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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

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

We offer our thanks to You, gracious God, for the gifts that have touched our lives. With all the opportunities and responsibilities that life presents, we are eternally grateful that You have breathed into us the very breath of life and Your Spirit has nurtured us throughout the years. For better and worse and in all the seasons of life we have looked to You for strength and hope, for wisdom and forgiveness, and we earnestly pray that Your blessings will be with us wherever we are or whatever we do. May Your benediction of healing and hope, of assurance and faith continue in our lives now and evermore. 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. Will the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HAYWORTH 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minutes on each side.

RESULTS ACT

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I am excited today to join with my good friend and colleague the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SESSIONS] in announcing the formation of the Results caucus. The Results caucus represents a bipartisan coalition of reform-minded Members who share the common goal of realizing a smaller, smarter, more commonsense government through the implementation of the Results Act.

Ask Americans what they want from the Federal Government and they emphasize four key points: Accountability, responsibility, simplicity, and common sense.

They want accountability. That means holding Federal agencies accountable for achieving their mission and holding Federal programs liable for what they promise.

They want responsibility. That means changing the current mindset of Federal bureaucrats to force them to operate more efficiently and to be more responsive to their customers and the taxpayers.

They want simplicity. That means eliminating wasteful and redundant Federal agencies and programs to prevent government from doing the same thing over and over again in a bureaucratic maze.

And they want common sense, which means ending one size fits all government functions.

Mr. Speaker, a growing number of Americans say Washington is an impediment to the achievement of the American dream. The Results caucus plans to work diligently to ensure that the American people have a Federal Government that is accountable, that is responsible, that is simple and that makes decisions based on common sense.

If you would like more information on the Results caucus, please visit my web site at armey.house.gov or feel free to contact my office.

TERRORISM STRIKES MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it was just a few weeks ago that you joined me and every single colleague in this body but one in denouncing Arab terrorism in Jerusalem. Here we are again with the bodies of innocent children, women, and the elderly torn to bits by this most recent preposterous, unspeakable outrage.

Yasser Arafat cannot have it both ways. He cannot hug the leaders of the murderers and the assassins in the streets of Jerusalem and pretend to work for peace. The time has come for him to understand that this Nation, this Congress and the entire civilized world is expecting him to destroy the terrorist infrastructure of the various murderers groups living under his control. The upcoming visit of Secretary Albright might begin the process of peace at last. But terrorism and the pretense of peacemaking cannot coexist.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Democrat after Democrat cried for campaign finance reform. For Democrats to talk about campaign finance reform is a little like getting mad at the road for the transgressions of a drunk driver. Where have they been when it comes time to talk about Buddhist temple fundraising or selling the Lincoln bedroom or Pauline Kanchanalak or John Huang or Charlie Trie or Eric Hotung or any of the aforementioned people or subjects? But just in case those are not good enough,

□ 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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I have got some additional reading material for some of you. These are good. I think you may have heard of these papers, the Wall Street Journal yesterday, Reno Review, "That could lead to GORE independent counsel." Washington Post, September 4, "U.S. set to probe GORE calls." Washington Times, "Justice looking anew at probe of GORE." Even the New York Times, that great conservative publication that it is, front page, "Inquiry on GORE fundraising." Lots of good reading material in here. I am going to leave it in the House Chamber because I know some of you maybe do not read or have not had time to, but I am going to encourage you to do that because when it comes time to talk campaign finance reform, there is a lot of material right here, and I say let us start doing it on a bipartisan basis.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Members should avoid such references to the Vice President.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I have some additional reading material for the gentleman from Georgia and for all of his colleagues. This is it. You can read this page and you can get the full story of what the Republican Party has done in order to accomplish reform of our campaign finance system right here. It is one big blank. To get up and suggest that there can be a bipartisan discussion of this matter, as the gentleman just disclosed, is truly outrageous, because we have been denied any opportunity, either the Republicans, many of whom as individuals have come forward with constructive ideas on this, or the Democratic colleagues that I have, have been denied any opportunity to come to this floor and debate legislative proposals to try to improve this system in time for 1998.

We have as I count it 13 days left in this month to pass any reform to address the problems that the gentleman just referred to and all of the other corrupting influences on congressional elections in this Nation. Yet the Speaker of the House refuses to schedule an opportunity for full debate on legislative proposals so that they can go through the morning newspaper instead of providing real reform in time for the 1998 elections.

CALL FOR GENUINE CAMPAIGN REFORM

(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 listened with great interest to my friend

from Texas and certainly I think we all share great concerns about campaign finance, especially great concerns about those who do not seem to be able to follow existing law. Mr. Speaker, as we talk about campaign finance, let us join together to acknowledge that one thing should be done at the outset, to have people of both parties obey existing law. But for some to come to this Chamber and call for campaign finance reform in the light of recent reports is akin to having John Dillinger back in his heyday call a press conference and say there ought to be tighter rules against bank robbery.

Mr. Speaker, the facts are clear. I ask my friends on the other side to join with me for genuine campaign reform, including the inclusion of the Paycheck Protection Act so that working people will not have their wages taken coercively to go to political causes with which they do not agree.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, we know the answer to the question that my colleague raised. Existing law is not enough. We need to pass real reform. We need to pass campaign finance reform. Members of the other side of the aisle, they talk about reforming the system.

Yet the real reform, campaign finance reform, there has not been one single hearing on it in this Congress. How can the leadership of this House in good conscience talk about packing up and going home in October when they have not looked at, held a hearing, or done anything about the most crucial problem confronting this country? I am talking about campaign finance reform.

It is rather typical. We talk about actually doing something and they pack their bags and head for the hills. Some of my colleagues find it easier to strike the gavel of adjournment rather than hammer out the tough decisions here in Washington. There must be a vote on campaign finance reform in this Congress before we go home to our districts. We must vote on this issue before we ask our constituents to vote for us.

WHOLE MEMORY LEARNING

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, just when I thought it could not get any worse, I now know that liberalism is possibly incapable of hitting rock bottom. First, they give us whole language learning, which means that you never actually have to spell anything correctly, any guess will do, just make sure that you feel good about yourself when you do. Then just to push the envelope a little further, they give us

whole math learning. You can imagine what that is. Just do not ask anyone who is educated in this manner, and I use the term loosely, to build a bridge for you or do your taxes for you. But now we have got the most incredible thing of all, I like to call it whole memory learning. Made fundraising calls from the White House, did not make the phone calls, DNC credit card, not really fundraisers, soft money, hard money, whatever. I think we ought to call it whole memory.

FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

(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 White House said, "We must stop campaign spending abuses. Our Government is not for sale." If that is not enough to cause you a hernia, check this out. Three Buddhist nuns who pledged a vow of poverty raised \$100,000 at a fundraiser held at a temple no less, now being called by the White House a community outreach program. I ask, reaching out for what?

□ 0915

Souls? Or dollars?

The truth is, if it was not a fundraiser, why did the nuns shred all the evidence? The nun answered, "Look, I don't know what made me do it. Perhaps fear made me do it." I would like to add that is about as good a cover-up answer as anybody could give; after all, she could have said, the devil made me do it.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker, beam me up.

I guarantee one thing. They did not shred any cash over there at that temple, and I yield back the balance of all this innocence.

SUPPORT SCHOOL CHOICE AND EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, children in America are not getting the education they deserve. In my opinion, and in the opinion of many Americans throughout this country, the situation has only gotten worse since the creation of the Federal Department of Education.

Washington bureaucrats are a major part of the education problem. Washington keeps spending money on the schools, but the money spent, based on results, is not improving education. Taxpayer money is being wasted.

The best way to support education in America is to give control to parents, not to Federal bureaucrats. With solutions like school choice and education savings accounts, parents will play a more active role in their children's education. The system, in turn, will be better.