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No. 25

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 28, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAN MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Ed Schreiber, Brookhaven Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Nashville, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Father of all, from the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, we offer this prayer of praise and thanks; also our intercessory prayer for our leaders in education, religion, government, and industry throughout the world.

We implore Thy blessings upon our President, a true statesman, George W. Bush, his family, and members of his administration. Likewise, Heavenly Father, bestow Thy abundant blessings on the Members of the 107th Congress.

We ask Your divine blessing on our children, our greatest treasure, and our older people. In a broken and fearful world, give us courage to pray and to act with integrity for the well-being of all Thy creation. 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 gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PENCE 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 PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

REVEREND ED SCHREIBER

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome Reverend Ed Schreiber and thank him for delivering our opening prayer this morning. At 96 years of age, Pastor Schreiber recently became the oldest person ever to graduate from Memphis Theological Seminary.

Although Reverend Schreiber is not from my congressional district, I read about him in the Winchester Star, a newspaper from my district, and I was extremely impressed by his courage and determination of this man to seek a seminary degree in his 90s.

Reverend Schreiber spent his childhood in Augusta, Georgia, and his adult life in Nashville where he worked as a schoolteacher and as municipal planner. After more than 20 years into his retirement and after a painful death of his wife in 1991, Reverend Schreiber felt called to pursue a seminary degree.

He began his studies at the age of 92 and did not let much of anything slow him down. The Reverend was ordained as a pastor in the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination last June. He is also the chaplain of the Prime Timers, an active senior citizen group based out of his own church, Brookhaven Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

He attributes love for living, friends, a sense of purpose, a sense of humor, faith in God for his continuing energy. He believes that now, at his age of 96, at 96, he is being called to be a more credible witness for God. His tenacity and heeding to a calling is, quite frankly, I think, an inspiration to us all.

I welcome him to the Chamber today.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT WILLIAM WARD

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Hoosier hero who may have been overlooked in all of the media coverage about last week's capture of two fugitive teenagers suspected of murdering a family in New Hampshire.

I take this opportunity because doing excellent police work happens when no one is looking. "Sheriff Avoids Tragedy" is seldom a headline and "Captured Without Incident" does not have the same made-for-TV angle that most producers look for, but it is exactly the kind of admirable police work that characterizes Henry County Sheriff Sergeant William Ward.

Sergeant Ward was monitoring the citizens band radio and overheard a trucker on Interstate 70 trying to find a ride for two teenaged boys headed for California. Ward knew about the national search underway from two accused killers of New England.

Using judgment honed by more than 22 years of service, Sergeant Ward

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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showed just how Indiana and our country are served by these tremendous work-a-day heroes.

Sergeant Ward and his wife, Candy, together have four children, Sara, Paul, Thad, and Matthew. I know that his family and all of us in East Central Indiana are proud of his excellent service record. Today, we pause to call special attention to his actions last week. This is important because it is one small part of a career of excellent service.

BUDGET PRIORITIES

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, as President Bush said last night, "We will be judged not by what we say or how we say it, but by what we are able to accomplish."

But despite the President's best assumptions and intentions, here is what his tax plan would actually accomplish: raiding the Medicare Trust Fund, shortchanging education, defense and prescription drugs, and leaving America still with a trillion dollar debt. That is like squandering your kids' college savings on a personal vacation. It is not responsible, and it is just plain wrong.

The truth is, beneath President Bush's skilled sales pitch, his fuzzy math, that just does not add up. His tax plan is not fiscally responsible and shortchanges middle-class working families.

Democrats are committed to an honest, fair and fiscally responsible budget that includes all of America's priorities, from education and defense to health care and tax relief for all taxpayers.

The sooner the Republicans abandon their budgetary smoke and mirrors and join us, the sooner we can get to work on the accomplishments President Bush promised.

BUDGET SURPLUS BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE

(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, last night President Bush told the American people they deserve tax relief. And he is right. He said "the growing surplus exists because taxes are too high and government is charging more than it needs. The American people have been overcharged and, on their behalf, I am here to ask for a refund."

Well, I am on the President's side. We are not talking about a little surplus. We are talking about enough money to pay down the debt; enough money to bolster and save Social Security; enough money to preserve Medicare; enough money to pay off every dime of public debt that will become liquid over the next 10 years; enough money

to strengthen our military; enough money to keep \$1 trillion set aside for needed spending. And we still have \$1.6 trillion left over.

How can anyone think we do not have enough for this tax cut? The surplus belongs to the people, not to us.

After we have done the work we are elected to do, it is our duty to refund the rest back to the taxpayers who have overpaid. It is not the government's money.

THE IRS CAN NOW RAID CHURCHES

(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, imagine a raid by 150 policemen. Was it a mob bust in Russia? No.

Was it a drug warehouse in China? No.

It was a church in Indianapolis. That is right. The Internal Revenue Service raided a Baptist Church seizing the pastor, and, in fact, removing the pastor by force. Unbelievable.

Now, everyone knows there is two sides to every story. Think about it. In America, you cannot pray in school, but now, the IRS can raid churches. Beam me up. America is going to hell in a hand basket. I yield back the Gestapo attitude that just keeps growing in our Federal Government.

PRESIDENT SETS MISSION TO RETURN POWER OF GOVERNMENT BACK TO THE PEOPLE

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the President of the United States has set out on a mission to return the power of government back to the people.

Mr. Bush effectively made the case that was sound fiscal discipline. The Federal surplus provides us with the opportunity to strengthen Social Security, revitalize our armed forces and continue to pay down the debt while returning some of the money back to those who earned it, the American people.

By providing tax relief for all Americans, the President's plan takes the extra money out of Washington, where it otherwise will be certainly spent on programs designed to enlarge Federal Government programs.

President Bush recognizes that after the bills are paid, the left-over funds belong to the American taxpayers. Rejecting a plan to use a portion of the surplus for tax relief is the equivalent of paying for a gallon of milk at the grocery store with a \$10 bill and having the cashier refuse to give you back the change. It is wrong.

I feel that the President's plan puts America on the right track towards fiscal discipline as well as providing the

American family with much-needed tax relief.

LOOKING CLOSELY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY AT THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I applaud President Bush for setting a positive tone for the country and for trying to find areas of agreement where we can make progress. I am going to be looking closely and constructively at his proposals in education, prescription drugs and Social Security.

While I agree with many of the priorities the President outlined, I am very concerned about his overall budget. It risks the fiscal discipline that has been important to our strong economy, and it fails to make the investments that our families need.

The President's tax plan would weaken our economy, and it fails to provide fair and significant tax cuts for those who need it the most.

Instead of cutting taxes for working and for middle-class families, the President's budget gives 43 percent of the benefit of his tax cut to just the top 1 percent of wage earners. If we act responsibly, we can have a significant tax cut for all Americans and still meet the Nation's other pressing needs such as education, Social Security, a Medicare prescription drug benefit, and national defense. The President's tax cut, however, makes meeting these needs impossible.

We should be able to come together on a fiscally responsible budget that meets the needs of all Americans. While the President's plan does not meet this goal, I look forward to receiving his full budget and working together to do what is right for our country.

IT IS TIME FOR THE REST OF THE STORY FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, after President Bush's speech last night, it is time, as Paul Harvey would say, for the rest of the story.

To those who have prospered the most in the last 10 years, who earn over \$300,000 a year, President Bush gives almost \$1 trillion of public money. But to those seniors who are desperate for a Medicare prescription drug benefit, the President says, in effect, forget it. He proposes to give subsidies to HMOs and insurance companies in the hopes that they will offer seniors private insurance.

To those parents, teachers, and educators who want full funding of special education, the President said, in effect, forget it.