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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Scripture Says:

*"Behold I am laying a stone in Zion a cornerstone, chosen and precious. Whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame."*

Lord, we believe we have been chosen, we delight in your touch. We trust each of us is precious in your sight. May we never betray your selection of us for your set purpose and to serve this Nation. This House, the story is told, has no cornerstone. There is no regret or recrimination we accept its rejection or absence. This government, its story is bold, has been fashioned in the hearts of people. With great pride and remembrance we accept your providence. On this day in this millennium year from the very rocks of virtue which have made this Nation great. We choose as our cornerstone integrity that we may always stand strong and together for ages to come. integrity now and forever. 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.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GILCHREST 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 has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1953. An act to authorize leases for terms not to exceed 99 years on land held in trust for the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and the Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians of the Guidiville Indian Rancheria.

H.R. 2484. An act to provide that land which is owned by the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota but which is not held in trust by the United States for the Community may be leased or transferred by the Community without further approval by the United States.

H.R. 3639. An act to designate the Federal building located at 2201 C Street, Northwest, in the District of Columbia, currently headquarters for the Department of State, as the "Harry S Truman Federal Building".

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on each side.

### ELIMINATE THE DEATH TAX AND RESTORE THE AMERICAN DREAM

(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, I rise today to discuss a problem that affects too many Americans, the death tax. It seems absurd that our government would tax someone just for dying; yet that is exactly what has been happening in this country for years.

Too many Nevadans are forced to sell acres of their family farms and ranch lands after the death of their parents or grandparents in order to pay their huge estate tax bills, all courtesy of the death tax.

Many of these farms and ranches have been in families for years, but now these families must sell part of their family heritage in order to pay the IRS. For many Americans, the American dream is to start a small business and pass it on to their children; yet our government is preventing millions of Americans from realizing this dream. This is wrong; it must end.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will support the Death Tax Elimination Act and restore the American dream and do it today.

### EVENTS SURROUNDING ELIAN GONZALEZ RESEMBLE LIFE IN COMMUNIST CHINA

(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, Elian Gonzalez watched his mother drown, he then clinged to a tire at sea to save his life, and after all of that, commandos seized him at gunpoint. If that is not enough to portray a gulag, Americans later gathered right here in the Capitol to pray for Elian and Secret Service agents in full uniforms stormed in and stopped their prayer service.

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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Mr. Speaker, one cannot even pray in America. Beam me up. Is this Communist China, or is this the United States of America?

Now, I believe Elian should have been sent back with his dad, but do we have a gulag portrayed, or what? I yield back the fact that our founders are literally rolling over in their graves.

#### DEATH TAX EQUALS DOUBLE TAXATION AND SHOULD BE OUTLAWED

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, a family that has suffered a loss of a loved one should not have the added grief of losing the family business, ranch, or personal savings; yet that is what is happening under our current Tax Code. Because of an archaic tax law, when a person dies in this country, an outrageous tax of 37 to 55 percent is levied on his or her property, even though the deceased spent his or her entire life paying taxes on that very estate.

The death tax is a form of double taxation that has devastated too many families and businesses. It has been estimated that one-third of small business owners will have to sell outright or liquidate a part of their business to pay death taxes. More than 70 percent of family businesses do not survive the second generation, and 87 percent do not make it to the third generation. In my district of Colorado Springs, a well-established family business had to close its doors in the face of an enormous estate tax bill. Small family-run businesses are the backbone of our Nation's strong economy and should not be forced to close down because of taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the Death Tax Elimination Act on this very day.

#### DEATH TAX IS UNAMERICAN

(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. Mr. Speaker, William Shakespeare once wrote, "For in that sleep of death, what dreams may come when we have shuffled off this mortal coil must give us pause."

Hundreds of years before the death tax was even conceived, Shakespeare captured the worries felt by thousands of Americans, hoping to leave their life's work to their loved ones. Sadly, this dying wish often does not come true for those trying to leave a small business or family farm to their relatives. The death tax thwarts them at every turn, costing surviving relatives up to 60 percent of the business or property's worth.

Mr. Speaker, this is blatantly wrong. Fortunately, today the House has an opportunity to right this injustice. Be-

fore us today is H.R. 8, the Death Tax Elimination Act. This common sense legislation challenges the IRS's assertion that grief also should be taxed. The death tax is un-American, and it deserves an appropriate burial.

Vote in favor of H.R. 8.

#### HUMAN INITIATIVE THWARTED BY DEATH TAX

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, today we are going to vote on a bill that will, in about a decade, eliminate what we have come to know as the death tax or the estate tax.

In this country, we lose about 1 million acres of agricultural land a year, 1 million acres; and it is not slowing down. In my State alone, we lose about 25,000 acres of farmland every single year. There is a lot of reasons for that. One of them is that when a farmer dies, in order to leave that farm or what we may call an estate to his children, they have to pay an enormous tax. To pay that tax, many of these young people, these young farmers that want to stay on the land, must sell a portion, if not all of that land, in order to pay the Federal Government their tax. This is wrong. We need to correct that.

Mr. Speaker, we need to correct the fact that human initiative needs an opportunity to be fulfilled, and that opportunity for farmers is to stay on the land. Today, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that everyone votes for this bill.

#### POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES ADOPTION AWARENESS STAMP

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

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that the U.S. Postal Service has recently issued an adoption awareness stamp.

As a proud grandfather of two adopted children, I am particularly aware of the need to call attention to this subject and to encourage more adoptions. We all know that every child needs support, guidance, and understanding of people who care enough to offer love, a home and a family. Far too many children in the U.S. are waiting to be adopted. Most have special needs, they are older, they often have emotional and physical problems; but they still need a home.

In my State, more than 400 children were placed in adoptive homes last year, but there are still 100 or more Nebraska children waiting for families right now.

Although Congress has passed laws to encourage adoption, we need more adoptive families, and if adopting a child is not an option, there are other ways to help: mentoring, contributing to any of the fine organizations that promote adoption, and certainly buy-

ing the special U.S. Postal Service adoption stamps will help call attention to this issue.

I encourage everyone to help find every child a loving family.

#### SLAVERY STILL EXISTS IN NEW MILLENNIUM

(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, who would ever have thought that we would be talking about the horror of modern-day slavery in this new millennium?

Francis Bok is a 21-year-old native of southern Sudan. At age 7 he was captured and enslaved during an Arab militia raid on his village. Francis saw children and adults brutalized and killed all around him. He was strapped to a donkey and taken north, and for 10 years he lived as a family slave. He was forced to sleep with cattle and endure daily beatings and eat terrible food.

In December of 1996, Francis escaped to a nearby town where local policemen enslaved him again. Again he escaped. Eventually he reached Khartoum, the capital, where he was arrested by security forces and jailed for 7 months. After being released, Mr. Bok was able to make his way to Cairo, Egypt, and finally, in 1999, the U.N. resettled him in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I met Francis yesterday. It is an incredible story. It is incomprehensible that slavery still persists in the world today. It is harder to understand why the Clinton administration has not made stopping slavery and genocide in Sudan a priority.

#### ALL CHILDREN HAVE STRONG POTENTIAL TO ACHIEVE

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this amendment on the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. I have been involved with education issues for almost 30 years. This experience has strongly reinforced for me that all children, regardless of income level or race, have the same potential for high achievement and healthy development when provided appropriate opportunities.

Thus our goal must be to support the development of quality after-school programs for all children, but especially those in low-income communities. Our goal should also be to see the expanded day programs linked to the core school day.

#### ISRAEL GRANTED MEMBERSHIP IN WEOG

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House