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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Richard Elliott, Pastor, New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church, Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Eternal and most gracious God, before Your face empires of the past have risen and fallen away. We pray this day for our Nation; a nation entrusted to us by Your gracious hand and rooted in the sacrifices and patriotism of previous generations; a nation nurtured by You with expansive freedom, limitless opportunity, bountiful natural resources, and creative and energetic citizens.

Bless Your servants gathered here this day. Enable them to flourish. Give them wisdom to lead with character, power to serve with humility, kindness to respond with compassion, courage to strive for justice, and strength to pursue peace. Give us to Your children the vision to see the seeds of Your kingdom and to dream and reach for Your future. 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. DOGGETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DOGGETT 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 agrees to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2909) "An Act to provide for implementation by the United States of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, and for other purposes."

WELCOME TO PASTOR RICHARD ELLIOTT

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

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our guest pastor, the Reverend Richard Elliott of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania. The House is privileged to have Pastor Elliott deliver such an inspirational opening prayer for us today, Thursday, September 21, 2000.

His message to "strive for justice and strength in order to pursue peace" is reflected in the long history of his congregation and its wisdom to lead by example. Founded in 1700, the congregation is currently celebrating the church's 300th anniversary. It is the oldest German Lutheran congregation in the United States.

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church has nurtured a nation with its creative and energetic congregation, with character, with humility, with kindness and compassion. During the War for American Independence, the church served as a temporary hospital for General George Washington's troops after the Battles of Brandywine and Paoli.

Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives is indeed privileged to have Pastor Richard Elliott of new Hanover

Evangelical Lutheran Church deliver the opening prayer today. Pastor Elliott and his congregation are a true reflection of what our Founding Fathers envisioned when they fought for the birth of our Nation.

ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT WASHINGTON'S "FAREWELL ADDRESS"

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, 204 years ago, President George Washington's "Farewell Address" was published in the New York Herald.

For generations, the "Farewell Address" was one of the most recommended political works in American history. Schoolchildren studied it and citizens celebrated it. In fact, in 1862, President Lincoln even issued a national proclamation recommending that people all over the country read the address aloud.

One lengthy section of Washington's address dealt with the importance of religion and morality to public life. After declaring that religion and morality were indispensable to political prosperity, Washington bluntly asked, "Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert?" He continued, "Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

Washington warned Americans that without religious principles, neither education nor any other force would be capable of protecting either our life or our property. This is a lesson to remember today, the 204th anniversary of the printing of Washington's "Farewell Address."

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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LANCE ARMSTRONG CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I am joining a cancer survivor, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK), our colleague, in what is truly a bipartisan recognition of excellence as we introduce legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lance Armstrong. Lance is an Austinite, but one does not have to share his hometown to appreciate the depth of his achievements.

After being stricken with advanced cancer, Lance's chances of survival were slim and his chances of getting back on a bicycle were even slimmer. Just 3 months after his diagnosis in 1996, he formed the Lance Armstrong Foundation to promote cancer awareness, education, and research.

And then, his amazing comeback. Last year he conquered the Tour de France with the same strength and grace as he conquered cancer, and this year he did it again. Next week in Australia we hope his yellow jersey is turned into Olympic gold. While his courageous battle with cancer set the stage for an amazing comeback, one of the most amazing in sports history, it is his commitment to raising cancer awareness and helping others triumph over this disease that particularly merits congressional recognition.

In honor of his courage, his preeminence in the sport of cycling, and his dedication to both improving the lives of cancer victims and finding a cure for this disease, please join us in supporting the Lance Armstrong Congressional Gold Medal Act.

HONORING SENATOR BRYAN

(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 proudly rise today to recognize one of Nevada's great statesman who, at the end of this Congress, will be retiring from the United States Senate. Senator RICHARD BRYAN, a native of southern Nevada, has been a leader from a very young age, ever since being elected president of his eight grade class at John Park Elementary School.

Senator BRYAN's distinguished career in public service has spanned more than 3 decades, culminating with his two terms as a United States Senator.

Throughout his tenure in the Senate, he has been committed to protecting Nevada's interest in Congress, and with only four Members in Congress to represent the entire State of Nevada, I learned during my first days here in the House the importance of a good working relationship with the other Chamber. It has been an honor for me to have the opportunity to work with

such a fine legislator and dedicated Nevadan as Senator RICHARD BRYAN.

Mr. Speaker, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors after the 106th Congress comes to a close.

CONSPIRACIES WITHIN JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

(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, a Federal judge ruled that the Branch Davidians were responsible for killing their own children. The Justice Department spit the hook again. Beam me up.

I did not believe it when the Justice Department said there was no conspiracy in the assassination of JFK, there was no conspiracy in the assassination of Martin Luther King, or the assassination of Bobby Kennedy; and I do not believe that the parents of the young children of the Branch Davidians knowingly and with intent incinerated their own children. Is it any wonder America is losing trust in our government? Cannot Congress see it?

I yield back the lives, the crimes, the coverups, and the withholding of exculpatory evidence to judges and juries by the Justice Department.

PAYING OFF AMERICA'S DEBT SHOULD BE TOP PRIORITY FOR CONGRESS

(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, earlier this year, Allen Greenspan appeared before one of our committees here on Capitol Hill, and he made it clear that increased spending was the worst option for using the budget surplus we have today. He said very clearly that the first thing we should do is pay down the public debt. He said, and I quote, "If that proves politically infeasible, I would opt for cutting taxes."

Mr. Speaker, this Nation has a public debt of over \$3 trillion. How much is \$1 trillion? If we borrowed \$1 million a day 7 days a week every year and we began on the day Jesus Christ was born and went until now, we would not yet have \$1 trillion.

We have the opportunity right now to pay off the public debt, and that is what our Republican Congress wants to do.

But the big spenders say we are not spending enough. The President wants \$40 billion more than we have appropriated, even though every dollar we do not pay off as debt our children will have to pay interest on.

Is there any end to the Clinton-Gore administration's thirst for big government spending?

HUNGER RELIEF ACT

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that we are enjoying great prosperity, prosperity that we have not experienced ever before, and this is indeed a time to do those things that we could not afford to do before.

I want to bring to my colleagues' attention that there is a bill, H.R. 3192, it is called the Hunger Relief Act, and it has more than 180 cosponsors; and in the Senate, it has more than 39 cosponsors. It is a bipartisan bill.

It is a bill that looks at the fact that the least among us are not able to feed themselves. Some estimate that there are more than 40 million people who are facing hunger, or hunger insecurity. This is the time indeed, if we want to use the surplus, part of that surplus should be used to relieve those who are indeed suffering from hunger.

I would say to my colleagues, we would be spending more money, truly we would; but investing in nutrition would reduce, guess what, the cost of health care. Vesting in nutrition would mean that children would learn better. So this would be an investment, Mr. Speaker, that I think we cannot afford not to do.

Please, let us bring this bill up on suspension so we can do this before the end of this Congress.

PEOPLE SHOULD COME BEFORE POLITICS

(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, look at this week's headlines. The Boston Globe: "Gore Misstates Fact in Drug Cost Pitch." The Washington Times: "Gore Made Up Anecdote About Cost of Drugs."

Mr. Speaker, we now have a new twist to "the dog ate my homework" saga. Just like supposedly inventing the Internet, the Vice President has invented a story on the campaign trail where he falsely claims his mother-in-law pays three times the price for prescription drugs as his black labrador. Make no mistake. No senior citizen should have to choose between food and medicine. That is why the Republican House passed legislation to lower the cost of prescription drugs by 25 percent, without creating a cumbersome government-run HMO as the Vice President has proposed.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's leaders should give the American people some straight talk, not invent personal stories solely for political gain. Our Nation's seniors, mothers-in-law, and even family pets, deserve no less. People should come before politics.