

it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. 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.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is Private Calendar day.

The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

BELINDA MCGREGOR

The Clerk called the Senate bill (S. 452) for the relief of Belinda McGregor.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

RICHARD W. SCHAFFERT

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 1023) for the relief of Richard W. Schaffert.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that this bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT: A BETTER WAY

(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, more than half of this Nation's wild horse population and burro population roams free over the rangelands of Nevada. But the State of Nevada has little or no authority over the management of these herds because wild horse and burro management rests solely with the Bureau of Land Management, mostly here in Washington, D.C.

Unfortunately, the BLM's management has proven to be highly ineffec-

tive and terribly destructive to both the rangeland and to these animals.

Wild horses and burros are causing havoc and destruction on Nevada's rangelands through overgrazing and destruction of riparian areas. Many animals simply are starving to death because the land cannot physically sustain them.

These horses and burros may not be the brightest animals on the farm, but neither is the bureaucracy here in Washington, D.C. The failure of this current management system is obvious to many Nevadans.

Clearly, the current Federal bureaucracy is doing more harm than good, and a change needs to be made. Congress needs to act to pass H.R. 2874, the Wild Horse and Burro Preservation and Management Act.

Madam Speaker, I yield back whatever common horse sense may remain in the BLM's management policy.

STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM RATHER THAN JUST TALK ABOUT IT

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

Mr. CARDIN. Madam Speaker, we began this session of Congress in January with much hope of improving our Social Security system and strengthening it. Both Democrats and Republicans talked about making that our top priority. Well, Madam Speaker, we are now near the end of this session of Congress, and we have not lived up to our commitments to our seniors.

In January, we talked about extending the Social Security Trust Fund. Now, when we look at what is going to be done, we will not extend the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund by one day.

The Republican leadership is trying to change the subject. But our seniors understand what is happening. It was our responsibility to act on Social Security this year, and we are not going to do it.

The President has sent up proposals that would extend the solvency of the Social Security system by 16 years. That is a good first step. We should pass that. Then we should work together as Democrats and Republicans to strengthen our Social Security system rather than just talking about it.

MINIMUM WAGE HIKE IS UNNECESSARY

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of a few reasons that a minimum wage hike is unnecessary. Raising the minimum wage harms the very people that it is supposed to help.

U.S. Census figures show that the average income of minimum wage em-

ployees increases by 30 percent within 1 year of employment. Why? Because, as these workers spend time in the workplace, they accumulate more skills and increase their own value. Just plain common sense.

That is why less than 3 percent of employees above the age of 30 work at the minimum wage. The longer they are in the work force, the more money they make.

Madam Speaker, there are better ways to empower the poorest and least skilled in our society. Tax incentives for working Americans and businesses are just one way. Raising the minimum wage is clearly the wrong way.

I urge my colleagues to keep these important factors in mind as the House debates a minimum wage hike in the future.

SENIORS DISAPPOINTED WITH FAILURE TO SOLVE SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENCY BEFORE CLOSE OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, think how disappointed the American public must be as they see the Congress coming to a close in the next couple of weeks and how it has failed to address the problems of Social Security, to extend the solvency of Social Security, to deal with the fundamental reforms that are necessary so that Social Security will be there for us, for our children and our grandchildren; and then to find out, not only have they failed to extend the solvency of Social Security, but the Republicans have made a conscience decision to dip into the trust funds.

As we were told at the end of last week by the Congressional Budget Office, some \$17 billion has been taken out of the Social Security Trust Funds to finance the gimmicks that the Republicans have put together to try and pass the budget, a budget that has yet to pass.

Think of the disappointment of the American public when they learn this most fundamental program, this most important program to the retirees of our Nation has been given this kind of treatment during this session as the Republicans get ready to leave this town and to end this Congress. Not only have they spent the Social Security Trust Fund, but they have also failed to deal with prescription drug benefits and with the minimum wage.

SENIORS WILL BE DISAPPOINTED WITH CONGRESSIONAL RECORD THIS YEAR

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, as we prepare to finish our

work in Washington and return home to our districts, we know we will have to explain our record here in Congress. It looks as though we will return to our seniors with terrible news. We will tell them that while the House passed a Social Security Lockbox Protection bill on May 26, this bill to permanently stop the raid on Social Security funds has been held hostage in the other body now for a total of 159 days.

We will have to explain to our seniors that some big spenders in Washington want to continue the raid on Social Security funds. We stopped the raid this year, but it was not easy. That is why the lockbox bill is so important. It will make it easier to stop the raid in future years.

I hope President Clinton and all the outside interest groups that say they speak for the interest of American seniors will join me in supporting lockbox protection for the Social Security Trust Fund.

ENFORCE EXISTING GUN LAWS; DO NOT Coddle GUN VIOLATORS

(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 wants more gun control. Janet Reno wants more gun control. But something just does not add up, Madam Speaker. In the last 5 years, prosecution of gun violators dropped 50 percent. Gun violators serve 25 percent less time in jail, and many pardons were granted for gun violators.

Now think about it. Fewer prosecutions, early releases, pardons, but the White House wants more gun control. Beam me up, Madam Speaker.

America does not need more gun control. America needs the White House to enforce the gun laws we already have. I yield back all the coddling of these gun violators by this administration.

BLACKHAWK HELICOPTERS FINALLY ARRIVE IN COLOMBIA

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, on Sunday, October 31, 1999, the first three of six of the long awaited Blackhawk helicopters crossed into Colombian airspace, returning from extensive training in the U.S. The choppers were later received by the Director General, the legendary drug fighter Jose Serrano and his anti-drug unit at their air base near Bogota, where they train drug fighting pilots from all across Latin America.

After years of waiting for the Clinton administration to get off the dime and help our beleaguered neighbor just 3 hours from Miami, which produces 80 percent of the world's cocaine and 75 percent of the heroin sold in the United States, the GOP-led anti-drug package from last year finally arrived.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO EXTEND LIFE OF SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, if it were not so serious, it would be funny. The Republican Party, the party that never believed in Social Security, is now posing as its savior. They say Democrats are raiding Social Security, running ads that we are stealing from Social Security. It is a joke.

First, the Republican budget has already spent about \$17 billion in the Social Security surplus. All the experts and accountants agree. They have done what they accuse the Democrats of doing.

Second, this entire debate is a hoax, and they know it. When one puts one's money into a savings account, does one think it just sits there? No. The bank uses one's money and pays one interest. That is not stealing.

It is the same with Social Security. The trust fund is either used for programs or to pay down the debt. Interest is paid back in the fund. The Republicans are desperately trying to cover up the fact that, unlike the Democrats, they have no plan to extend the life of Social Security, and that is the ugly truth.

IF DEMOCRATS WILL HELP, WE CAN SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, it is very interesting to hear all these Democrats who voted no on the appropriation bills because we were not spending enough now saying that we are taking money out of Social Security. Hello. Where does the extra money come from? I will yield the floor to any Democrat who can tell me. If they do not want to get it out of Social Security, where are they getting the money from? Hello. Hello. Silence, what I thought. Just what I thought.

Here is the words of the President's advisor: "The key goal of the Republicans is not to spend Social Security surplus." That is from their own Democrat advisor.

Now, what is our alternative? To get 1 cent out of each dollar. I am a father of four. Do my colleagues know what, we have to cut our budget weekly. We have to come up with more money. Usually when we are looking at a dollar, we have to get a quarter or 35 cents out of it. If I had to cut a penny out, it would be easy. But that is what we are doing.

All the Democrats now are crying and screaming there is no waste in government. What about when the President went to Africa and spent \$42.8 million and took 1,300 of his closest

friends? I think there is a lot of waste in government. If we can get the Democrats to help us, we can save Social Security and quit spending it.

THE DO-HARM CONGRESS

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, this will be remembered as less than a do-nothing Congress. It is the do-harm Congress, because we are squandering a unique opportunity to begin fixing Social Security and Medicare.

When my colleagues cannot even get out 13 appropriations, the minimum work that Congress does, they simply ought to retire and go home.

Last week we flattened the smallest appropriation, D.C., by loading the Labor-HHS on its back just to get it to the White House because the majority could not pass it. The unfairness of the maneuver is matched only by the incompetence of the majority it exposes.

Shame on the Congress. But greater shame is the long-term damage the Republicans are doing to Social Security. They are locking it in a box; and inside, they are letting Social Security wither and die.

The Republicans are selling out the largest generation in this century as their old age approaches. May the baby boomers have their revenge before it is too late.

SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN OF THE PRESIDENT

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

Mr. OSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today again to make a point of the Social Security plan that the President has put forward.

We have heard much in terms of the ballyhoo about the President's plan, of which I have a copy and which will be reviewed at the Committee on Ways and Means on Thursday. With great respect to my friends on the other side, I am curious whether or not they support the President's plan to save Social Security. Before they answer, be careful, because I will tell them, having read it and read it carefully, it requires a reduction in the discretionary outlays for appropriations.

This is the leader on their side of the aisle saying we are going to cut appropriations. Given the situation we have today where we cannot even come to even a nominal reduction, how are we going to achieve that?

Madam Speaker, the numbers do not add up with the President's Social Security plan. I urge each of my colleagues to read it very carefully.

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If we support it, we are supporting a reduction in discretionary appropriations of significant nature. Read it