

more livable. Funding these initiatives is necessary to minimize problems in the future, while improving the quality of life for generations to come.

We owe it to our constituents to fund these initiatives, and I encourage the Committee on Appropriations to include them in our budget to help make our families safe, healthy, and economically secure in more livable communities.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

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

We know how simple it is to talk about matters of faith, and how easy it is to speak of the relevance of religion for ourselves and for our Nation. Yet, O God, we know that there is often a chasm between what we say and what we do.

On this day we pray that our good words of faith will find meaning in the good works of justice in our daily lives and all that we profess with our mouths and all that we believe in our hearts will be translated into deeds of concern and acts of love.

Help us, gracious God, to make our lives vital and with special purpose by making faith active in love. 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 gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CAPPS 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.

WHISTLE-BLOWER PROTECTIONS FOR NURSES

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, the House will soon act on managed-care reform. In this debate we must protect the whistle-blowing rights for nurses and health professionals.

Patients depend on nurses to ensure they receive proper care. Nurses who see the health of their patients endangered should feel 100 percent confident that they can voice their concerns without retaliation from their employers.

I have been a registered nurse for over 30 years. I understand firsthand how difficult it is to come forward and report abuses, situations which compromise the quality of care. No one should feel that their job is in jeopardy because they speak on behalf of the safety of their patients.

Let us show our support for nurses and healthcare professionals. Support the whistle-blower language in the bipartisan Norwood-Dingell managed-care bill.

PRESIDENT SHOULD VETO NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY AMENDMENTS OF 1999

(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, Senate bill 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments of 1999, has been introduced in the United States Senate. Although this bill would not establish a temporary nuclear storage facility in Nevada, you should be aware of its misguided attempts to deal with the permanent disposal of nuclear waste.

The passage of this legislation would place unneeded and dangerous environmental, safety, and health risks upon millions of Americans. Therefore, I would urge the President to uphold his commitment to Nevada and the American people by reaffirming his veto promise.

Senate bill 187 would accelerate the time line for permanent disposal at Yucca Mountain, ignoring the ongoing scientific studies and our Nation's environmental laws that were designed to protect its citizens. It would also allow the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, not the EPA, to establish dangerous radiation standards. Such a change in law would facilitate contamination of groundwater supplies and endanger all Americans along the transportation routes with higher dosage of deadly radiation, ultimately destroying the lives of American families.

Mr. President, where is your promise? The American people deserve to hear your voice on this critically important issue.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HELPING CHINESE COMMUNISTS

(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, first it was Ruby Ridge and Waco, now it is Chinese money laundering. The Justice Department continues to cover up the truth.

FBI Agent Parker testified that 27 pages of her notebook detailing crimes on Charlie Trie were stolen. Agent Parker also said that the Justice Department blocked a search warrant allowing Charlie Trie to destroy bank records and money transfers from the Bank of China that ended up at the Democrat National Committee.

Think about it. The Justice Department is now covering up the truth, helping Chinese communists.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker.

It is time for a full independent investigation, not another investigation appointed by Janet Reno.

I yield back the crimes at the Justice Department.

ENDING THE 30-YEAR RAID ON THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, for over 30 years Washington big spenders have been raiding the Social Security trust funds to feed the greed for a bigger, more bloated government.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time to "Stop the Raid." This Republican Congress has committed itself to protecting every dime of Social Security.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the President wants to spend the Social Security surplus. According to his most recent budget, he wants \$1 trillion in new government spending in the next 10 years. He can only do that, Mr. Speaker, by spending from the Social Security surplus.

In fact, according to the Congressional Budget Office, his budget would spend \$57 billion of the Social Security surplus next year alone.

Mr. Speaker, we will seize this historic opportunity and we will, for the first time in over 30 years, restore the integrity of the Social Security trust fund and honor our children as they pay those taxes for grandma and grandpa's retirement and stop the raid on Social Security.

REGARDING EDUCATION AND THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, we are facing a tragedy in this country's education system. Now, I am not talking about the fact that children are being forced to learn in school buildings that are literally falling apart, in classes whose size are literally bursting

at the seams. I am not talking about the fact that tens of thousands of children are being kept out of Head Start or the fact that hundreds of thousands of children are losing after-school programs. I am not talking about the fact that some areas, like Sunset Park in my district, do not even have high schools, making access to education difficult, if not impossible.

No, these facts make us mad; they make us angry. They make parents around the country shake their heads and wonder just what exactly we are doing in this body. But these are not the tragedies I am talking about.

The tragedy is that we know what we need to do, but, thanks to the Republican leadership, we are not doing it. In fact, judging by the Labor-HHS bill they are trying to pass, we are moving backwards, while another generation of our youth is in danger of being lost, and that is the tragedy.

ENFORCE EXISTING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM LAWS

(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, we have been hearing a lot lately about campaign finance reform. However, some of those pushing for new laws fail to mention the fact that our existing laws have been broken.

It is against the law to use foreign money in election campaigns in America. It is against the law to launder money in election campaigns. It is against the law to sell access to your office or influence or even seats on a foreign trade mission to highest bidders. It is against the law to use public offices, telephones, equipment, staff, computers in election campaigns.

We have heard about "no controlling legal authority." The Attorney General not only fails to enforce our existing laws on campaign finance reform, but the Attorney General blocks efforts to investigate existing laws.

We should have full disclosure, but we should also have our existing laws enforced. It is a scam on the American people to pass new laws on finance reform, while not enforcing existing laws.

BRINGING AWARENESS TO THE IMPORTANT ISSUE OF LAND MINES

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

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, as cochair of the Women's Caucus, along with the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY), together we are hosting a bipartisan meeting with Queen Noor of Jordan, who is making her first official visit to Capitol Hill today, to bring awareness to the devastation caused by land mines around the globe.

More than 60 countries are infested with land mines, 60 countries that have the potential of killing or maiming innocent civilians, claiming 26,000 new victims every year. Land mines cannot tell the difference between the footfall of a soldier or a child at play. Every 20 minutes someone steps on a land mine, killing or leaving them maimed. Fewer than 10 percent of the survivors have access to proper medical treatment.

I urge my colleagues to support the efforts of Queen Noor and the Land Mine Survivors Network to bring awareness to this important issue and to provide a voice to those survivors who do not have the opportunity or ability to speak for themselves.

STOP THE RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, people I talk to are often surprised to learn that the Republicans forced the President and the Democrats in Congress to accept our Social Security lockbox legislation. They are even more surprised to learn why a Social Security lockbox law needed to be passed in the first place.

For 32 years Congress had raided the Social Security trust fund to pay for Washington programs that had nothing to do with Social Security. Of course, in the private sector a CEO who ran his personal business like that, using the retirement money as a personal slush fund, would be put in jail. But Washington plays by some strange rules.

I think it is time to put an end to this practice that Lyndon Johnson began in 1967 at the height of the Great Society Program. The Social Security trust fund is supposed to be a trust fund, not a slush fund.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to draw a line in the sand. Take the pledge not to pass any of the President's efforts to raid the Social Security trust fund. Stop the raid on Social Security.

AN INNER CITY TRAGEDY

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, no one should forget where the tragedy at Columbine began; not in the suburbs of Colorado, but in the streets of the inner cities, where guns were first made available like free lunch. Now, astonishingly and tragically, that is the case throughout America.

On Friday evening a youngster, 17 years old, in the District, going to see his girlfriend, minding his own business, was shot on a bus by somebody who hoisted himself and shot him through the window. For 10 minutes the bus rode and did not even know the kid had been shot.

□ 1015

This youngster is described by his teachers and all who knew him as an excellent student, talented and energetic. He was in the marching band at Ballou High School. He was on his way to Howard University next year. He participated in the Arthur Ashe tennis program. He is the kind of kid we are so pleased to see come out whole from the inner city.

Mr. Speaker, guns are everywhere. They are in our districts. Please pass gun safety legislation before we go home this year.

POLICE LAWLESSNESS IN HAITI, AMERICA'S TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I want to call to the attention of my colleagues a very disturbing article in this morning's Washington Post. American taxpayers have invested approximately \$75 million to build and train a new national police force in Haiti, a department that would replace the feared security forces from previous military dictatorships.

Sadly, the new national police force appears to be just a new version of the old one. The Post reports that in a 3-month period earlier this year, 50 killings attributed to the police occurred, and police involvement in drug trafficking has also been charged.

Mr. Speaker, it just goes to show that when our government gets involved in virtually every predicament that occurs around the world, we tend to lose control of where our tax dollars are going. \$75 million, and the result from all that money? Meet the new boss, same as the old boss. Just the latest in this administration's failed Haiti policy.

MANAGED CARE REFORM WILL NOT COST WHAT THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY CLAIMS

(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. Mr. Speaker, for months now we have been hearing from the insurance industry that we cannot pass a Patients' Bill of Rights because it would increase costs and open employers to lawsuits, both of which would supposedly force employers to drop coverage.

Essentially, the insurance companies are trying to kill meaningful HMO reform with half truths and scare tactics.

The insurance industry, managed care organizations, HMOs and even big businesses have repeatedly tried to scare the American people saying the bill would dramatically raise premiums and force employers to drop health insurance for their employees.