

continue to be significant in the years ahead. I pledge to you that I will continue striving to foster compassion and understanding, working not simply to tolerate our differences, but to celebrate them.

Best wishes for a memorable celebration. Bill Clinton.

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the President on his willingness to speak out. It is consonant with the many actions he has taken in a number of areas to ban discrimination and to fight for the right of all Americans, as he said, to be judged on their individual merits, without being held back by some irrational prejudice.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock p.m.) the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GOODLING) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Enable us, O gracious God, to translate our noble words and affirmations into acts and deeds of value and worth. Encourage us to transmute our postures of goodness and charity into food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, and peace and security for the troubled. Inspire us to convert our creeds of faith into works of justice and into accomplishments that heal the soul and comfort every person. Bless us, O God, as we seek to be Your people and do those deeds that honor You and serve people in their need. In Your name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. WICKER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WICKER 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communica-

tion from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 30, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on Monday, June 30, 1997 at 10:45 a.m.:

that the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 173;

that the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 649.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, House of Representatives.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF HON. ROBERT L. LIVINGSTON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Betty S. Barnes, staff assistant for the Hon. ROBERT L. LIVINGSTON, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 25, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House that I have been served with a subpoena issued by the District Court for the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana.

After consultation with the General Counsel, I have determined that compliance is consistent with the privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

BETTY S. BARNES.

THE LIBERALS AND TAX CUTS

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the last time taxes were cut in the 1980's several things happened. Many people like to call it the Reagan boom. It followed the tough times people faced in the 1970's.

During the Reagan boom, 18 million jobs were created; 18 million jobs were created. Manufacturing production increased by almost 50 percent. These are good-paying manufacturing jobs, Mr. Speaker. Incomes went up across the board. Taken together, we can say that prosperity went up.

Yes, the deficit also went up, but the dirty little secret that one never ever hears the liberals talk about is that spending went up, and spending increases are what caused the deficit to increase.

What about revenues? Why do we not ask the liberals if revenues increased or decreased? They increased.

Why do we not ask them to tell us if tax cuts resulted in revenues going up or going down? They went up.

Why do we not ask them to explain to us how the tax cuts caused the deficit? They did not. Why do we not learn from experience, Mr. Speaker?

CRAFTING A BALANCED BUDGET RESOLUTION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, now that we have returned from the Independence Day district work period, negotiators between the House and the Senate will get down to business hammering out a final version of the balanced budget resolution. Democrats have argued in favor of tax cuts primarily for the middle class while Republicans seem intent on large tax breaks for their wealthy friends. A recent Treasury Department report indicated that in the last year of the Republican budget proposal, affluent Americans would be the primary beneficiaries of the tax cuts. Over half of the tax cuts would benefit those making nearly a quarter of a million dollars and more. President Clinton's and other Democratic proposals seek to give more back to the middle class. Our tax proposals provide more money for education expenses and for working families.

Mr. Speaker, the budget negotiators must move to lighten the burden on low- and middle-income families if they are to gain the President's approval and not break the promises that were made to working families as part of this budget deal.

SUPPORT H.R. 1917, HARDROCK MINING PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

(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, mining is one of the most important and needed industries in the United States. However, the Bureau of Land Management's decision to enforce a final rule on reclamation bonding of hardrock mineral operations is having a negative impact on large and small miners alike as well as their suppliers, contractors and the economy.

Mr. Speaker, the good news is that I have introduced legislation that will transfer the authority of the Bureau of Land Management to require bonds or other financial guarantees for the reclamation of mineral operations to State governments. Once again the current Federal rule is a mandate of action on the States and does not give them the option of solving local problems at local levels. My bill will allow States to work in cooperation with miners, contractors and suppliers to develop a strategy that will protect our public lands while supporting an industry that every American is dependent upon. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1917, the Hardrock Mining Protection Act of 1997. We must protect the

future of mining and the thousands of jobs it produces for American families.

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

(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, let us tell it like it is. When monks and nuns who take a vow of poverty give \$140,000 to a presidential campaign, ladies and gentlemen, when a welfare worker who makes \$20,000 a year gives the entire \$20,000 to a presidential campaign, something is funny.

If that is not enough to freeze your stir fry, when an Assistant Secretary of Commerce responsible for international trade raises 3.5 million Chinese dollars for a presidential campaign, this is not China-gate, this is sewer-gate. This is not about Democrats, this is not about Republicans. This is about national security and Communists, Communists who may have compromised big people in high places in our Government.

But let me say this, Congress. These Chinese Communists did not provide all those bucks because they are enamored with and love America. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. I say, let the dragon chips fall where they may.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT LIKENED TO OLIVER STONE IN TAX CUT DEBATE

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, White House figures showing that the tax cut package mainly benefits the rich have as much credibility as an Oliver Stone movie. Like Oliver Stone, the Treasury Department has decided to make stuff up.

It is even worse than that. Like Oliver Stone, the Treasury Department uses tax numbers in a way that deliberately is designed to deceive. Again like Oliver Stone, the Treasury Department is counting on the fact that most people will not be able to tell the difference between what is the truth and what is fiction.

I am talking about the Treasury Department's fraudulent use of family economic income, a new, ingenious way to make middle-class families look rich. Family economic income, you ask? What is that?

Now you begin to see what I am talking about. Oh, sure, imputed rent income, unreported income you never knew you had, unrealized capital gains you never knew you had. Stuff like that. It is so dishonest it would make even Oliver Stone proud.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 886

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman

from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) be removed as a cosponsor of my bill, H.R. 886.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

PREVIEW OF SPECIAL ORDER COMMEMORATING LIFE OF BETTY SHABAZZ

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this coming Thursday I will lead a special order on the life of Dr. Betty Shabazz. Her tragic death from burns to her body cannot overwhelm her triumphant life. Betty's life teaches that it is possible to rise against all the odds. She became a devoted mother and grandmother and a distinguished educator and bearer of the legacy of a great man.

Like her husband, Malcolm X, Betty Shabazz was not defeated by life's cruel terms but used them to become a better, deeper, stronger person. Malcolm left behind racial bitterness and embraced orthodox Islam and universal human rights. Like Malcolm X, Betty Shabazz took the best of her old life and created a new reality, of devotion to family, educational excellence, and human rights. Please join me in celebrating the life of Betty Shabazz this Thursday in a special order.

TAX RELIEF FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I have seen information from the 1996 Statistical Abstract of the United States, and on page 461 is a table of statistics that shows the median household income in 1994, the latest year of which figures are available, was \$32,264. An American household earning \$32,264 is about as middle class as middle class can be.

So the question I have is should middle-class households, such as one earning \$32,264 a year, be given tax relief? Should Washington spend a little bit less money so that families with incomes of about \$32,000 a year can have a little more?

I think we should. I think we should let middle-income families keep a little more of what is already theirs, their hard-earned money, and that tax relief package that was passed by Congress was designed exactly for the middle class.

My mind keeps going back to the single mother working at an aircraft company in Wichita, KS. She has three children. She is working hard trying to keep the three kids in school, properly clothed, never going hungry, living in a good home. Should she be able to keep more of her hard-earned money? I think so. Yes, Mr. Speaker, she should.

TIME TO BAN LAND MINES

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, we have to assume greater responsibility for and take greater leadership against the proliferation of land mines throughout the world. Land mines were responsible for one-third of all the casualties in the Vietnam war. Likewise in the Persian Gulf war, they were responsible for one-third of the casualties. Already there have been 284 casualties due to land mines in Bosnia.

But it is not just professional military forces that suffer from these horrible instruments of death. Last year over 26,000 people were killed or maimed by land mines. That is one person every 20 minutes. Most of these victims were not members of the military. Most of them were children. Many of these children are victims of wars long ended, of conflicts long forgotten, but land mines can stay active for over 50 years, Mr. Speaker. They will kill children whose parents are not even born yet. And even though some countries have more active land mines in their territory than people, we continue to plant 2 million more land mines every year. It is time to ban them.

CYPRUS PEACE TALKS

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, this week Greek Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides, and Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, have agreed to meet in upstate New York to start serious bilateral peace negotiations.

It has been 23 years since the Turkish invasion of the Island of Cyprus, and a significant military presence on both sides still remains. It is my hope that the discussions will concentrate on the removal of Turkish troops, the restoration of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, and the implementation of a constitutional democracy.

Just as neighboring Greece, the birthplace of my grandparents, is the birthplace of democracy, it is very important that Cyprus serve as another cradle of democracy in southeast Europe.

Today marks a positive first step forward. Opening a line of communication can only lead to greater understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I wish both sides well and hope for a lasting and peaceful resolution for the people of Cyprus.

□ 1415

A TAX SYSTEM THAT REWARDS AMERICAN VIRTUES

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