

that he wants to get married to a schoolteacher with an identical income, and her income is \$30,500, of course, she is in the 15 percent tax bracket if she is single and stays single, but if she decides to marry this machinist their combined income is \$61,000 because they file jointly, which pushes them into the 28 percent tax bracket.

With the marriage tax penalty, they pay on average the almost \$1,400 in marriage tax penalty if they choose to get married. If they choose not to, they do not pay that marriage tax penalty.

Madam Speaker, the Marriage Tax Elimination Act has 230 cosponsors, a majority of this House. Let us make elimination of the marriage tax penalty our number one priority as we work to lower taxes for American families. Let us simplify to make the Tax Code fair to eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Steven L. Wolverton, Lee Street Memorial Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

Our most gracious Father in heaven, we humbly acknowledge Your majesty and Your Lordship over everything. Father, I pray that with all Your glory, Your power, Your mercy, and Your grace, that You would make yourself known here, and that Your presence, and Your truth might be breath-takingly crystal clear to all.

Father, I pray that You would deliver us from vain hypocrisy and impress upon us as a Nation, as individuals, and as leaders, the values of character, honesty, and integrity.

Father, humble us and direct our attention towards You for true wisdom and discernment. Father, I pray that each Member of this Congress might be absolutely mindful of Your existence, Your presence, Your deity, and Your will as they conduct the business You have entrusted them on behalf of Your people. Lord, help us love one another.

In the name of my Lord and my Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANTOS 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 REGARDING AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 1802, FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 1999

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules is expected to meet later this week to grant a rule which may restrict amendments for consideration of H.R. 1802, the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999.

Any Member contemplating an amendment to H.R. 1802 should submit 55 copies of the amendment and a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules no later than noon on Thursday, June 24. The Committee on Rules office is in H-312 of the Capitol.

Amendments should be drafted to the text of the bill as reported by the Committee on Ways and Means on June 14.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House. All of this with reference to the H.R. 1802, the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, Members are so notified.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1658, CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE REFORM ACT

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-193) on the resolution (H. Res. 216) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1658) to provide a more just and uniform procedure or Federal civil forfeitures, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 33, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-194) on the resolution (H.

Res. 217) providing for the consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 33) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

COST OF GOVERNMENT DAY

(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 is Cost of Government Day, and as George Bernard Shaw once said, "A government which robs from Peter to pay Paul can always depend upon the support of Paul."

Well, the tax paying Americans have been robbed because during the first 173 days of the year, every penny earned by the hard-working men and women of this Nation has been used to pay for government bureaucracy and the added cost of government regulations.

It did not go to pay for their kids' education. It did not go to pay for medical costs or expenses. It did not go to pay for the home mortgage. It all went to pay for government bureaucracy and regulatory agencies.

Almost one-half of the year's effort of these hard-working Americans was spent just to pick up the tab for government bloated bureaucracy. Decades, decades of unchecked growth and deficit spending by the tax and spenders have left the hard-working men and women of this country with this crushing tax burden.

The vast majority of Americans do not object to paying their fair share of taxes, but they do object to the suffocating level of taxation that exists today.

Mr. Speaker, for our children's sake, let us allow hard-working families to keep more of their money, not less. Let us stop robbing Peter to pay Paul.

I urge my colleagues to support meaningful tax reform this year.

SALUTE TO DALLAS STARS, STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Dallas Stars, the 1999 NHL champions.

The Stars electrified all of North Texas en route to winning the oldest trophy in sports, the Stanley Cup.

Along the way, the champs gave us some unforgettable performances. Whether it was the clutch play of Center Mike Modano, the sparkling saves of veteran goalie Eddie "the Eagle" Belfour, the crushing defense of Captain Derian Hatcher, or the bravery of Brett Hull, who scored the Cup-winning goal, it seemed like every game a different Star player stepped up and inspired the team to victory.

To all of the Dallas Stars, I say thank you on behalf of all Texans. You have shown the whole country that Big-D is more than just America's greatest football town.

Mr. Speaker, the Stanley Cup was the first leg of what will be the 1999 Texas hat trick. I am putting my colleagues on notice. Texas teams will end the century by winning, not only the Stanley Cup, but the NBA championship and the World Series as well.

Congratulations again to the mighty Dallas Stars, 1999 Stanley Cup champions.

PRESERVATION: PROTECTING AMERICA'S TREASURED LAND

(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, as I heard from my youth advisory committee visiting the Capitol today, urban sprawl has become a serious concern to Americans in many parts of the country, from the rural farm country in Lancaster and Chester County, Pennsylvania, to suburbs in the south and west.

There are several ways that Congress can help to prevent further unbridled development, yet still keep individual freedoms intact.

Today we will take one small step, through the Patriot Bill, to preserve land in Pennsylvania that is central to our American heritage. It is vital that we preserve two of our Revolutionary War treasures, the historic battlefields of Brandywine and Paoli. It will be a tragedy to lose this history to a housing development that now threatens the region.

By the same token, we must also take a larger step to give individuals in this country incentives to preserve their farmland and open space. By eliminating such burdensome taxes as the estate tax, capital gains tax which threatens so many family farmers, we allow farms in coveted open space to remain intact.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for farms and for open space. First support the Patriot Bill. Secondly, let us get rid of the death tax once and for all.

CONDEMN THE SYNAGOGUE BURNINGS IN SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the logical final outcome of hate crimes is the nightmare we see on our television sets every night in Kosovo. This past weekend, in the State of California, three synagogues were set on fire.

This past year in this free society, which is based on respect for all religions, Mr. Speaker, there were over

8,000 hate crimes in the United States. Some of these were directed on the basis of race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or gender.

Today, I am introducing a resolution condemning this outrageous act, which resulted in the destruction of three Jewish places of worship in the Sacramento area of California.

Scores of my colleagues from across the political spectrum are joining me in this resolution. I ask all of my colleagues to join and express unanimously our condemnation of these outrageous acts and provide assistance to all relevant agencies to bring the perpetrators to justice.

SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

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

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate New Hampshire's participation in the 33rd Annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival beginning tomorrow on the National Mall.

This festival is a celebration of the history, heritage, and culture that makes the Granite State one of a kind. More than 140 participants will be in the national spotlight exemplifying what has made New Hampshire such a beautiful, important, and unique State for the past 23 years.

The spectacular event will also include a celebration of New Hampshire's political history, as well as its essential role as the traditional host of the first-in-the-Nation Presidential primary.

Over the next 2 weeks, more than 1 million people will join representatives from New Hampshire, South Africa, and Romania in showcasing their traditions and customs through expeditions of music, dance, food, crafts, storytelling, and art.

I am extremely proud to have my home State represented here in the Nation's Capital, and I encourage everyone to find their way down to the National Mall to help New Hampshire celebrate its proud history and culture.

COMPANIES MOVING OVERSEAS AND AMERICA IS LOSING JOBS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Hanover Shoe Company of Franklin, West Virginia is moving overseas. Another 350 jobs going overseas. But the workers have been told, and I quote, "Do not worry. You will find a job."

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. Every day, good paying manufacturing jobs going overseas, being replaced by minimum wage service-sector jobs. Enough is enough. A superpower does not act like a colony.

The sad truth is "made in America" is now street talk for teen pregnancy.

I yield back all the minimum wage part-time jobs without benefits in these United States of America.

STAND UP TO THE GREEDY HAND OF GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Paine, a true patriot and American hero who, of course, is no longer taught in many public schools today, once wrote: "We still find the greedy hand of government thrusting itself into every corner and crevice of industry and grasping the spoil of the multitude."

Although students today no longer find The Rights of Man on their reading lists, they would do well to take heed of Thomas Paine's observation that the government has an inevitable tendency to seek to expand its power and to confiscate the fruits of our labor. It is like a law of nature. Anyone who disputes this fact is invited to step forward and call his first witness.

Government grows and grows, and it commands more and more of what we earn. Taxes go up and our freedom necessarily is reduced. Republicans believe that the greedy hand of government has reached too far, and that Americans have seen too many of their freedoms reduced. It is time to stand up to the greedy hand of government.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG FAIRNESS ACT

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, many Democrats in the House of Representatives are working together to lower the cost of prescription drugs. We are asking this Congress to pass the Prescription Drug Fairness Act.

Unfortunately, the drug companies and my friends on the other side of the aisle do not seem much interested in letting this pass.

□ 1415

The drug companies will give lower prices to HMOs, they will give lower drug prices to hospitals, they will give lower drug prices to insurance companies and to the VA, but they charge senior citizens out of pocket literally twice as much in many cases for prescription drugs than they do these preferred buyers.

The prescription drug companies are banding together to oppose the Prescription Drug Fairness Act on the House floor. They say that this legislation will stifle innovation and hurt research. They say it will cost them so much money they will not be able to continue to develop new drugs. They do not say anything, Mr. Speaker, about huge executive drug companies' salaries. They do not say anything about record \$22 billion drug company profits.