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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

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

We know, O God, that people in distress pray for peace and there is no peace; people pray for the stilling of the storm and there is none; people look for healing and yet the illness rages. O gracious God, creator of life and the rock of ages, speak to us in the depths of our souls with eternal hope and grace and strength that You alone can give so we can face the ravages that seem often to rule the world and face that world with confidence and with inner peace. Bless us this day and every day, we pray. 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 Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT 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 had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2466. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and re-

lated agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2466) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. GORTON, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. GREGG, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. REID, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. KOHL, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. There will be 15 one-minutes on each side.

PRESIDENT VETOES TAX RELIEF PACKAGE

(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, oftentimes politicians talk about improving people's lives, but usually that is about as far as it goes, just talk.

Well, true to form, yesterday the President had an opportunity to sign into law a bill that would directly help the American taxpayers, but he did not.

The tax relief package just vetoed by this President would have given working families more freedom to run their lives the way they see fit, more freedom giving them more power, more time, more control over their lives. It would have reduced the marriage tax penalty, one of the most blatantly unfair demons in the Tax Code. It would have made it easier for workers to buy and cover themselves with health in-

surance. It would have made it easier for parents to save for their children's education. It would have eliminated the death tax, making it easier to pass on the family farm or family business to loved ones after a lifetime of work. It would have made it easier to invest and save for our future.

Balanced and fair, it would have provided substantial debt reduction, protected Social Security and Medicare, and provided tax relief to American taxpayers. And Washington would have gotten a little less so that hard-working, taxpaying families could have a little more.

I yield back the balance of any money Mr. and Mrs. America have left in their pockets.

GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

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

Ms. DELAUBRO. Mr. Speaker, for 5 months, common sense gun safety measures have been stymied by the Republican leadership. Our efforts to close the loopholes that give kids and criminals easy access to guns have been repeatedly stifled. Every day results in lives that are lost.

Thirteen children in this country are killed by guns every day, 13 American youngsters every single day. The other side argues that no laws can stop bad men with evil in their hearts from shooting innocent people. Perhaps they are right. But they are masking a very important truth.

I am sad to say that thousands of children are killed by guns by accident. These children find loaded guns without safety locks and they pull the trigger. The frequency of these deaths is heartbreaking, and they could be prevented.

I urge my colleagues to pass the common sense measures that could reduce our country's epidemic of gun deaths.

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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Today I continue reading the names of children who have been killed by guns since Columbine:

Kenneth Acuff, age 17, killed by gunfire on September 4, 1992, Cleveland, Ohio; Casey Crow, age 15, killed by gunfire on September 6, 1999, Maple Heights, Ohio; Nicholas Lenz, age 13, killed by gunfire on September 9, 1999, Clear Lake, Iowa; George Mark, age 17, killed by gunfire on September 12, 1999, Quinhagak Alaska; Joseph B. Frazier, age 16, killed by gunfire on September 14, 1999, Durham, North Carolina; Cassandra Griffin, age 14, killed by gunfire on September 15, 1999, Fort Worth, Texas.

PROGRESSIVE INCOME TAX SOCIALISM

(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, in 1848, Karl Marx said, a progressive income tax is needed to transfer wealth and power to the state. Thus, Marx's Communist Manifesto had as its major economic tenet a progressive income tax.

Think about it, 1848 Karl Marx, Communism. Now, if that is not enough to tax our history, 1999, United States of America, progressive income tax socialism. Stone cold socialism.

I say it is time to replace the progressive income tax with a national retail sales tax, and it is time to abolish the IRS, my colleagues.

I yield back all the rules, regulations, fear, and intimidation of our current system.

CRIME OUGHT NOT TO PAY

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I believe that crime ought not to pay and the public agrees with me that crime should not pay and that is why a recent national survey has concluded that a vast majority of the American people oppose the privatization of America's jails and prisons.

In fact, 51 percent oppose and 34 percent strongly oppose the privatization of these institutions. Voters believe that government-run prisons are more accountable to the public, do a better job of preventing escape and do a better job of protecting public safety.

Further, voters also think that prisons run by private companies are more likely to be understaffed, to have poorly trained staff, and to be less accountable by cutting corners.

That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the public safety act, which is an act which would prevent the further privatization of our Federal institutions and would discourage our States from privatizing their jails and prisons.

CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION TRAINING

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we often hear the acronym for cardiopulmonary resuscitation, CPR, and know what it means. But do we know what to do if, say, someone walking next to us goes into sudden cardiac arrest? Sadly, most people would answer no.

Cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in the U.S., with a survival rate of only 5 percent. CPR can link an arrest victim with professional emergency care. But its success is dependent on the knowledge of our general population. And only 2 to 3 percent of Americans are trained to perform CPR.

I have introduced a resolution supporting National CPR Weekend, an effort by the American Heart Association and Red Cross to train 15,000 people in CPR. Free training sessions will be held this weekend in Medina, Ohio, and Cleveland, Ohio, and nine other cities across the country. Medina General Hospital will train over 300 volunteers in five training sessions throughout the day.

We do not have to be a doctor. We do not have to be in top physical condition. We just have to be willing to join in an important cause, saving lives.

Please call the local Heart Association for CPR trainings in the area.

TAXPAYERS HAVE TO WAIT FOR A REPUBLICAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE FOR TAX RELIEF TO BECOME A REALITY

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President vetoed the tax relief legislation passed by Congress.

In the face of a \$3 trillion budget surplus over the next 10 years, the President concluded that there was no room for any of it to go to the taxpayers. Liberals everywhere cheered. The taxpayers, on the other hand, did no celebrating. Wall Street crashed, the Main Street was told that small business would not be getting any help anytime soon.

Those who are so ardently opposed to tax cuts do not do so because they want the money to go towards debt reduction, despite the rhetoric.

If they were sincere, then they would not be proposing billions and billions of dollars in new spending, creating new entitlements, and expanding Government programs.

They oppose tax relief because they want to grow Government. They want to spend the money. And they do not want us to spend the money.

Washington knows best. That is their bedrock principle.

Taxpayers will just have to wait for a Republican in the White House for tax relief to become a reality.

PRESIDENT'S VETO—A RESPONSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION

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

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the President's vetoing yesterday the tax bill was disappointing to the majority of our colleagues in the House. But I would suggest that, given the alternatives, there was no other course of action that could responsibly be taken.

The fact is we are less than a week away from the beginning of a fiscal year and, by and large, the House and Senate have not even come to agreement on most of the major spending bills. We have only presented three or four bills to the President really of a noncontroversial nature, and most of the controversial issues and big issues still have not been resolved even for the next fiscal year.

So in attempting to try and portray or to put in place tax policies that are based on projected revenues and we cannot even deal with fiscal year 2000, which begins October 1, I think speaks out loud as to the fact that we are not getting our work done and we are not prepared.

I mean, we should put the decisions in terms of our spending policies, the decisions in terms of our revenue policies on the table first before we begin to undercut the ability to deal with those issues.

So I commend the President.

□ 0915

GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION—NOW

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, once again we are calling on the House leadership to move gun safety legislation now.

Wherever I go in any district, whether it is in the supermarket; at the post office; on the streets, local streets; my constituents cannot understand it. People are afraid. In the United States of America, 1999, to be afraid to go to school, to be afraid to go to church, to be afraid to go to a synagogue: This is madness. It does not make any sense.

Mr. Speaker, we have to have the courage to stand up for what is right and not cave to the special interests.

I will continue to read the roll of those children who have lost their lives since Columbine:

Kristi Beckel, age 14, killed by gunfire on September 15, 1999, Fort Worth, Texas; Justin M. Ray, age 17, killed by gunfire on September 15, 1999, Fort Worth, Texas.