

BALLENGER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALLENGER 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. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

WELCOME TO OUR GUEST CHAPLAIN

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

Mr. BLILEY. Madam Speaker, it is indeed a high honor for me and a great personal privilege to recognize today and to present our guest chaplain, a longtime friend and constituent from Richmond, VA, the retired dean of the Cathedral of Sts. Constantine & Helen. Father Bombalis is not only a great religious leader, but he is a great community leader throughout Virginia, and certainly not least of which in our capital city, Richmond. He is a long-time friend. He is a wonderful pastor and a devoted father and husband, and it is, indeed, a great pleasure to have him here with us today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker pro tempore signed the following enrolled bills on Wednesday, October 15, 1997:

H.R. 2158, making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, and

H.R. 2169, making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OCTOBER 15, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit correspondence received from the White House on October 15, 1997 at 5:00 p.m. and said to contain a mes-

sage from the President pursuant to the Line Item Veto Act (P.L. 104-130) transmitting a cancellation with respect to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1998 (P.L. 105-56).

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives.

CANCELLATION OF SPECIFIC DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-156)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, pursuant to section 1025(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, referred to the Committee on Budget, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, and the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, DC, October 16, 1997.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In accordance with the Line Item Veto Act, I hereby cancel the dollar amounts of discretionary budget authority, as specified in the attached reports, contained in the "Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1998" (Public Law 105-56; H.R. 2266). I have determined that the cancellation of these amounts will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest. This letter, together with its attachments, constitutes a special message under section 1022 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, as amended.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OCTOBER 17, 1997.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit correspondence received from the White House on October 17, 1997 at 2:11 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President pursuant to the Line Item Veto Act (P.L. 104-130) transmitting cancellations with respect to the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1998 (H.R. 2203, approved October 13, 1997). With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives.

CANCELLATION OF SPECIFIC DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-157)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, pursuant to section 1025(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment and Control Act of 1974, referred to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, DC, October 17, 1997.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In accordance with the Line Item Veto Act, I hereby cancel the dollar amounts of discretionary budget authority, as specified in the attached reports, contained in the "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1998" (H.R. 2203, approved October 13, 1997). I have determined that the cancellation of these amounts will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest. This letter, together with its attachments, constitutes a special message under section 1022 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, as amended.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE BASED ON CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Madam Speaker, a recent editorial in the Las Vegas Sun stated: "Nuclear industry stacks the deck." The article further states, "Dollars here. Get your campaign money here."

How true. Like hucksters at a carnival, the nuclear industry is dangling dollars in front of Senators and Congressmen, then stuffing their campaign coffers with nearly \$13 million. The prize, of course, is a nuclear waste dump in Nevada.

According to the study aptly titled, "The Nuclear Industry: A Cash Cow for Congress," pointed out that nearly \$10 million was given to House Members and \$3 million to Senators. Nevadans wonder what effect this money has had on the scientific study of Yucca Mountain's suitability as a nuclear waste repository. Does this money amount to hush money or is it just political contributions to pay off opposition? Should the industry's \$13 million not be better spent recycling this waste?

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 1270. Government should make its decisions on sound science; not bank accounts.

WOMEN'S CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ADVOCATES ADEQUATE CHILD CARE

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

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, and that sounds kind of good, "Madam

Speaker," when 18 women established the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues in 1977, little did they realize that their brainchild would be the single most important tool for advancing issues most important to American women.

One of the most pressing issues that is facing women and families today, and as we move into the next century, is child care. I know this personally, having faced struggles in child care in just the last few months in moving in the Washington area and looking for quality child care for my two young girls.

Madam Speaker, finding child care for me was tough, but finding child care for low-income women and families, where a dollar spent on child care means a dollar less on food or rent, is even harder.

That is why I applaud the efforts of the Women's Congressional Caucus and the White House, which this week is holding a conference on child care, the first of its kind ever.

Mothers and families should not have to choose between work and adequate child care. That is why the Women's Caucus has been, and continues to be, a strong advocate for quality child care.

OSHA AND MSHA SHOULD BE MERGED

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, last Congress I proposed legislation to merge two Federal workplace safety and health agencies, OSHA and MSHA, into a single agency. In my view, merging these two agencies would more effectively promote workplace safety. It would also help reduce Washington bureaucracy.

The Clinton administration strongly opposed my proposed merger. But after he criticized my plan to merge the agencies, the Clinton administration made the head of MSHA a part-time job. And 2½ years later, the Clinton administration still considers MSHA so important that the Acting Solicitor of Labor is running the agency in a couple of hours a week.

Madam Speaker, I am all for saving taxpayer money and combining Federal Government jobs where possible, but I am curious whether this sharing of top-level jobs might be part of a larger strategy. I know the Department of Labor has criticized companies in the past for filling too many lower level positions with part-time workers. Is the Clinton administration trying to turn the tables by putting part-timers in top positions?

Madam Speaker, how far will the administration carry this? Will the Attorney General be officially splitting time as a White House Press Secretary?

WHITE HOUSE MUST ACCEPT CHANGE IN BURDEN OF PROOF IN TAX DISPUTES

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, the White House is opposed to shifting the burden of proof from the taxpayer to the IRS. The White House wants to leave it alone, smack dab on the taxpayer.

The White House says it will cost too much. Unbelievable. The IRS accuses; the taxpayer must prove it. Could my colleagues imagine George Washington opposing the Bill of Rights over dollars and cents?

Shame, White House. Shame. As far as I am concerned, the White House will get the burden of proof change in a civil tax case one way or the other. They will either accept it with common sense and good logic, or they will get it as a stone cold congressional suppository.

Madam Speaker, I would tell them, "Make your choice, White House, and make our 1040. It is time to put the Bill of Rights back into the Tax Code. Audit this."

LIBERAL EDUCATION ADVOCATES ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Madam Speaker, it appears to me that the liberal thinkers who talk about education and always call for education standards are not to be taken seriously. These advocates for children, who proudly call themselves progressives, are the same people responsible for the outrageous academic fads in the classroom which have produced such terrible academic results in the first place.

Academic rigor gives way to emphasis on self-esteem. Merit is replaced by cooperative learning. Common sense, time-tested methods to teach kids how to spell correctly lose out to whole learning.

□ 1215

Classrooms which challenge the gifted are scrapped for dumbed-down learning that cheat kids out of real education. Math that requires actual calculations yields to rain forest algebra that teaches no mathematical skills whatsoever, and so on and on. So before we listen to the progressives who are responsible for this deplorable state of affairs, let us consider instead whether a return to the basics and common sense learning methods are what is really needed.

WOMEN'S CAUCUS

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