Mr. Speaker.