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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

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

Ever present Lord God in our midst, You have exhorted us: "Be hospitable to one another without complaining." Make this House a place of hospitality. Be with our guides, our guards, and all who create an environment here.

Throughout our days, Lord, there is a movement within, from hostility to hospitality. You help us determine our relationship to other people.

Life today is very complex. Yet when we reflect on the kindness we have enjoyed from others and we can face the stranger within ourselves, we begin to see in Your creation a free and friendly space that always welcomes the newborn, the estranged, the sick and the immigrant.

Let this place and all the institutions of this Nation, especially our schools and hospitals, be caring places and careful to meet people on their own terms.

For You, our God, hear us and welcome us as we are today 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. SKELTON 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. 4259. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Museum of the American Indian of the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5164. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to require reports concerning defects in motor vehicles or tires or other motor vehicle equipment in foreign countries, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 3069. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to provide for redevelopment of the Southeast Federal Center in the District of Columbia.

H.R. 5239. An act to provide for increased penalties for violations of the Export Administration Act of 1979, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3244) "An Act to combat trafficking of persons, especially into the sex trade, slavery, and slavery-like conditions, in the United States and countries around the world through prevention, through prosecution and enforcement against traffickers, and through protection and assistance to victims of trafficking."

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill and concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2917. An act to settle the land claims of the Pueblo of Santo Domingo.

S. Con. Res. 131. Concurrent resolution commemorating the 20th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland that led to the creation of the independent trade union Solidarnosc, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 148. Concurrent resolution to provide for the disposition and archiving of the records, files, documents, and other materials of joint congressional committees on inaugural ceremonies.

S. Con. Res. 149. Concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of H.R. 3244.

The message also announced that in accordance with sections 1928a-1928d of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice

NOTICE

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□ 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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President, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate Delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly during the Second Session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress, to be held in Berlin, Germany, November 17-22, 2000—

the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY);

the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON);

the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES); and

the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minutes on each side.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, our economy is good, interest rates are low and we have a record budget surplus. Due to the sound fiscal policies of Republicans, we have been able to pay off \$354 billion in public debt and will completely eliminate it by 2012.

That is why Republicans are committed to using 90 percent of the next year's Federal budget surplus to pay off the national debt while protecting the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. That leaves us with 10 percent of the surplus to boost our already substantial \$600 billion commitment to our national priorities such as education, defense and health research.

Specifically, we will use half the money to strengthen education with the flexibility, funding and support to give our children the world's best schools. In addition, we will provide a prescription drug benefit to seniors in need now, not 5 or 10 years from now.

Republicans have made education funding a top priority, providing more money than ever before. And most importantly, we have cut the checks with foreign strings being attached. Currently, Washington provides 7 percent of the Nation's education funding but provides 40 percent of the regulations. We have made a real dent in removing some of these onerous, bureaucratic regulations. By eliminating our national debt, we will secure America's future for our children and grandchildren.

TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE U.S.S. "COLE"

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, earlier today the U.S.S. *Cole*, an Aegis destroyer, while being refueled in the enemy port of Aden was attacked by

suicide terrorists. There were five sailors who lost their lives. One is missing. Approximately 30 have been injured.

This is the latest crime to be added to the list of deadly terrorist attacks against our fellow countrymen. It is terrible that anyone would sink so low. I have great admiration for the professionalism of the crew of the U.S.S. *Cole*, tending to the wounded and taking care of their ship.

We deplore the loss of American lives and my deepest sympathies and prayers go to the families and friends of the victims of this cowardly attack. Serving in the military is a dangerous profession. I want to recognize the selfless dedication of the American military personnel who risk personal safety in the service of our country.

I want to be clear. The U.S. Government should seek retribution against those who are responsible for this attack against U.S. military personnel. We should do all that we can to ensure that our service members and citizens are protected in the future.

It is impossible to predict with certainty where or when terrorists will strike. Today's events, however, are a terrible reminder that we must take the threat of terrorism seriously.

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S MISSTATEMENTS

(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, our prayers and condolences go out to our military personnel as well.

Mr. Speaker, the Vice President promised us last night that he was going to try to do better at telling the truth from now on. But his performance said otherwise.

He told the moderator that he never called George Bush a bumbler, but he is running commercials right now that say exactly that. He said he was not in favor of big tax hikes on gas and oil but he was Washington's number one supporter of a Btu tax on fuel. He even wrote a book calling for hiking the price of gas to \$2.50 a gallon.

But here is the real whopper. He criticized former President Bush for not removing Saddam Hussein from power during the Gulf War. But on January 30, 1991, Senator GORE said he opposed invading Iraq to take out Saddam Hussein. He said the war should stop as soon as Iraq was out of Kuwait.

He said that he wants more effective gun prosecutions, but Justice Department gun prosecutions have dropped 46 percent during the Clinton-Gore administration.

Vice President GORE promised he was going to try to do better. Well, he is going to have to try a lot harder than last night.

INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on April 30, 2000, Maya and Omar Murad, ages 3 and 5, were forcibly abducted by their father, Ruwayn Murad, who had resided in the United States for nearly 20 years but retained dual citizenship in Lebanon. The children, who had spent only 2 weeks of their lives on Lebanese soil, were spirited to Lebanon where they have now been held for nearly 6 months. Their exact whereabouts are presently unknown.

Prior to the abduction, the children's mother, Elizabeth Henry Murad, had been informed by a colleague of her husband that Mr. Murad was planning the abduction. After a judge in New York family court failed to take emergency action, a divorce action had been commenced by Mr. Murad, who ultimately abducted the children after having been granted an adjournment in the case. In advance of his flight, Mr. Murad also wired all the family's liquid assets from their accounts in the U.S. to Lebanon.

Elizabeth Henry Murad, the custodial parent of Maya and Omar, is now waging a desperate battle for the return of her children to New York, the only home they have ever known.

Mr. Speaker, it is time now to assist Mrs. Murad and others like her to bring our children home.

FRANKLIN ON EDUCATION

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the key to the American dream is a quality education. As Benjamin Franklin told us, "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

The hands-on education Franklin was talking about can only be found in our Nation's classrooms. This underscores the necessity of putting decision-making power in the hands of those closest to the children. Those are the local school teachers, the administrators, and, most importantly, the parents. The Republican education vision does just that, returning control to these local jurisdictions which are uniquely equipped to make the decisions on how to best involve our students.

Since 1995 under the steady hand of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), the Republican majority has repeatedly passed legislation to shift power and resources from the Washington bureaucracy into the hands of those closest to our students.

Mr. Speaker, while education is at the forefront of public debate over the next few weeks, Republicans have a vision and a record that America can be proud of.