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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

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

Breathe into us, O God, the breath of life; strengthen us, O God, with the power of Your spirit; encourage us, O God, with the vision of liberty and the heritage of freedom; comfort us, O God, with the grace of forgiveness and the assurance of peace in our hearts, and may Your good blessing be with us 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.

Mr. SHIMKUS. 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 Chair's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Ohio [Mr. NEY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed a concurrent resolution of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 56. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony honoring Leslie Townes (Bob) Hope by conferring upon him the status of an honorary veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2527

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as cosponsor of H.R. 2227.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA). The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

DO NOT GIVE UP ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, today Speaker GINGRICH will bring to the floor the Republican private education savings account proposal. This bill will do nothing to improve public schools. It is just another tax break for wealthy Americans to help them pay for private schools.

We already provide tax-favored savings accounts to help parents pay for

college education expenses, both public and private. But there is no reason to expand this to pay for expenses from kindergarten to 12th grade at private schools. The money should instead be invested to improve public education from K to 12.

A Democratic alternative that will be proposed today would use the money for interest-free bonds made available to public schools to pay for school construction and repair, purchases of equipment and teacher training expenses.

Madam Speaker, I would ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the Democratic alternative. Let us improve public education rather than siphon Federal dollars for private schools. Madam Speaker, I say to my colleagues: Do not give up on the public schools.

TRANSPORTATION OF NUCLEAR WASTE POSES THREAT TO AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, the nuclear energy industry is trying to pull the nuclear wool over the eyes of America.

A recent report stated that transportation accidents involving dangerous nuclear wastes are inevitable and widespread catastrophic contamination is very, very possible. When comparing similar situations of transporting nuclear wastes and hazardous materials, the future for needless highly dangerous nuclear waste shipments looks frightening.

Data from the Department of Transportation reveals that in the last 10 years, just under 100,000 accidents released some form of hazardous material in the United States and its territories.

□ 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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Madam Speaker, these releases caused over \$300 billion in damages, over 4,000 minor injuries and 350 major injuries, and over a staggering 100 human deaths.

Madam Speaker, these statistics are unacceptable, especially when extremely dangerous nuclear waste and its catastrophic repercussions are similarly shipped across this country. I urge my colleagues to vote no on H.R. 1270.

ANN'S CAMPAIGN FOR A SAFER AMERICA

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the resilience of a remarkable northern Virginia family. In April I was on the floor commemorating a young woman whose life was cut short in an act of senseless, random violence. At that time, the Mt. Vernon community in my district was attempting to come to grips with the loss of Ann Marie Harris, who was shot and killed in Tacoma, WA, during her spring break.

Madam Speaker, since this senseless tragedy Ann's friends and family have worked hard to keep her memory alive through the founding of "Ann's Campaign for a Safer America." This organization is working to help all of us live the life that Ann radiated; a life in which we care more and are more understanding of each other.

I have the deepest respect for the Harris family as they try to turn this tragedy into a positive contribution for our communities. The Harrises have undertaken a speaking campaign to spread their experience through school presentation, conferences, and other forums. They will work with parents and school groups to prevent tragedies like this from recurring.

Madam Speaker, it epitomizes the best of the human spirit.

The Harris family is truly an example for us all. They have taken this shattering experience and turned it into a living tribute to their daughter. Ann's exceptional energy and enthusiasm lives on through these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, "Ann's Campaign for a Safer America" epitomizes the very best of the human spirit. I can think of no more appropriate memorial from Ann's family and friends than this effort to bring more understanding and less violence to our community.

KATHY WALLACE NAMED REE COOK-REITER "WOMAN OF THE YEAR"

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

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, today I want to talk about Kathy Wallace of Bellaire, OH, who has been named the Ohio Valley Medical Center's 1997 Ree Cook-Reiter Women's Center "Woman

of the Year." Kathy is the first recipient of the award which honors women who are devoted to helping their communities.

Kathy is special to many people in the Ohio Valley where I am from. She has touched many lives through her caring and giving attitude. Some of those people are residents of the Country Club Retirement Center in Bellaire, where she gives weekly manicures. She always has a warm smile and friendly conversation for them. Kathy also donates sweet treats to nursing home residents from the Dairy Queen that she owns in Martins Ferry, OH.

Kathy has taught Bellaire and Belmont County about the importance of volunteering and dedication to one's community. She leads by example.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Kathy Wallace for her service to Belmont County, and to congratulate her as she is honored with this award as the "Woman of the Year." I wish Kathy Wallace continued success and health and prosperity. She is what America is all about. She has made people's lives brighter.

COLLEGE COSTS MOUNT AS COLLEGE PRESIDENTS' SALARIES RISE

(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, economists say they are mystified. They cannot understand why college costs are going so high.

It is no mystery to me, Madam Speaker. Check this out: The president of Vanderbilt makes \$480,000 a year. The president of Penn, \$450,000. The president of Wake Forest, \$450,000. The presidents of NYU and Yale make \$425,000.

Madam Speaker, if that is not enough to tax our student loan, the president of Northeastern makes \$1 million. Who is kidding whom? It does not take a Ph.D. to figure this out. Costs are going up at the college level because college presidents are getting hernias from carrying money bags around. Meanwhile, college graduates and students are filing for bankruptcy. Beam me up.

Madam Speaker, the President of the United States makes \$250,000. I yield back all of those Ph.D. presidents; they are all piled higher and deeper with money bags, I might add.

RADICAL REPUBLICANS PAVE WAY FOR BRIGHTER AMERICAN FUTURE

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, during the American Reconstruction period from 1865 through 1877, there was a

group of visionaries who were called radical Republicans. They wanted African-Americans to have full citizenship. These radical Republicans were for changes in society and in government.

Those who criticized the Republicans were the defenders of the status quo, and that is, once again, the situation today. Republicans are once again being called radical, extremists, mean-spirited by the defenders of the status quo.

Why? Because it is Republicans who want to change government; who want to reform the IRS; who want to give back citizens their constitutional right of innocence until proven guilty, instead of being guilty until they prove themselves innocent in an IRS tax audit.

Madam Speaker, that is the vision of today's radical Republicans. It is not extreme or heartless. It is just common sense. So when my colleagues hear those words, "extreme," "mean-spirited," "radical," remember once again the so-called radical Republicans paving the way for a brighter future for everyone here in America.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of character education and the strengthening of our public schools. I know teaching our children values and ethics will help improve education.

Last week I visited three schools in my district where character counts. They have embraced character education. They provide instruction on how to make good decisions. It teaches each child to control his own behavior. It teaches children to look at the world through a moral lense. Character education adapts existing educational material to inspire development of core ethical values among all students in the learning process.

Madam Speaker, it complements the efforts of parents, family, churches and the business community in developing qualities in our children that will strengthen our society. It emphasizes courage, good judgment, integrity, kindness, perseverance, respect, responsibility, and self-discipline.

Character education is a public school initiative that can improve education in America. Unfortunately, Congress would rather play politics with our children's future. Madam Speaker, we do not need vouchers to put tax money in private and religious schools. Let us defeat vouchers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MT. VERNON, IL FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

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