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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 21, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVEN C. LATOURETTE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rabbi Hillel Cohn, Congregation Emanu El, San Bernardino, California, offered the following prayer:

Thousands of years ago, in setting down the fundamental requirements for any community, the Torah charged:

"Tsedek, tsedek tirdof":

"Justice, justice shall you pursue."

Appreciating the importance of justice, the Founders of this Nation envisioned an America that would guarantee "liberty and justice for all."

O God, strengthen the resolve of those who serve here to make the decisions as well as the processes leading to those decisions genuinely just. Let America pursue justice in our enforcement of laws, in our forms of punishment, in our methods of choosing our leaders, in our allocation of precious resources, in our expectations of other nations, and in our daily relations with one another.

Praised be the Eternal God, the Sovereign, who loves justice and expects us to pursue justice, uncompromising and true justice. 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.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. WAMP. 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 pro tempore. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LEWIS of California 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.

WELCOMING RABBI HILLEL COHN

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

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to introduce to my colleagues an old friend, Hillel Cohn, who is about to retire as rabbi of Congregation Emanu El in San Bernardino, California. Not too long ago, in a community meeting, Rabbi Cohn approached me and said, "Jerry, I

understand we're going to have a wedding." Thereby he was announcing to me that, not too long after that, he was marrying two of my now young children, not so young children.

Hillel is a UCLA graduate. He got his Ph.D. at the divinity school at Claremont College. He came to San Bernardino to lead this congregation in 1963. Our community has been blessed by his service. He has been involved in virtually every organization of any moment to San Bernardino, California, as well as the surrounding communities. His leadership indeed has had a huge impact, ranging from our commission that involves human affairs that attempts to provide balance and strength within our community. He has been a leader within the religious community, obviously, but most importantly he has used his extra time, that volunteer time, to touch every aspect of our life. His service upon his retirement will only increase, I am assured.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to introduce to you my friend, Rabbi Hillel Cohn.

ON THE ECONOMY AND TAX CUTS

(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, over the last 6 months, we have seen some major changes in our economy. We lost 94,000 manufacturing jobs just in February. Overall economic growth slowed to just 1.1 percent in the fourth quarter of last year. In the quarter before that, the growth was 5.6 percent. I do not need to remind anyone how far down the stock market has gone. Clearly, we need to take action. Some in this body are claiming that even by talking about the slowdown in the economy, we are pushing the country into recession. But we need to have a sensible discussion about what needs to be done

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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to breathe new life into the American economy. This is too important to make it political.

Yesterday's cut in interest rates will help, but we need tax cuts as well. Only by getting more money into the hands of the people who spend can we get our economy going again. Let us pass the President's tax relief package. In fact, let us even make it bigger and retroactive. And let us do it now.

FUNDING NEEDED FOR NEW MARKET INITIATIVES

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, last year we spent a great deal of time, energy and effort developing a new markets venture capital program with enthusiastic support from President Clinton and Speaker HASTERT. When I look at the current President's budget for 2002, it provides no money at all for these initiatives to spur economic growth and development in disadvantaged inner city and rural communities.

Today, we are going to hear a great deal about faith as a way of dealing with the needs, hopes and aspirations of the disadvantaged. I say that faith without money is shallow. Let us keep the faith and fund these new market initiatives for inner city and rural disadvantaged communities.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI PRESIDENT EDWARD THADDEUS FOOTE, II

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Edward Thaddeus Foote II, President of the University of Miami, who will soon retire after 20 years of remarkable service to the university and indeed to the entire South Florida community.

Tad arrived at UM in 1981 where he introduced corporate-style strategic planning and recruited approximately three-quarters of the current faculty during his tenure. Under his leadership, high-quality teaching became a top priority, and the university's research productivity has expanded dramatically.

Tad enabled the founding of the University's School of Architecture, School of Communication, School of International Studies, as well as the Dante B. Fascell North-South Center, making the University of Miami the largest and most comprehensive private research university in the Southeast. Tad is a visionary and a bold leader who never compromises his quest for quality.

Sadly, he has announced that he will be leaving the presidency on June 1 but will serve as chancellor of the University until 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the tremendous advancements realized under President Tad Foote's extraordinary leadership and in wishing him Godspeed.

AMERICA IN DANGER

(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, America is in danger. China just built their third missile base, and North Korea referred to Uncle Sam as an aggressor. Think about it. We are now looking down the fangs of a dragon.

China is going after Taiwan, North Korea is escalating tensions, and Janet Reno is doing Saturday Night Live. Beam me up here.

While President Reagan crippled communism, Reno's actions have absolutely reinvented the greatest threat America has ever had and no one is looking.

I yield back all those Chinese missiles pointed at American cities.

AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, former President Clinton promised us we would be out of Bosnia by the end of 1996. We are still there and have spent billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars in the process. We have spent billions more in Haiti, Rwanda, Somalia, Kosovo and many other places. We have become the world's policeman, even though our people do not want us to be.

There are armed conflicts going on in many places all around the world all the time. We seem to follow a CNN foreign policy, throwing huge money at whichever problem area is being emphasized on the national news. Macedonia is next. We are spending \$4 million every day in Iraq 10 years after the Gulf War.

In Sunday's Washington Times, syndicated columnist Steve Chapman wrote this:

Remember the war in Kosovo? The United States launched an 11-week aerial bombardment of Yugoslavia in 1999 to help the ethnic Albanians. Two years later, our soldiers are fighting the Albanians and welcoming help from the Serbs. In the Balkans, you see, a friend is merely someone who isn't your enemy just yet.

CONGRATULATING JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY ON ITS "MARCH MADNESS" DREAM STORY

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

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in North Carolina at this time

of year, March Madness is bursting out all over. Three of the five first-team All-American players are from North Carolina teams. Duke, the University of North Carolina, Wake Forest, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte from my congressional district were all in the field of 64, although only one survives.

But perhaps the most exciting March Madness story in North Carolina this year is at Johnson C. Smith University, the alma mater of my colleague EVA CLAYTON. Founded in 1867, JUS is one of four historically black colleges and universities located in my congressional district and has a student body of approximately 1,500 students. JUS finished this year's basketball season with a 27-4 record, won the CIAA basketball tournament, won the South Atlantic Regional Division II championship, and tonight will be playing in the Division II Elite 8 in California. Now, that is a real March Madness dream story.

I congratulate President Dorothy Yancey, Coach Steve Joyner and his basketball team and the entire Johnson C. Smith University family on producing this March Madness dream story and on continuing to educate our young people in this country.

PUTTING AMERICA'S FAMILIES FIRST

(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, the Republican budget puts America's families first by responsibly using the surplus to pay down the national debt, provide needed tax relief and bolster funding for priorities like education, Social Security, Medicare, prescription drug benefits and national defense.

Republicans refuse to squander the surplus and will work diligently to pass a balanced budget. The Republican budget puts American families first by responsibly using the surplus for education priorities, strengthening Social Security, modernizing Medicare, providing prescription drug benefits and bolstering national defense, as I said earlier.

In addition, we need to show support for the next part of the tax relief package Congress and the White House are working on, including eliminating the taxes on marriage and death, and doubling the child tax credit.

Mr. Speaker, eliminating the taxes on marriage and death are a top priority for this Congress and the White House. When I have a town hall meeting, one of the top issues on the minds of my constituents is relief from these onerous and immoral taxes. No married couple ought to be taxed an extra \$1,400 per year just for getting married, and no family farm or small business should be allowed to go under because of the death tax. These taxes are on the chopping block.