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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

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

We know that in our prayers we can speak to You, O God, with any words we wish and with any thoughts we care to think. Give us boldness and honesty in our prayers so that we truly speak what is in our hearts. And give us wisdom in our minds so that in all things we may do justice, love mercy, and ever walk humbly with You. This is our earnest prayer. 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 Texas (Mr. GREEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GREEN of Texas 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.

NEVADA TRAVEL AND TOURISM

(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, today on behalf of the great State of Nevada, I would like to personally thank the

travel and tourism industry because of its lasting partnership and patronage.

Nevada ranks sixth in both direct domestic and international travel spending among all 50 States. Total travel expenditures in Nevada exceed \$17 billion, travel payroll climbed well over \$5 billion, and it employed more than 307,000 people.

To this effect I would like to specifically recognize the Grand Canyon Air Tour Industry which has served southern Nevada and the Grand Canyon for more than 70 years. This service provides enjoyment to over 800,000 passengers annually, of which 30 percent are over the age of 50, to the outstanding air tours of the Grand Canyon, truly one of America's most treasured sites.

Without the Grand Canyon tour industry, many handicapped would never be able to enjoy the deep, colored canyons or the magnificent raging Colorado River.

Again on behalf of my constituents and the many tourists who visit southern Nevada, thank you for your economic contributions and your continued steadfast service.

HOUSE SENDS TERRIBLE MESSAGE REGARDING KOSOVO

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was elected to Congress 6 years ago and I came to Washington to work on health care and education for our children. But yesterday was one of the worst days I have served in 26 years of elected office. What a terrible message this House sent yesterday to our men and women serving our country in the Balkan conflict. The quote I heard "taking ownership of this war" by my Republican colleagues should be unacceptable, not only to myself but the

American people. Our country's finest young men and women serving our Nation deserve more than politics as usual on this floor of the House. This reminds me of World War II when my Republican colleagues referred to World War II as "Mr. Roosevelt's war."

Please put your hatred aside for this President and realize that this conflict was not started by Bill Clinton, it was started by Serbia's murderers of civilians, and it was started by our commitment to NATO and to our allies who have protected us for 50 years from communism. Now your hatred of Bill Clinton is giving hope to our Nation's enemies who are trying to shoot down our men and women literally as we stand here today.

Please think and reflect on your action because our service people are in harm's way.

ON ORIOLES-CUBA BASEBALL GAME

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, it is ironic that as NATO forces are bombing the Butcher of the Balkans, the Clinton administration is cozying up to the Butcher of the Caribbean, Cuba's Fidel Castro.

In the aftermath of the tragedy in Colorado as we search for answers and discuss role models and values, it is ironic that the United States is preparing to play ball with the regime that violates the human rights and civil liberties of its people.

Monday's game between the Baltimore Orioles and the Cuban team will send a message to our children that America's pastime can also be an instrument for dictators; that money, power and individual interests are more important than freedom and democracy for the oppressed people of Cuba.

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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The May 3rd game, as the one played in Cuba, will be a political and public relations home run for Fidel Castro but it will be a strikeout for political prisoners, for human rights dissidents and the Cuban people as a whole.

Let us send the right message to our young people and to the international community as a whole that the U.S., its institutions and its symbols will not be accessories to the crimes committed by the Castro regime and that we will not be manipulated into covering up those crimes.

PRESIDENTIAL ASSAILANT JOHN HINCKLEY VACATIONS ON TAX-PAYER DOLLARS

(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, John Hinckley shot President Reagan with intent to kill. He was acquitted by reason of insanity and confined to a hospital where after a routine search they found correspondence between Hinckley and mass murderers Charles Manson and Ted Bundy.

But despite all of this, a Federal judge ruled that Hinckley is not an inmate, that Hinckley is a guest and is thus entitled to supervised leave privileges.

Beam me up. Is it any wonder what is happening to our society? Hinckley, who shot the President with intent to kill, is now enjoying weekends in the country. What is next, Disney World?

I yield back the tragic ordeal of James Brady and the two policemen also shot by this bum now vacationing on taxpayer dollars.

GEORGIA TRAVEL AND TOURISM

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

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the travel and tourism industry in my State of Georgia and in my Ninth District. It is an industry that contributes some 190,000 jobs in my State.

My district is blessed to be the home of Lake Lanier which is the most visited Corps of Engineers lake in the United States and has some \$2 billion of economic impact annually. We also have some 750,000 acres of the Chattahoochee National Forest.

The Appalachian Trail begins at Springer Mountain in my district and ends some 2,100 plus miles later in Maine.

We also have the Etowah Indian Mound and the Tallulah Gorge State Park. And in Dahlonega, Georgia, the first actual gold rush in our country was ignited there in 1828. The gold museum there is the second most visited museum in our State.

We also have the Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Battle Park which is the first military park in our Nation

that celebrates the fact that it was a bloody 2 days in which over 35,000 men were either killed, wounded or missing. We have visitors that come from all over the world to visit that park.

A number of other attractions include our Prater's Mill, Chief Vann House and others. It is absolutely the reason why the tourism industry is referred to as America's largest services export.

U.S. ROLE IN KOSOVO TURNED INTO PARTISAN POLITICAL CONTEST

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, yesterday Republicans turned the question of ethnic cleansing, NATO's future and America's role in the world into a partisan political contest. Well over 30 Republican Members switched their votes from supporting the air strikes to ending the conflict yesterday so that they could vote against President Clinton.

Now, after having voted in a way that is totally inconsistent and having voted, some of them actually voted to not only not withdraw the troops in Campbell I and then not to declare war and then they voted at the end not to support the President's air campaign to end the ethnic cleansing, to end the genocide, they want to load the appropriations bill that the President proposes to try to sustain our troops in the field and take it from \$6 billion to \$12 billion, all of it coming from Social Security.

It is inconceivable to be spending twice the amount the President asked for when you are not even willing to vote to stop the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. It is outrageous and it cannot be tolerated.

SALUTING UNIONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL'S "MAKE A DIFFERENCE" PROGRAM

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, last week I visited a high school in my district that was a great encouragement to me in the aftermath of the horrible tragedy in Littleton, Colorado.

As I met with several English honors classes at Unionville High School in Pennsylvania, I witnessed presentations by students who shared the results of community service assignments called "Make A Difference" projects. From planting trees to stream clean-up, to adopting a needy family, raising money to pay utility bills for a poor family, these kids did it all. Volunteering with school tutoring, helping a Salvation Army food bank, even sharing the joy of music with seniors at a nursing home, all of these ac-

tivities gave the students a new perspective.

I listened to these thoughtful, well-organized and poised presentations about the lessons these students learned and the benefits of giving themselves to help others.

There are many wonderful people across this Nation who are making a difference in our neighborhoods, including students. We need to continue to praise our kids and teachers and remind them of the importance of their contributions to our communities.

Thank you, Unionville High School, Mrs. Sheeler and students. Keep it up.

AN INFAMOUS MOMENT IN THE HOUSE

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

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, last night's vote failing to support the NATO air campaign against Milosevic was an infamous moment in this House. The majority proclaims its support for the troops but will not support what the troops are now risking their lives to do. The majority wants to double appropriations for an effort most of them apparently oppose. What is left for bipartisanship when the Republican majority will not use it in times as these? For them, there seems no water's edge. They mock the memory of that great Republican Senator from my home State, Arthur Vandenberg.

TOO MANY MISSIONS, TOO FEW RESOURCES

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

Mr. SCHAFER. Madam Speaker, our military problem is simple: too many missions, too few resources. This administration adds new missions every year and then gives the Pentagon fewer resources to accomplish them. And then to add insult to injury, our own continent remains vulnerable to a ballistic missile attack. A national missile defense system remains un-built, sacrificed on the altar of arms control. Instead of an America safe from a missile attack, we have a contract, a piece of paper with a country that no longer exists, the Soviet Union. That piece of paper, known as the ABM Treaty, does not keep America safe. It cannot protect us from the evil designs of Osama bin Laden, Saddam Hussein and other world troublemakers who hate America and despise the very liberty we represent.

Tyrranical regimes cannot abide the idea of liberty. The existence of liberty is a threat to the power of the despots, tyrants and dictators.

Meanwhile, as the world becomes a dangerous place, our military is ignored and a national missile defense system is rejected. This is the path of dangerous folly.