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House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m.

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

In all the troubled moments in an unsteady world when we think of the promises of a better day tempered with the tensions between nations and peoples, we look to Your presence in our lives, O gracious God, and ask for Your blessing upon us. When we seek direction, we know where we can go; when we seek solace we know where to find comfort; when we seek encouragement, we know that You will inspire and support. May Your peace, O God, that passes all human understanding, be with us and remain with us now and evermore. 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 Maryland [Mr. HOYER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HOYER 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.

NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD MUST ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY CONCERNS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, almost 10 years ago the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board was created by Congress to determine the most suitable site for storing nuclear waste. This board was made up of the most prominent members of the scientific community, not one of whom hails from Nevada.

What recommendation did this board make? Well, in their March 1996 report they concluded that there was absolutely no compelling technical or safety reason to remove spent fuel from its current location to a central facility. This expert, nonpartisan review board made this determination based on irrefutable, unbiased, scientific research.

What legitimate excuse, then, could justify the moving of nuclear waste from on-site storage, placing the health, welfare, and safety of many citizens in jeopardy? There are still many environmental and safety concerns that must be addressed before we move forward and mandate an unsafe permanent or interim nuclear waste storage facility at Yucca Mountain.

WIC PROGRAM A GREAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUCCESS STORY

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last week my Republican colleagues voted against the President's request for \$76 million for the WIC Program. That is women, infants, and children. Our friends on the other side of the aisle will tell us that they voted to increase

spending on women, infants, and children, but their so-called increase will force 180,000 women and children to be removed from the WIC Program.

WIC is one of the Government's greatest success stories, and every dollar that we invest in the program saves the Government \$3.50 in other costs. If this bill passes without the additional \$38 million that it needs, we will be hurting some of the most vulnerable members of our society: pregnant women and young children.

This is about values. This is about throwing 180,000 women and children off of a food program. It will deny youngsters food.

Last year my colleagues on the other side of the aisle tried to cut the school lunch program. Now they are going after WIC. It is wrong. This is the richest Nation in the world. We should not be taking food out of the mouths of children. I urge my Republican colleagues to rethink their actions.

SUPPORT H.R. 659

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

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, sometimes the Government makes a mistake and, yes, even agencies make mistakes. But the test of effective government is how quickly an institution can correct their errors.

In 1990, in a case of mistaken identity, the Environmental Protection Agency listed a chemical called ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, or EGBE, on its hazardous air pollutant list under the Clean Air Act amendments. This chemical is considered not harmful to the ozone and, according to scientific studies, does not harm the environment.

The listing of this nontoxic substance will trigger regulations costing each can manufacturer about \$5 million to comply, and the EPA's hands

□ 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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are tied. Currently the agency lacks the statutory authority to fix this problem.

I introduced H.R. 659, which would delist the chemical and remedy this solution. We should never sacrifice jobs for regulations that are not backed by good science.

Now, some extremists say the 71 Members who are cosponsors of this measure want to weaken the Clean Air Act and the Community Right to Know Act by delisting this nontoxic chemical. Quite frankly, this is not an environmental issue, but an authority issue. I urge my colleagues to get the facts and prevent lobbyists from clouding the issue before us.

FAMILY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Family Services Improvement Act, H.R. 1480, which I reintroduced yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to imagine, if they will, a single mom who is trying to get off welfare. Mom drops her 4-year-old off at Head Start, takes her 7-year-old to second grade and goes to her own graduate equivalency degree classes, all in the same school.

When the family needs immunizations or health screenings, they can go to the school-based clinic. The social services coordinator at the school can help the family find housing, food, and health care. There is also a job placement coordinator to help mom find a job when she finishes her classes.

Unfortunately, my colleagues, as you well know, this model of coordinated, one-stop programs to help children and families move off Government assistance is rare.

The Family Services Improvement Act will create incentives for establishing coordinated one-stop programs. It will make the programs we promote more effective and efficient and more available. I urge the support of my colleagues for this important legislation.

WE MUST ACT NOW TO REFORM MEDICARE

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I realize that the administration is far too busy with all of their lawyers trying to figure out a way to handle all the campaign laws they overlooked to show some leadership on the Medicare issue. I know that would be asking too much. So while the administration is busy with all of their lawyers, this Congress must lead the way on Medicare.

The Medicare trustees released their annual report to the American people

last week. The trust fund is going bankrupt, probably in only 4 years. The report confirms what Republicans have been saying about Medicare for the last 2 years. The trustees state that failure to fund Medicare will result in certain bankruptcy in the year 2001. None of this is new. Every single Member of Congress has known this for several years.

I call on those who are more interested in saving Medicare from bankruptcy than in playing politics with seniors to join in our effort to reform Medicare. We must act now.

IRS HAS GONE HOG WILD

(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 San Diego, Mindy, the potbellied pig, dialed 911. Authorities cannot figure out what caused this devious swine to perpetrate such a dirty deed. They asked, did Mindy accidentally fall out of bed? Was Mindy calling Pizza Hut, or was Mindy the potbellied pig simply love sick, calling for Mr. Good Pig?

Mr. Speaker, the truth is, Mindy dialed 911 to tell Congress to get the snouts of the IRS out of the assets of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Mindy the potbellied pig, this is hog sense. The IRS has gone hog wild. Pass H.R. 367 and change the burden of proof in the Tax Code and treat taxpayers like every other citizen under the Constitution.

I yield back the balance of this hog sense business.

AMERICANS DESERVE EARLIER TAX FREEDOM DAY

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today the tax burden on working Americans is as high as it has ever been. We are asking our families to pay up to nearly 40 percent of their income in taxes. Tax Freedom Day, that is the day when we start working for ourselves and our families, is later and later every year. This year it is May 9, 2 days later than last year, the latest ever.

Yet, many of my friends on the other side of the aisle do not feel our taxes are high enough. But if they would listen to the American people, they would find they are wrong. We can do something about it as well. We can provide a family with a \$500 per child tax credit, cut capital gains, remove estate taxes.

The facts are clear. The American people are overtaxed and it is time to provide relief. Reaching an agreement for working families is not going to be easy, but we owe it; we owe it to the American people. Let us all do our part

to make Tax Freedom Day occur earlier, urge the President to live up to his campaign promises, and join our efforts to help working Americans loosen the noose of the current tax burden.

HARSH NEW WELFARE LAW

(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, in 93 days a harsh new welfare law will wipe out assistance to legal immigrants. Yesterday I told my colleagues about one such immigrant from my district. Today let me tell my colleagues about another. Her name is Adela.

If my colleagues voted for welfare reform so they could teach people about the importance of hard work, they did not have to bother in Adela's case. After coming to the United States, Adela worked for 8 years in a factory on Chicago's northwest side. In fact, she worked well past the age at which most Americans would have called it quits and would have retired. But the company moved out of town, closed its doors down.

Adela, now 74 years old and in poor health, has been served notice that her years of hard working, playing by the rules and paying taxes is not enough. She got her pink slip. Now it is a computer printed form letter telling her that her only means of support, Social Security, is about to be taken away from her on August 22.

Do legal immigrants like Adela need to learn the value of hard work? No. Congress needs to learn the value of hard-working immigrants who have made America what it is today. I suggest to any Member that he look back to see what his grandparents look like or great grandparents looked like.

COMMEMORATING REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be able to take this opportunity to commemorate the more than 8 million people, 6 million of whom were Jewish, who a little more than half a century ago were brutally, deliberately and systematically exterminated in a state-sponsored effort to annihilate their religious, cultural, and ethnic existence. All across the United States, Americans are commemorating Remembrance Day for those who were exterminated in the death camps of Nazi Germany.

I unite with those from around the country, including my constituents of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rockford, IL, to recognize those who risked their lives and those who died trying to intervene and save those who were targets of systematic extermination.