

INTRODUCTION OF THE REV. SAMUEL P. LAMBACK, JR., GUEST CHAPLAIN

(Mr. CHAMBLISS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in order to recognize the Rev. Samuel P. Lamback, Jr., who served as guest Chaplain this day in giving the Chamber's morning invocation.

Originally from Macon, GA, Reverend Lamback was born and raised in my congressional district. After serving with distinction in the U.S. Army, he and his wife, Ginni, have returned to middle Georgia where Reverend Lamback now lives in Byron, GA, and serves as pastor of the Byron United Methodist church.

Reverend Lamback has devoted his life to serving others. Following his graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where I might add he was under the tutelage of our own chaplain, the Rev. Jim Ford, he served his country and fellow servicemen for 30 years as a chaplain in the U.S. Army.

Rev. Lamback represents the finest aspects of American culture he has led a life of excellence and obedience in serving his God, his church, his beliefs, and a grateful Nation.

It is truly an honor for me to recognize a constituent who has served both his country and his Creator with honor and dignity.

PROVIDING HOUSING FOR RUSSIAN SOLDIERS WHILE AMERICANS ARE UPROOTED BY MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS

(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, even though American families are being uprooted with military base closings, Uncle Sam gave millions of dollars to Russia to build housing for Russian soldiers. Now, if that is not enough to throw up your vodka, check this out. News reports confirm that one of Russia's top generals has been arrested for taking bribes, bribed with American cash. These reports say the top Russian military officials have used American dollars to build elegant country homes, and there have hardly been any homes built for Russian soldiers.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. When American veterans are losing their homes and America continues to give money to Russia, it is being used to build homes for the military elite, something is wrong.

Are we nuts here?

Is everybody inhaling in D.C.?

I say not one more dollar for these fat cat Russkie nincompoops. Let us use our money to help American military.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of any jobs and money left.

TOP 10 REASONS NOT TO SUPPORT H.R. 1270, NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT

(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, top 10 reasons not to vote for H.R. 1270, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1997:

Number 10, nuclear waste will be transported next to your constituents, their homes and their schools; No. 9, transportation of radioactive waste past private property results in its devaluation; No. 8, shipping containers are designed to withstand a cash of only 30 miles per hour; No. 7, the President will veto this bill; No. 6, the Senate will sustain the bill; No. 5, local officials are neither trained or equipped to cope with a nuclear disaster; No. 4, 33 faults and 30 earthquakes, Yucca mountain is not safe period; No. 3, H.R. 1270 would result in the transfer of liability for radioactive waste to the U.S. taxpayer; No. 2, it will cost the American taxpayers an additional \$2.3 billion to transport this waste rather than keeping it onsite; and finally, Mr. Speaker, No. 1, a single radioactive accident in this country would cost the American taxpayers nearly \$20 billion and take over 450 days to clean it up.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important that my colleagues learn the facts surrounding H.R. 1270 and then vote against it.

HELPING WOMEN ON WELFARE TO EARN A COLLEGE DEGREE

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the budget resolution makes a good start at educating more Americans, and that is very good. But at the same time we must take this opportunity to help another very important group of Americans become educated. I am talking about women who are on welfare, women who want to complete their education so they can get off welfare and into jobs that pay a livable wage.

The welfare bill as passed tells these women education is not important. It is important for others, but not for them, because education is not counted as work in the new welfare law.

I have introduced a bill, Mr. Speaker, to change that. My bill says to women on welfare, "If you study for your high school degree or your college degree or train for a career, we will count that as work."

Education must be a top priority for all Americans, particularly for single moms who are on welfare. We must count education for welfare mothers as work so that they can get their lives together and they can earn a livable wage.

AIR QUALITY IMPROVING, BUT COCKROACHES, MITES, AND MOLDS A REAL CAUSE FOR CONCERN

(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, it is safe for our children to go outside and play again. The EPA's PM-2.5 ozone standards are being questioned again by experts.

In Newsweek's cover story on asthma, Dr. Thomas Platts-Mills of UVA's Asthma Disease Center says it is biologically, and I am quoting, "it is biologically abnormal behavior" for American kids to spend so much inactive time in front of TVs and computers.

With air quality improving, many are beginning to question the correlation between fine particulates and asthma cases. Instead, the real culprit, the real asthma culprit, might be hiding right inside our homes. Cockroaches, dust mites, molds, and animal dander may be the real cause for concern.

A recent study featured in the New England Journal of Medicine examined 476 asthmatic kids and found that cockroach allergies emerged as a key to increased asthma attacks. They no longer need to be scared of lions and tigers and bears, but watch out for roaches, mites and mold.

So America, open up the doors and windows, and send the children out to play with a deep breath of fresh air.

MAKING EDUCATION THE TOP PRIORITY OF THIS CONGRESS

(Ms. STABENOW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased early Wednesday morning to join my colleagues in voting for the balanced budget agreement. The most important piece for me in that agreement is that we place education as number one both in terms of investment spending and, on the other side, in terms of tax breaks for families that are working hard to send their children to college.

Now the real work begins. We have to make sure that we fulfill that promise to our families and our districts, and I would urge that as the Republican majority leads the efforts in the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means that we keep our promise to focus on our children and on education.

Mr. Speaker, our children need to be prepared to start school ready to learn. They need to be able to read. They need to have classrooms that have technology that prepare them for the future. They need to be able to go to college, be involved in apprenticeships and job training that allows them to be prepared for the future.

Our challenge is to make sure that the promises that were in that agreement and the opportunities presented

actually happen, and I would urge my colleagues to work hard to make education the top priority of this Congress.

BALANCING THE BUDGET IS A MATTER OF COMMON SENSE

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, a lot of people when they hear that the country's national debt is over \$5 trillion asked me how did we get into such a mess? Have the politicians in Washington totally lost their minds?

Mr. Speaker, while I cannot comment on the mental state of Washington politicians, I can say a few words about passing on a \$5 trillion debt to future generations.

I think it is wrong. I think balancing a budget is not so much a spectacular achievement. Rather, I consider it a matter of common sense. I suppose that says a few things about how much common sense there has been in Washington in recent decades.

And so while I support a balanced budget amendment, the one that Congress passed earlier this week, I really do not want to tire myself out by patting ourselves on the back. On the other hand, maybe allowing common sense to win the day in Washington is something to cheer about. Last time I checked, the budget had not been balanced since 1969.

Mr. Speaker, I will keep some champagne ready.

FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRATIC PRIORITIES IN THE BUDGET

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, let us be perfectly clear about this budget agreement. It is far from over. Now that the framework has been decided by this body, it is time to talk about priorities.

The Democrats' priorities are to educate our children. First we want full funding for WIC, then we fought tooth and nail to protect funding for Pell grants, bilingual and immigrant education, Head Start, and child literacy. Now we must force the Republicans to make good on this agreement.

The Republican agenda is just as clear. They continue to brag that their number one concern is cutting taxes for the richest people in this country.

Mr. Speaker, is this what the American people want? When they want to know why our schools are crumbling to the ground and our students are not learning to read, is there a Member in this Chamber who will look them in the eye and tell them that tax cuts for the wealthy are more important?

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POLITICS IS A FUNNY BUSINESS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, politics is a funny business. Not too long ago, we were told that we could not balance the budget and cut taxes for working Americans. Well, the surprising thing is that most Americans never believed that nonsense. Most Americans knew that Washington could get by on less and that American families ought to get by on more. Business as usual here in Washington meant that every year the taxes went up, the Federal Government got bigger and people grew more and more frustrated.

What did the politicians in Washington have to show for these tax and spend habits? A national debt of over \$5 trillion. It has been a long time coming, but finally the American people have said enough, enough to irresponsible spending, enough to the tax policies that are holding America back. This balanced budget agreement is a far cry from what needs to be done to stop Washington from its wasteful spending ways, but at least it will bring the budget into balance by the year 2000, and it will make Washington spend a little less so that American families can spend a little more. It is about time.

AMERICANS HELD HOSTAGE BY THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans held hostage by the Republican majority; 1 million-plus children in Texas and counting, without health insurance. Ten million children in this country and counting, without health insurance, with no legislation by this Republican majority being brought to the floor of the House to remedy this tragedy. Flood victims in the Dakotas and across the Nation being held hostage without being able to have the emergency relief dollars that they are in need of.

Women, infants, and children being held hostage, 360,000 of them, not able to have the WIC Program that provides them with nutrition. Three hundred sixty thousand less Pell grants, 31,000 less work study jobs for our young people, and 483,000 less teachers, teaching valuable needed reading and math skills to our children.

What are we going to do? Release the hostages. Begin to do legislation that works for the American people. Provide health insurance for our children, and yes, take care of the flood victims in the West. Release this legislation, get us out of this hostage situation.

DISRUPTION SHOULD NOT DETER AMERICA'S DREAMS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I daily give thanks for this institution where we are free to express different ideas and opinions.

It is worth noting that my distinguished colleague from Texas offered precisely that: Her opinion based on spurious facts, claiming damage to people that simply does not exist.

Sadly what we see, Mr. Speaker, is the disgruntled fringe of the left terribly, terribly upset that at long last there is a new consensus—

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAYWORTH. In American politics of people working together—

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAYWORTH. To give tax relief to working families.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAYWORTH. To help people get everything they can get in terms of their own livelihoods, their own ambitions—

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I see the gentleman does not want to yield.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, within the Rules of the House, if I might suspend for a second, within the Rules of the House, I would ask to be allowed time to finish my remarks, for I was interrupted and the gentlewoman failed to suspend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). That time does not come out of the gentleman's time. The gentleman from Arizona has the time.

Mr. HAYWORTH. I thank the Speaker very much.

I would say to my colleagues, we have another example of people more interested in disrupting the institutions and agreements than working for honest and open debate.

DEMOCRATS WILL BE WATCHING THE BUDGET FOR AMERICA

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the wee hours of the morning this body passed a balanced budget resolution. The plan, please understand, provides a rough blueprint. Now we get the opportunity to work out the details of this budget.

As we head into the process, Democrats are going to be watching carefully to make sure that this budget gives every, every working man and woman a shot at the American dream, and the right to a quality education has always been an essential part of that dream. So, the Democrats are going to be fighting to make sure that