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House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. LAHOOD].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 16, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable RAY LAHOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Joe Clark, pastor, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Annandale, VA, offered the following prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, grant us in your merciful providence, right judgment in all things.

Help us to grow in virtue: to see as You see, to love as You love, to rule as You rule.

Impart to us Your holy and perfect wisdom that our laws may reflect Your loving plan.

Teach us to be generous servants of Your truth, knowing that it is in giving that we receive.

Perfect us in a freedom ordered to truth, confirm us in justice which leads to peace.

Bestow upon us the virtue of courage: To fight the good fight and to finish the race.

Teach us to serve the common good with loving generosity.

Most Holy God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, counsel us to greater reverence for all life from its natural beginning to its natural end.

O Most Holy God, have mercy on us all and forgive us our sins. 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 Nevada [Mr. GIBBONS] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

WELCOME TO THE REVEREND JOE CLARK

(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, while Father Clark's church is actually in the district of the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS], it is I who will introduce him.

Father Clark is the pastor of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Annandale, VA. It may be of some interest that

Father Joe Clark is the grandson of the campaign manager and the speech writer for James Michael Curley, the former mayor of Boston. But I am sure that Father Clark is making amends for that by serving his parish very well. Actually, I only say that in jest. I know his grandfather would be very proud of him today as he is rightfully proud of his grandfather. And every Irishman should be proud of all that Mayor Curley did for the Boston Irish.

Father Clark is a modest man of the cloth, but I would like to address a few remarks about someone who is neither, but is in the audience today, Mr. Patrick Troy, who is a guest with Father Clark. Pat Troy deserves to be recognized today.

For the last 35 years he has done a great deal for this country, particularly for the Irish-American community, and on the 150th anniversary of the great potato famine that brought so many Irish into the United States, Mr. Troy should be recognized as one of the most effective representatives of the Irish-Americans in this country.

Twenty-five years ago he started his own radio show in the Washington metropolitan area, and broadcasts the glory and beauty of Irish music to everyone, particularly Irish-Americans, and keeps people posted on Irish-American cultural developments. Fifteen years ago he started a restaurant called Ireland's Own, and the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in Alexandria, VA.

Pat Troy is an indispensable member of the Washington metropolitan area's community. For many, many years he has been absolutely dedicated to the pursuit of peace in Northern Ireland and to the Project Children Program, which brings Irish and Protestant children alike over to the United States. They live together, they work together, they get to know and appreciate each other. They are doing a tremendous amount of good in terms of

□ 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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finding reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

He is also the founder of the John F. Kennedy Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in the Washington area, so I do want to recognize Pat Troy for all that he has done for our community and for this country.

INFORMING COLLEAGUES OF THE NEWLY-FORMED MINING CAUCUS

(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 I rise to inform my colleagues about the newly formed Mining Caucus, of which I proudly serve as the cochair with my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Wyoming [Mrs. CUBIN]. The purpose of the Mining Caucus will be to educate Members on how the wealth of this Nation is produced by the mining industry, which improves the lives and livelihoods of citizens of their districts, and how in turn it is used to sustain the economic growth and job creation of this great Nation.

Nearly 300,000 Americans are employed directly by the mining industry. Indirectly, mining accounts for about 3 million jobs, 397 out of 435 congressional districts have a mining presence. This industry plays a hugely important role in our national economy. I urge my colleagues to join the Congressional Mining Caucus. As a reminder, I would say that if it cannot be grown, it must be mined.

REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN TO ATTACK WORKING AMERICANS, LABOR UNIONS, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I am appalled that the Republican majority has hijacked \$1.4 million of public funds to pursue a devious, fully orchestrated campaign to attack working Americans, labor unions, and the Department of Labor. The Republicans are going to spend \$1.4 million of tax money to intimidate labor leaders, harass the Department of Labor, and attempt to repeal labor laws that have protected the rights of workers for over a half a century.

This plot was never discussed in a public hearing of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and it was approved by the House oversight committee without any witnesses testifying to its need. Although the majority is trying to dress up their mission statement, the real attempt is to pursue an extremist antiunion agenda. The Republicans are scheming to attack union members as payback for labor union participation in the 1996 elections. This \$1.4 million ill-advised use of taxpayer dollars is aimed at di-

minishing worker protections under OSHA, the National Labor Relations Act, and the Davis-Bacon Act; mind you, all at taxpayers' expense.

THE EFFECTS OF THE WASHINGTON BUREAUCRACY'S IMPUTED INCOME

(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 gotten a few calls over the past weeks about the Treasury Department's use of imputed income. Imputed income means if you own your own home, you could move out and rent it to another family, and therefore you could be making some more money, and it should be taxed.

There are a lot of taxpayers that are feeling a little bit insulted by this concept that has been developed by a bunch of out-of-touch bureaucrats here in Washington, DC, who think that people can count income that is not really income. Maybe the President can rent his home out for a lot of money, but most people do not own or live in a home that they own free and clear.

Telling the average American families that their incomes are actually \$30,000 or more higher than they think is truly bizarre. Telling middle-class families that they are actually rich and therefore do not need some tax relief is just the latest outrage from the bureaucracy in Washington, DC, that does not live in the real world. Most Americans know it is time for some tax relief here in America.

THE SPEAKER'S MAKE-A-WISH SLUSH FUND IS FUNDED BY TAXPAYERS

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I have an apology to make. When I saw the \$7.9 million the majority Republicans were going to put into a slush fund, they call it a slush fund, it is not a slush fund. It turns out it is the taxpayer-funded Speaker's make-a-wish foundation. His first wish is, guess what, class warfare, go after working Americans.

On this side of the aisle the majority has initiated about \$50 million of taxpayer investigations. What we have from it I cannot figure out, but I see where they are going. From the first day they took over 3 years ago, they started class warfare. They do it in the tax bill. They do it in their investigations.

They have gone too far. Even Members of the Republican side of the aisle say this last grab of funds to go after working people in America is just wrong. It is going to come back to haunt them. They can spend \$50 mil-

lion of the taxpayers' money. Do not run home and try to tell them you are balancing the budget. The Speaker's make-a-wish funds are funded by the taxpayers. It is a rip-off.

CLASS WARFARE BY DEMOCRATS, WITH IMPUTED INCOME SCHEME RAISING MIDDLE-CLASS AMERICANS' TAXES

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, let us talk about class warfare. According to the Census Bureau, the median family income in the United States today for a family of four is \$47,000 a year. Let me be clear, that is \$47,000 American dollars, not Euro-dollars, not imputed dollars, not even bus tokens. We are talking about real money here.

Let us imagine such a family. Let us give them names, Al and Betty Jones, with a son in eighth grade and a daughter going to college this fall. Under our tax relief plan, the Joneses would get to keep an extra \$1,900 of their money. Using the imputed income scheme that the Democrats want to use, the Jones' income magically rises from \$47,000 to nearly \$80,000. Congratulations, Al and Betty, you are now rich. You no longer qualify for family tax relief under the Democrats' own plan.

Worse yet, if we carry this bizarre arithmetic to its imputed conclusion, these rich Joneses would now owe almost \$8,000 in new taxes. So instead of getting \$1,900 in tax relief under our plan, Al and Betty get a hefty tax hike. I guess that is just the Washington liberal way of keeping up with the Joneses.

DEMOCRATS NOW AGREE THAT THROUGH JOHN HUANG, CHINA ATTEMPTED TO INFLUENCE AMERICAN POLITICS

(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, Democrats now agree with Republicans: China tried to influence American politics. No kidding, Sherlock. I think Barney Fife could figure that out.

Check this out. Hip Hing Holdings, a California company that only owns an abandoned parking lot in L.A. and who lost \$1 million, gave \$67,000 to the Democrat National Committee. Hip Hing got the money from Lippo Group. Lippo Group has ties to China. The money was gotten for Hip Hing from Lippo by John Huang. John Huang worked for Lippo and also worked for Hip Hing. John Huang later worked for the Commerce Department and later worked for the Democrat National Committee, but John Huang now says, "What is the big deal? I also gave money to the March of Dimes and the Boy Scouts of America."