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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Rabbi Lance Sussman, Temple Concord, Binghamton, New York, offered the following prayer:

Lord Our God, God of all people, Eternal Spirit of the Universe, we ask for blessings on this House and on the United States of America. Keep us strong as a Nation. Sustain in us a deep sense of justice. Incline our hearts to work for the betterment of all and peace for the human family. Keep alive in us the memory of all those who made ultimate sacrifices for our benefit as a Nation.

Bless this land with prosperity. Teach us to celebrate our differences and to unite around our common values. Be present with us in our homes, our places of work and on the way.

We thank You, Lord, for this day and for the opportunity to serve You by serving others. 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 New York (Mr. HINCHEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HINCHEY 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 a

concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 18. Concurrent Resolution recognizing the achievements and contributions of the Peace Corps over the past 40 years, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 9355(a) of title 10, United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), from the Committee on Armed Services, to the Board of Visitors of the United States Air Force Academy.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4355(a) of title 10, United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM), from the Committee on Armed Services, to the Board of Visitors of the United States Military Academy.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 6968(a) of title 10, United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), from the Committee on Armed Services, to the Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-341, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individual to the Women's Progress Commemoration Commission: Becky Norton Dunlop, of Virginia, vice Elaine L. Chao.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 8002 of title 26, United States Code, the Chair announces on behalf of the Committee on Finance, the designation of the following Senators as members of the Joint Committee on Taxation:

The Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH).

The Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI).

The Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS).

The Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER).

RABBI LANCE SUSSMAN

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure and privilege that I welcome here my constituent, Rabbi Lance Sussman, of Binghamton, New York, as the guest chaplain. We are honored to have Rabbi Sussman with us this morning to offer the opening prayer for today's session. Rabbi Sussman is a native of Baltimore, where he graduated from Franklin and Marshall College. He was ordained at the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion, where he earned a Ph.D. in American Jewish history.

In 1986, Rabbi Sussman was appointed to the faculty of Binghamton University, where he continues to teach Jewish history. He founded his own small press, called Keshet Press, and has published several notable works that document Jewish history in America and, specifically, in upstate New York.

In 1990, the rabbi was called to lead the Temple Concord in Binghamton and for 11 years has served his congregation and his community with great distinction. He established a food pantry and a seasonal museum called Hanukkah House, which now attracts thousands of school children of all faiths from across our region of New York. Working with Elderhostel, the rabbi has also worked to make Temple Concord a leading center for adult Jewish education.

Rabbi Sussman has been called to a new position as senior rabbi at the Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in

□ 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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Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, where he will begin serving in July. He will be greatly missed by his congregation and the countless other residents of the Binghamton area whose lives he has touched.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that this Chamber has honored Rabbi Sussman with the opportunity to offer today's opening prayer. It is a wonderful send-off for a fine man and spiritual leader. I hope that you will join me in welcoming Rabbi Sussman, his wife Liz, their children, family members and congregants.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). The Chair will entertain 10 one-minute per side.

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, the President came here this week to present his responsible plan for paying down the debt, saving Social Security and Medicare, strengthening our defense and improving education. It is a good plan. It puts issues front and center that both he and his opponent campaigned on. How we get things done will be the subject of debate.

Mr. Speaker, some are questioning whether the President's tax cut is large enough. Why leave almost a trillion dollars just sitting in the Treasury waiting to be spent. Perhaps it would be better to increase the size of the President's tax cut and get that money out of Washington and out of the hands of politicians. But some in this body are very ho-hum about tax cuts. They say that we do not need them, that we should keep that money here so it can be spent. Keep in mind that the American people already spend more every year on taxes than they do on food, clothing, shelter and transportation combined.

Mr. Speaker, the American people need, deserve and should get a tax cut. If done soon enough, it will help stimulate the economy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KAYLA ROLLAND

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I think it is appropriate to take a moment this morning to honor little Kayla Rolland. As a father and grandfather, I can understand the love that Kayla's family feels for her. Six-year-old Kayla was gunned down in a playground in Michigan 1 year ago. Her killer, a classmate in the first grade, had found a loaded

gun at home. The tragic death of little Kayla has shaken us all and must force us to ask the question, how can we allow these gun-related tragedies to happen and not respond? Kayla's fate is not uncommon.

Mr. Speaker, do my colleagues know that more than 800 Americans die each year from guns shot from children under the age of 19? Do they know that the rate of firearm deaths of children 1 to 14 years of age is nearly 12 times higher in the United States than in all of the top 25 industrialized countries? If they did not know that, they should.

Whether it is childproof guns, whether it is personalized weapons, we need to come together on both sides of the aisle to do something that makes common sense.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET IS RESPONSIBLE FOR AMERICA'S FAMILIES

(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, President Bush this week released his budget, a budget which is fashioned in the same way that you and I and millions of Americans figure out their home monthly budget.

First, it funds our priorities, including education, health care, Social Security, Medicare and Defense.

Secondly, it pays down the Nation's debt, providing the greatest amount of debt reduction in U.S. history.

Third, the budget includes a \$1 trillion contingency fund to ensure that the United States can meet any unforeseen or emergency funding burden.

Finally, the money left over is returned to the hard-working people of America through responsible tax relief that will not only encourage savings, but also spur continued economic growth.

This budget is responsible. It is visionary, and it is right for our future.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the criticism of those who refuse to act in responsibly and simply want a frivolous way to spend America's tax dollars on more wasteful big government bureaucracy.

RECORD ADDICTION PROBLEM OF THE WORLD IN THE UNITED STATES

(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, another underground tunnel was found on the Mexican border with a half of a ton of cocaine in it. Dug by hand, the tunnel connected a home to a sewer system, ultimately to Mexico.

Now if that is not enough to dust an angel. This is the sixth tunnel found since 1995. Think about it, kids are strung out on heroine and cocaine all across America, while drug pushers are

running relay races with backpacks full of narcotics under and across our borders and Congress does nothing, because it is sensitive politically.

Beam me up. Beam me up here. Shame, Congress. American children are strung out, and I yield back a record addiction problem of the world in the United States of America.

THE PRESIDENT'S TAX REDUCTION PLAN

(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, the President is today out in the heartland of America promoting his tax reduction plan, and it sparked a very interesting debate.

Everybody agrees that the money is going to be spent. The only argument is who is going to spend it, the hard-working American taxpayer who earned it or the bureaucrats in Washington who have taken it from them in higher than necessary taxes.

Mr. Speaker, the argument is very simple. There is going to be a lot of rhetoric about this, but cut through the rhetoric and listen to what they are saying. What they are saying is that you who earned it are too dumb to spend it wisely, so because they care so much for you, they are going to keep your money, rather than give it back to you, because if they gave it back to you, you would not spend it wisely and bureaucrats in Washington will spend it more wisely than you will.

I do not think the average American believes that, Mr. Speaker, and I think that the proposed tax cut is even too small. It is going to leave too much money on the table. And if it is there, the bureaucrats in Washington are going to spend it, and we ought to give it back to the people. They earned it, and they will spend it better than we will.

DEFEAT H.R. 333, THE SO-CALLED BANKRUPTCY REFORM BILL

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, Americans are told do not leave home without it. But if you overuse it, you can lose your home, or you can lose everything inside your home with it. I am speaking about H.R. 333, the so-called bankruptcy reform bill, which is up today for a vote on this floor.

This bill is a direct threat to American consumers and businesses. The so-called bankruptcy reform bill will hurt American families in financial crisis by subjecting them to an inflexible standard based on IRS collection guidelines.

The bill contains inflexible deadlines, excessive filing requirements, which would needlessly force viable businesses into liquidation. Had it been law