

job, because the congregation has seen a very significant increase in membership since his arrival.

Pace and Karen Robinson, two well-respected and long-time members of the congregation, said, "We are glad that Rabbi Joe came to Knoxville and became a part of our community by leading us into the 21st century."

Rabbi Mendelsohn is one of the finest men I have ever met, and I am honored to have him as our guest chaplain for the United States House of Representatives on this occasion.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is the day for the call of the Private Calendar. The Clerk will call the bill on the Private Calendar.

NANCY B. WILSON

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 392) for the relief of Nancy B. Wilson.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

SUDAN

(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, I rise to raise again the policies of the government of Sudan and its treatment of its people.

Christians, Muslims, and Animists who do not submit to the Khartoum regime's control are targeted for destruction.

In addition to its daily war against the Sudan's people, which includes destroying villages, killing the men and selling women and children into slavery, the government issues draconian punishments for crimes.

One recent report details an 18-year-old illiterate Christian, Abok Alva Akok, who was raped but was sentenced to death because she could not produce the four male witnesses required under Muslim Sharia law.

International outcry caused her sentence to be overturned, but the court then sentenced her to a "rebuke" of 75 lashes, carried out immediately. During the proceedings, she was denied legal representation.

Mr. Speaker, the Khartoum regime not only denies justice to the Sudan's people, gives out harsh punishments, and permits active slave trade, but also is carrying out a brutal war to destroy the people of southern Sudan.

Khartoum's brutal policies must be stopped.

STOP THE RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. SANDLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, we must stop the raid on Social Security in this country. Last year, the administration stood in front of the United States Congress and promised us, My budget protects all \$2.6 trillion of the Social Security surplus for Social Security and Social Security alone.

Later in the year, leadership on the other side of the aisle said, The House of Representatives is not going to go back to raiding the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

Yet, the reality is that the Republican budget did not protect the Social Security fund. Despite voting five times for the Social Security lockbox, today we are breaking that promise and raiding Social Security, to the tune of \$1.8 trillion.

Blue Dogs and other conservative Democrats across the country warned that the shaky projections of surplus, on which much of last year's budget was based, could so easily turn into deficits. That prediction has come true.

We are now being asked to consider another budget proposal that does not even try to disguise the raid on the Social Security surplus. Thirty-two million current retirees depend on Social Security income, and that number is increasing. Congress must stop this attack on Social Security.

IN A WARTIME BUDGET, CONGRESS PUTS FIRST THINGS FIRST

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we are not raiding Social Security, not one penny. Back home in the Lone Star State, we say, "Don't mess with Texas." To the terrorists, I say, "Don't mess with the U.S." We are at war, and this is a wartime budget, putting first things first.

Here are three of them:

National security tops the list, homeland security tops the list, and economic security tops the list. Also, this will be the largest increase in defense spending in over 20 years.

This wartime budget gives President Bush all the resources necessary to meet the Nation's top priorities: winning the war, strengthening our homeland security, investing in the future of our Armed Forces, and keeping our promises to our veterans.

A vote for this wartime budget is a vote for America's freedom. A vote for this wartime budget is a vote for America's security.

BUDGET, DEBT, AND SOCIAL SECURITY

(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, let us face the facts: Without last year's tax cut, we could have paid our entire Federal debt by 2008. That occurred before September 11. That is the fact.

Even with already dipping into Social Security, this budget proposes new tax cuts. In fact, the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) said he wants to make the Bush tax cuts permanent. Both of these actions would divert money that could have been used to strengthen Social Security and pay down the national debt.

In the post-tax cut budget world we now live in, the national debt will still exist far into the future. Prior to the tax cut, it was projected that from 2002 to 2011, the government would owe \$709 billion in interest. We pay over \$1 billion of interest on the debt every day. That is scandalous.

Members can shake their heads all they want. That is a fact of life. They should look at their own budget. Without a surplus, I do not know how we can protect the long-term solvency of Social Security or Medicare.

INDO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP RESTORED

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday I welcomed to Capitol Hill India's Ambassador to the United States, Lalit Mansingh, and Minister Ajay Swarup. I applaud the Indian government, one of the world's two largest democracies, for fighting the common enemy of international terrorism. Together, America and India can make South Asia and the world a safer place.

I am happy to see economic ties with India booming. Trade increased since 1991 from \$15 million to \$15 billion today, and 2 million Indian-Americans have enriched America with their business acumen.

With the victory of democracy in the Cold War, friendship has been restored between the people of India and America. I support President Bush's initiatives in building a strong partnership between America and India.

I commend the efforts of Ambassador Mansingh and Minister Swarup in their efforts to bring America and India closer together as allies.

URGING COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT THE BUDGET RESOLUTION, WHICH LEAVES NO VETERAN BEHIND

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, next year there will be 700,000 more unique veteran patients in the VA health care network than were projected just 1 year ago. And as our veteran population continues to age and

medical costs continue to skyrocket, we can expect to see this trend continue for most of the decade.

As chairman of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, I have been working with my colleagues to ensure that next year's budget meets the documented needs of our Nation's 25 million veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to say that, under the leadership of the budget chairman, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE), the budget resolution that comes to the floor will not only maintain our sacred commitments, but will actually expand vital health care for our veterans.

The VA's budget will grow to a record \$56.9 billion, including a whopping 12 percent increase in VA health care. That is \$2.8 billion for veterans' health care.

It is a good budget, and I commend the chairman, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE), for crafting this outstanding budget to our Nation's veterans.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 18, 2002.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 15, 2002 at 11:27 a.m. That the Senate agreed to the House amendment to the Senate amendments to the bill H.R. 1499.

Appointments: Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, *Clerk of the House.*

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6:30 p.m. today.

PROVIDING FOR BINDING ARBITRATION IN LEASES AND CONTRACTS ON RESERVATION LANDS OF GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 3985) to amend the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the leasing of restricted Indian lands for public, religious, educational, recreational, residential, business, and other purposes requiring the grant of long-term leases", approved August 9, 1955, to provide for binding arbitration clauses in leases and contracts related to reservation lands of the Gila River Indian Community.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3985

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the first section of the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the leasing of restricted Indian lands for public, religious, educational, recreational, residential, business, and other purposes requiring the grant of long-term leases", approved August 9, 1955, (69 Stat. 539; 25 U.S.C. 415) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(f) Any lease entered into under the Act of August 9, 1955 (69 Stat. 539), as amended, or any contract entered into under section 2103 of the Revised Statutes (25 U.S.C. 81), as amended, affecting land within the Gila River Indian Community Reservation may contain a provision for the binding arbitration of disputes arising out of such lease or contract. Such leases or contracts entered into pursuant to such Acts shall be considered within the meaning of 'commerce' as defined and subject to the provisions of section 1 of title 9, United States Code. Any refusal to submit to arbitration pursuant to a binding agreement for arbitration or the exercise of any right conferred by title 9 to abide by the outcome of arbitration pursuant to the provisions of chapter 1 of title 9, sections 1 through 14, United States Code, shall be deemed to be a civil action arising under the Constitution, laws or treaties of the United States within the meaning of section 1331 of title 28, United States Code."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Hayworth).

□ 1415

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my friend, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) this afternoon on the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Gila River Indian community is currently a finalist in the new Arizona Cardinals Stadium site selection process. In connection with the possible development of the stadium on the Gila River Indian Community's reservation, the issue has arisen regarding the need for certainty with respect to resolution of contract disputes between the Gila River Indian Community and its business lease tenants.

Many of the community's commercial contracts provide for arbitration of disputes. They further provide that the agreement to arbitrate and any arbitra-

tion decision may be enforced in either tribal or Federal court. Unfortunately, tenants and their lenders remain uncomfortable with the tribal court for a variety of reasons, and Federal courts would lack jurisdiction over contract disputes between private business entities and Indian tribes.

In addition to the possible development of a stadium site, the community has developed the business part for high-end commercial uses. Since potential business partners see no viable means to enforce contract and land lease arbitration provisions, some very good potential tenants for the community's business park and other potential business partners have in the past decided to look elsewhere. Providing potential tenants with a Federal court remedy if the community refuses to arbitrate according to agreed-to lease provisions will cause quality developers to be more interested in leasing land in the business part because leases will be more financeable and marketable.

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, also in my congressional district, has been successful in attracting commercial tenants to its various projects. One reason for its success is a unique Federal statute that Congress adopted in 1983. This statute basically provides that with respect to Salt River leases, Federal courts have jurisdiction to enforce agreements to arbitrate and any resulting arbitration decision. To a large extent, this statute has enabled Salt River leases to be financeable and marketable. Attorneys for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community report that there has never been any Federal court litigation filed pursuant to the statute since it was adopted nearly 20 years ago. Still the statute has provided assurance to tenants that, if necessary, there is an available forum other than tribal court to enforce Salt River's agreement to arbitrate lease disputes.

Mr. Speaker, I would also mention that the introduction of this legislation does not in any way imply any preference for the selection of the Gila River Indian Community for the site of the Arizona Cardinals stadium. I feel that both the Gila River Indian Community site and the city of Mesa site will serve as excellent possibilities for construction of a new stadium. This legislation, however, will help ensure that the best possible business environment will exist if the stadium is to be built. Therefore, I would urge passage of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I certainly would like to commend my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH)