

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BOUCHER 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.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER. This is the day for the call of the Private Calendar. The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

JOHN WESLEY DAVIS

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 584) for the relief of John Wesley Davis.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 584

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.

The time limitations set forth in section 3702(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall not apply with respect to a claim by John Wesley Davis, of Forestville, Maryland, for the amounts due to him by the—

(1) Department of the Navy in the amount of \$42,123.84; and

(2) Department of the Treasury in the amount of \$12,508.20.

The amounts due are represented by checks that were received but not negotiated by John Wesley Davis.

SEC. 2. DEADLINE.

Section 1 shall apply only if John Wesley Davis or his authorized representative submits a claim pursuant to such subsection before the expiration of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

With the following committee amendment in the nature of a substitute: Strike out all after the enactment clause and insert:

SECTION 1. WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.

The time limitations set forth in section 3702(c) and 3328(a)(1) of title 31, United States Code, shall not apply with respect to a claim by John Wesley Davis, of Forestville, Maryland, for the amounts due to him by the—

(1) Department of the Navy in the amount of \$42,123.84; and

(2) Department of the Treasury in the amount of \$12,508.20.

The amounts due are represented by checks that were received but not negotiated by John Wesley Davis.

SEC. 2. DEADLINE.

Section 1 shall apply only if John Wesley Davis or his authorized representative submits a claim pursuant to such subsection before the expiration of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HERACLIO TOLLEY

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 378) for the relief of Heraclio Tolley.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 378

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. IMMEDIATE RELATIVE STATUS FOR HERACLIO TOLLEY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Heraclio Tolley shall be classified as a child under section 101(b)(1)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act for purposes of approval of a relative visa petition filed under section 204 of such Act by his adoptive parent and the filing of an application for an immigrant visa or adjustment of status.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Heraclio Tolley enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), he shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the petition and the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status are filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Heraclio Tolley, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, for the current or next following fiscal year, the worldwide level of family-sponsored immigrants under section 201(c)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(e) DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of Heraclio Tolley shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the

third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MICHEL CHRISTOPHER MEILI,
GIUSEPPINA MEILI, MIRJAM
NAOMI MEILI, AND DAVIDE
MEILI

The Clerk called the Senate bill (S. 768) for the relief of Michel Christopher Meili, Giuseppina Meili, Mirjam Naomi Meili, and Davide Meili.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the Senate bill as follows:

S. 768

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The actions of Swiss banks and their relations with Nazi Germany before and during World War II and the banks' actions after the war concerning former Nazi loot and heirless assets placed in the banks before the war have been the subject of an extensive and ongoing inquiry by the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and a study by a United States inter-agency group.

(2) On January 8, 1997, Michael Christopher Meili, while performing his duties as a security guard at the Union Bank of Switzerland in Zurich, Switzerland, discovered that bank employees were shredding important Holocaust-era documents.

(3) Mr. Meili was able to save some of the documents from destruction and then turned them over to the Jewish community in Zurich and to the Swiss police.

(4) Following Mr. Meili's disclosure of the destruction of the Holocaust-era documents, Mr. Meili was suspended and then terminated from his job. He was also interrogated by the local Swiss authorities who tried to intimidate him by threatening prosecution for his heroic actions.

(5) Since this disclosure, Mr. Meili and his family have been threatened and harassed, and have received many death threats. Mr. Meili also received a hand-delivered note threatening the kidnapping of his children in return for the "Jewish money" he would receive for his actions, and urging him to emigrate to the United States or be killed.

(6) Because of his courageous actions, Mr. Meili and his family have suffered economic hardship, mental anguish, and have been forced to live in fear of their lives.

SEC. 2. PERMANENT RESIDENCE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), Michel Christopher Meili, Giuseppina Meili, Mirjam Naomi Meili, and Davide Meili shall be held and considered to have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of the date of the enactment of this Act upon payment of the required visa fees.

SEC. 3. REDUCTION OF NUMBER OF AVAILABLE VISAS.

Upon the granting of permanent residence to Michel Christopher Meili, Giuseppina Meili, Mirjam Naomi Meili, and Davide Meili as provided in this Act, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by the appropriate number during the current fiscal year the total number of immigrant visas available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)).

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third

time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

MORAL BASIS OF CUTTING TAXES

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

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I made the case in a special order on the moral basis of cutting taxes; a moral basis because lower taxes means that parents have more money to raise their children and their family; a moral basis because lower taxes means that citizens have more time and more take-home pay to be good citizens, to be involved in charitable events, to be involved as volunteers in helping their community; a moral basis for cutting taxes because with lower taxes and more take-home pay, people have more opportunity to create jobs, to save, and to invest and to help the economy keep growing.

For every American who is interested in noting how the tax bill we are proposing would help them, they can check on the Internet GOP tax calculator at <http://hillsource.house.gov>.

I will repeat that. For those who are involved in the Internet, this is an opportunity for them to look directly at the tax bill to check for themselves how they would benefit under our tax relief plan. It is on the Internet, GOP tax calculator, and the address is <http://hillsource.house.gov>.

Our goal is to have all Americans have an opportunity to look at their tax cut and the opportunity they will have. This is the first tax cut in 16 years. We believe that working middle-class Americans deserve tax relief. We believe that tax relief should focus on families with children. It should focus on small business and family farms. It should focus on job creation, and it should focus on helping people get a better education.

So I urge Members to look at the Internet site to find out the information for the tax cut.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 255 through 266 last week due to a death in my family.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" or "aye" on roll call votes 255, 256, 257, 258, 260, 261, 263, 264, and 265, and "nay" or "no" on rollcall votes 259, 262, and 266.

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL WITHOUT PROVISION FOR CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE NEA

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reluctantly oppose the Interior appropriations bill we will be voting on today because it contains no funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. The rule did not allow us to have a vote, an up-or-down vote, on NEA on the grounds that the NEA was not authorized. However, later today we will be voting on an appropriations bill that has at least 40 unauthorized and protected measures in it. I believe if we had had an up-or-down vote on the NEA, that it would have been fully funded for the next year.

The Federal support for the arts is an incredibly worthwhile investment, and as many of our Members know, students with 4 years of arts study score 59 points higher on their verbal scores and 45 points higher on the math portion of their SAT's than students with no arts classes.

Recent studies about the development of the human brain show the importance of arts for early childhood development. At the University of California at Irvine, researchers found that music training is far superior to computer instruction in dramatically enhancing children's abstract reasoning skills.

THE JUVENILE CRIME AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION 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, today the House will consider a very important issue of juvenile crime. It should be noted that 20 percent, 1 out of 5, of all murders, rapes, robberies, and assaults in this country are committed by individuals under the age of 18. Furthermore, population experts are predicting a 31 percent increase in the youth population by the year 2010.

We must act on this issue immediately. H.R. 1818, the Juvenile Crime and Delinquency Prevention Act, is a very important piece of legislation in this battle. This bill, authored by my Republican colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] provides block grants to States in order to fund juvenile crime control activities, giving much greater flexibility to local officials to best utilize their resources. Equally important, this bill reauthorizes programs to serve runaways and homeless youth and the National Missing Children's Center.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year this body passed H.R. 3, which provided for more effective punishment of juvenile offenders. This legislation will focus on prevention of juvenile crime. I commend the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] and the Republican leadership for bringing this bill to the floor, and I urge its passage.

THE WHITE HOUSE COVERUP ON NAFTA

(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, surprise, surprise. The White House issued a glowing report on NAFTA. However, the Economic Policy Institute says the White House cannot handle the truth. The truth is our trade deficit with Mexico has ballooned to \$16 billion. Our trade deficit with Canada has ballooned to \$23 billion. In addition, in the first 32 months of NAFTA, America has lost 500,000 jobs, that is half a million; 15,000 jobs a month, 1,850 jobs a week, 765 jobs a day. But the White House says, do not worry, we are going to find new jobs.

Tell me, how many people can "Mickey D" hire in America, Mr. Speaker? Who is kidding whom? The White House has not issued a report on NAFTA, the White House has issued a cover-up on NAFTA. I yield back the balance of any jobs we might have left.

TAX CUTS SHOULD BE FOR THOSE WHO PAY TAXES

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, remember when a tax cut meant paying less taxes? That was not too long ago. Taxes were something you paid, not something you got. The tax cuts I am talking about are tax cuts that reduce the amount you pay. A tax cut does not mean that anyone gives me anything, it means the Government is taking less.

I have no hope whatsoever that the other side will understand this point, but my constituents asked that I keep trying. When the Government takes a little less from the taxpayers, no one else is worse off. However, when the Government gives somebody some money, like the earned income tax credit, for example, that is at the expense of somebody else. The taxpayers pay for that.

Some Members' idea of a tax cut means that the taxpayers pay more. That is nonsense. A tax cut is not at the expense of other taxpayers. A tax cut to those who do not pay income taxes is at the expense of others. That makes all the difference.

THE REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN FAILS THE SPEAKER'S OWN MORALITY TEST

(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 Speaker Gingrich said, and I quote, "We believe there is a moral