

But this we know, the faintest cry from the loneliest heart in the remotest part of the planet will not go unheard. Even now You are marshaling the forces of nations and peoples to rescue the perishing and care for the dying.

You brought every Member of this House here for a time such as this, 435 good, dedicated, caring people who really want to make the right decisions for the people who sent them here. However, tremendous pressures are bombarding them. Some pressures are of the purest motives. Others are of greed, selfishness and partisanship. Give each Member the wisdom to know what is right, the strength to do what is right and the courage to reject those who would compromise the integrity of this high office. Remind us that it is not always easy to do the right thing but it is always the right thing to do.

And, Father, let the family members and loved ones, especially Mrs. Chafee today, know that they too are true American heroes. They pay a high price keeping the home fires burning while giving strength and support for these representatives to carry on the responsibility of government.

God, use us to bless America. To You be honor and glory in all things. In Christ's name, 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 Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TIAHRT 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 SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 206

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable John H. Chafee, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

Resolved, That Senator Chafee's record of public service embodied the best traditions of the Senate: Statesmanship, Comity, Tolerance, and Decency.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark

of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

WELCOME TO THE REVEREND STUART YORK

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it is a special honor for the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY MILLER) and me to welcome Pastor Stuart York and his wife Alicia into the Chamber. We want to express our appreciation to him for the very inspiring words of prayer that he offered us.

Pastor York has dedicated his life to spiritual guidance and to public service. He served as pastor in churches in Missouri, Oklahoma and California, and in California he has been pastor, as the Speaker said, of the Rosemead Christian church for the past 11 years. He also was President of the Missouri Christian Convention and is chairman of the board of trustees at St. Louis Christian College where he graduated.

Pastor York and his wife Alicia have five children, Anna, Tammy, Wendy, Joshua and Rebekah. As a resident of West Covina, he has been active as a leader in local government and various charitable organizations. In fact, I on more than a few occasions have seen him play the role of Santa Claus. I am very proud to have him here in Washington, D.C. I join my colleagues in the House in thanking our distinguished guest chaplain for bringing us this very inspirational message today.

IRS OUT OF CONTROL

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. America's income tax is not only un-American, it is socialism at its best. It promotes dependency, penalizes achievement, kills jobs, kills investment, and subsidizes illegitimacy. It is out of control, Members of Congress. If that is not enough to tax your Social Security from cradle to the grave they keep busting our balsam and taxing us even when we die.

Beam me up here, Mr. Speaker. I say it is time to literally abolish both the IRS and the progressive un-American socialistic income tax.

Audit this. I yield back the socialism of our income tax program.

CALL FOR OVERSIGHT HEARINGS INTO GROWING BODY PARTS INDUSTRY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I read an article in World Magazine this week entitled "Harvest of Shame" about a new and growing industry in America.

This industry trafficks in body parts, parts of babies' bodies, organs and tissues of aborted babies. This business provides fee for services schedules listing the prices they charge for almost any body part you can think of, eyes, livers, brains, thymuses, blood, among other things.

Mr. Speaker, we are not talking about the People's Republic of China. We are talking about the United States of America. Now we know why the partial birth abortion procedure was developed, to give this industry whole body parts. The direction our country is going, the exploitation of innocent and voiceless people, children, babies, for the supposed benefit of the rest of us is shocking. We should be outraged not only because it is a violation of Federal law but because this callous disregard of human life is very real, very grotesque, it is growing steadily and it is done in the name of research. Apparently money talks and many are listening.

Mr. Speaker, oversight hearings should be held immediately on this issue.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION CALLING FOR RATIFICATION OF CEDAW

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am here today because of an alarming pattern of inaction on the part of the Senate. After voting down the comprehensive nuclear test ban and trying to kill the nomination of Senator Carol Moseley-Braun to be ambassador of New Zealand, one Member in particular is continuing to hold the United Nations convention on eliminating all forms of discrimination against women, or CEDAW, hostage. CEDAW formalizes women's equality and promotes women's inclusion in business, government and other economic and social sectors. CEDAW has absolutely nothing to do with family planning or abortion, and more than 160 countries have already ratified this important treaty supporting basic human rights for women. The United States in fact is the only industrialized democracy that has not ratified CEDAW. This is a disgrace.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to cosponsor my resolution calling on the Senate to ratify CEDAW in this Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The Chair will remind all Members they should avoid admonishing the other body to take action or not to take action.

REPUBLICANS COMMITTED TO PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY

(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, for the first time in 30 years, we have an historic opportunity to do what is right for America. We have an opportunity to pass a budget that does not dip into the Social Security trust fund.

Republicans are committed to protecting Social Security for future generations of Americans. However, the Democratic leadership seems to have other priorities. They seem to believe that spending the Social Security surplus would be a political victory for them. They would rather score political points than secure America's future.

Today I rise to urge my friends on the other side of the aisle to put their partisan agenda aside and join with the Republicans in saving and preserving 100 percent of the Social Security trust fund. Help us pass a budget that would put an end to the 30-year raid on Social Security. Work with us to put partisanship aside and do the right thing for all Americans and their future.

I yield back the balance of my time and 100 percent of the Social Security trust fund.

CALLING FOR INCREASED ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, this body will soon be voting on the conference report to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. This gives us the opportunity to greatly improve the health of people of color.

As we prepare to enter the 21st century, the poor, African-Americans and other ethnic minorities are essentially no healthier than they were at the opening of this one. There remains a gaping divide between whites and people of color in heart disease, cancer, diabetes, infant mortality and HIV/AIDS.

The Congressional Black Caucus was able to mount an unprecedented initiative to target \$156 million to communities of color across this country to address the state of emergency that exists with respect to HIV/AIDS and access to care. Although we made an impact, we need to do much more to increase access to the resources needed to raise the health status of minorities in this country.

I appeal to this Congress to respond by fully funding the President's requests for health, by increasing the funding for the CBC initiative to \$349 million, health disparities to \$150 million and including the \$35 million for AIDS in Africa.

My colleagues, health care delayed is health care denied. Let us not deny

hundreds of millions of Americans their right to good health.

ANNOUNCING FORMATION OF THE BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA CAUCUS

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

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, just by looking around at our homes, our offices, our roads and our local infrastructure, we can see that construction has an important impact on our lives. The U.S. construction market totaled \$652 billion in 1998 which was 8.13 percent of our gross domestic product, which is GDP. Construction employed 5,970,000 workers with a payroll of \$160 billion in 1998 which is about 6 percent of the Nation's nonfarm, private sector employment. The construction industry is comprised of nearly 2 million small and large firms. Construction is larger than the automotive and steel industries combined.

Because construction is such an important part of our everyday lives, I have started the Building a Better America Caucus. The purpose of the caucus is to educate Members of the Congress on building-related issues that impact our districts and our constituents, from affordable housing to airport construction.

I urge all my colleagues to support our Nation's builders by joining the Building a Better America Caucus and supporting commonsense legislation to build a better America.

REPUBLICAN CONGRESS WILL STOP THE RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that the Federal Government wastes billions of dollars every year through bureaucratic mismanagement. Add waste, fraud and abuse to the equation and we are talking about some pretty big dollars. That is money that could be used in a much more worthwhile way for strengthening the Social Security trust fund.

We have a choice here in Congress. Do we want to continue the old Democrat practice of raiding the Social Security trust fund to pay for big government programs while overlooking waste, fraud and abuse just as they did the last time they had control of this body? The answer is "no."

For too many years, Democrats in Washington raided Social Security while making no effort to hold government agencies accountable for how they spent the taxpayers' money. I am proud to say that the Republican Congress will hold the bureaucracy accountable. We will make them find ways to eliminate waste, fraud and

abuse. And better yet, we will stop the raid on the Social Security trust fund.

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PASS THE LABOR-HHS BILL

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, time is fast approaching for this Congress to do its business. There are at least five appropriations bills that we have not yet addressed. We call it deadlock; but in my town of Houston, we cannot afford any more deadlock as it relates to our children. Violence continues. Just this past week we lost a young middle schooler through a violent act in his school, struck down by a screwdriver to his head.

There is a great need for attention to our children, for stopping the violence, for intervention; and we need to pass a Labor-HHS bill that will provide more funding for mental health.

I will be offering before the session ends the Give-a-Kid-a-Chance Omnibus Mental Health Bill, which provides access to mental health services for all of our children, to make sure that our community health clinics provide a holistic approach to the treating of the parent, the child, the support system around that child, the community, in order to understand that ending violence with our children is a community effort, a community affair, and mental health is not bad, it is good.

Pass the Labor-HHS bill and provide more funding for mental health services in America.

DAY 152 IN THE LOCKBOX BILL HOSTAGE SITUATION

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

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday we reached a milestone in the wait for the other body to consider the lockbox bill this House passed on May 26. Sunday was day 150 since the Lockbox bill of the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) to protect Social Security from the Congressional big spenders passed this House by the overwhelming vote of 416 to 12.

That is right. On Sunday, when President Clinton's supporters were on TV talk shows accusing the Republican Congress of threatening Social Security, it was exactly 150 days since those very Clinton supporters took the Lockbox bill hostage. They refused to allow a vote to stop the raid on Social Security forever. Now it has been 152 days since this body passed the Lockbox bill, and the other body has not acted.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are committed to stopping the raid on Social Security, now and in the years to come. We hope the President will join