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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Lloyd W. Johnson, Jr., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Pekin, IL, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will.

Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy name we entrust the authority of government, especially the Members of this House of Representatives, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the Earth.

In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER led the House in 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 clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1553. An act to amend the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 to extend the authorization of the Assassination Records Review Board until September 30, 1998.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will receive five 1-minutes on each side.

WELCOMING REV. LLOYD W. JOHNSON, JR.

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, we are privileged to have Rev. Lloyd W. Johnson, Jr., as our guest chaplain today. A native of Hartford, CT, Reverend Johnson has served as a priest of the Episcopal Church for 30 years. He is presently the Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pekin, IL, which is in my district.

Born to Lloyd and Vera Johnson in 1939, he was raised in Connecticut and Vermont. In 1963, Reverend Johnson graduated from the University of Miami with a degree in business administration. He later was awarded his master of divinity degree from Nashotah House, a seminary of the Episcopal Church in Wisconsin.

Ordained to the ministry in 1966, he has served congregations of the Episcopal Church in southern Florida and in central Illinois.

Now Reverend Johnson is married to Jane Fontaine Gray, and together they have raised three children: A son, Mark, who toils in the House of Representatives as deputy chief of staff to

our friend, the gentleman from Tennessee, Congressman ED BRYANT; Andrew, living and working in New Orleans; and Mary, living and working in San Antonio.

Above and beyond his ministerial duties, Reverend Johnson and his wife have devoted the majority of their free time to supporting the establishment of marriage through volunteer service in the ministry of Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in welcoming Reverend and Mrs. Johnson to this Chamber and in thanking him for his words of thanksgiving and prayer. Welcome, Reverend Johnson.

TAX RELIEF ACT OF 1997

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

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to point out to my colleagues that yesterday the House cast a vote for the future by passing the first balanced budget in 29 years. This will give our children and grandchildren lower taxes, lower interest rates, more economic opportunity.

Today we cast a historic vote for America's families by passing the first tax cut in 16 years. Think of it. Tiger Woods was 5 years old the last time we had a tax cut. That is how long it has been. And while he was growing up, we had tax increase after tax increase. Now, finally, he wins the Masters and we win taxes, as time goes on. So I think that the people have a good reason to be interested and excited.

Those of our Members and those of the public who are interested, we have a new website, Speakernews.house.gov, which I recommend because one of the goals of this Congress is not only to return your money to you, but to return your Government to you by giving you the information that you can gain access to, so you do not need a lobbyist,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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you do not need a trade association, you do not need anyone between you and information about the U.S. Congress.

If you would like more information on the first tax cut in 16 years and first balanced budget agreement in 29 years, all you have to do is enter Speakernews.house.gov and you can get all the information at no cost, without paying anybody. Because you, as a citizen, deserve to know what your Congress is doing.

TAX CUTS: A WINDFALL FOR THE RICH

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the word is getting out to most Americans that the Republican bill being considered today provides tax cuts to the rich and not for the working middle class. But today I read in the New York Times that there is another huge tax break for the wealthy that most of us did not know about.

Buried in the estate tax section of the big tax cut bill is an obscure provision that would cost the Government \$9 million a year in lost revenue and give a bonanza worth thousands of dollars to about a thousand wealthy taxpayers.

A tax lawyer in New York, who spoke on the condition that his name may not be used, said his client, who he would not identify, stood to save at least \$100,000 in taxes if this provision in question became law.

Who knows what other tax breaks for rich individuals or corporations are in the Republican bill we will consider today? I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this windfall for the rich at the expense of working Americans.

H.R. 1270 WILL DESTROY ENVIRONMENT

(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, here we go again. Wake up America. The headline news from a June 20th New York Times article reads: "Doubt Cast on Prime Site as Nuclear Waste Dump." The article states that "researchers have found that rain water, which could dissolve nuclear waste, has seeped from the top of the mountain to 800 feet into its innards, where high-level waste would be stored, in just 40 years, much faster than scientists had predicted."

The scientists had originally believed that it would take hundreds of thousands of years to travel the same distance. The article goes on to say that the find "raises the possibility that radiation would be spread into the environment much sooner than they anticipated."

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1270 will destroy the environment and endanger lives.

Do not waste your votes. I urge my colleagues to oppose this very bad bill.

FISCAL YEAR 1998 TAX BILL

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Voltaire once said that the purpose of politics is to take as much money as you can from one group of people and give it to another.

It seems to me that that is exactly what my Republican colleagues have taken a page from, taking money from the low-income working class families so that they can give it to the rich, taking milk out of the mouth of babes so that the richest 5 percent of the people in our country get a break. Denying working families the opportunity to send their sons and daughters to college so that the rich, the wealthiest 1 percent of families, can boost their incomes by an average of \$27,000 per year.

If this is what America is about, then I say, "Gimme a break." That is why I support the Rangel Democratic alternative which will allow millions of Americans to realize real savings.

I also urge my colleagues to continue to do more, and that is why I have introduced a measure that will give working families with children up to age 18 additional relief and would further target capital gains credits for these families.

EPA IN OUR WALLETS AGAIN

(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 EPA is once again in our wallets. The EPA is forcing American companies and workers to cough up \$60 billion for new clean air regulations. To boot, EPA's own scientists say these regulations are not justified. Now if that is not enough to file your chapter 7, Congress never approved them. Beam me up. Talk about a government coming at us. IRS one day, EPA the next.

Wake up, Congress. The people did not elect the EPA. They elected a Congress to run our Government. I say fire these fat-cat bureaucrats of the EPA who are so dumb they could throw themselves at the ground and miss. After all, we can hire regulators a lot cheaper from Korea to screw our country up.

I yield back the balance of any more of this pollution.

□ 1015

AMERICA IS OVERTAXED

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, American people are certainly not undertaxed. From the moment you wake up to the

moment you go to sleep, and even while you are sleeping, you are being taxed.

When you have your morning coffee, you pay a coffee tax. When you take a shower, you pay a water tax. When you get in a car to drive to work, you pay a gas tax and a property tax. While you are at work, you are accruing an income tax. You pay electricity taxes all day and when you get home at night and turn on your TV, you pay a cable tax. Even when you flush the toilet, you are paying a tax.

Americans are tired of paying so much in taxes for a government that is so lacking in accountability and responsibility. Today we have a tax reduction bill. It does not go as far as I would like, but it is the first step toward getting government off the backs of the people and probably the only tax relief bill we will get past the veto pen of Bill Clinton.

Mr. Speaker, support real tax relief for all Americans today.

TAX RELIEF FOR THE WEALTHY VERSUS TAX RELIEF FOR THE NATION

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today the American public will witness the difference between the two parties. Today the Republicans will put on the House floor a tax bill that will provide the overwhelming amount of benefits to the top 1 percent of the taxpayers in this country, taxpayers earning in excess of \$250,000, that will get \$27,000 in tax relief while the lower 60 percent of the taxpayers in this country will get only 12 percent of that relief.

What does that mean? That means that millions of American families who work every day, go to work, pay their taxes, starting police officers, school teachers and others with children, will not get the benefit of this tax bill. Why will they not get the benefit of this tax bill? Because the Republicans have decided that this should be tax relief for the wealthy as opposed to tax relief for the Nation. They have decided that this tax relief should be directed at those who need it the least and it should be taken from those who need it the most.

Mr. Speaker, that is the difference that will be debated on this floor today. That is why this legislation eventually will be vetoed by the President of the United States.

THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF GROVER AND LORENE HOBBS

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago this Saturday, Grover Hobbs and Lorene Fincher were married in Heard County, GA. After Grover