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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: "The greatest among you is the one who serves the rest."

Your glory, O God, stands in contrast to the glory people seek from other people.

People seek glory by moving upward, some ladder of success, fame or fortune.

You, Lord God, always reveal Your glory by moving downward as in creation or in revealing Your name or love to others.

This downward spiral must then become the deepest reason for living in solidarity with the poor, the alienated, the oppressed, children and the handicapped.

They are the ones in whom Your glory can be best manifested. Show us the way, O Lord, the way to salvation, now 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 Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KIND 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 10 1-minute speeches on each side.

HOW MUCH WOULD AMERICANS PAY WITHOUT TAX RELIEF?

(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, in the year 2001, 2002, and 2003, we gave the American people tax breaks. How much more would American families pay without this tax relief? If none of this tax relief had become law, in 2004, 111 million Americans would be paying an average of \$1,586 more in taxes; 81 million women would be paying an average of \$1,878 more in taxes; 49 million married couples would pay, on average, \$2,602 more in taxes.

Mr. Speaker, 43 million families with children would be paying an average of \$2,000 more in taxes; 11 million single women with children would be paying an average of \$921 more in taxes; 14 million elderly individuals would be paying an average of \$1,883 more in taxes; 25 million small businesses would be paying an average of \$3,000 more in taxes; and nearly 5 million individuals and families who currently have no income tax liability would become subject to the income tax. The numbers speak for themselves.

FUNDRAISING FOR GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, we had our own form of March madness last night, and I am here to gloat, I mean to report, that the Democratic Slamming Dunking Donkeys defeated the Fighting Elephants by a one point blowout margin. It came down to a last-minute shot by our rookie and MVP, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), and it was all for a good cause, Gallaudet University, to raise funds for a wonderful

university for the deaf and hearing impaired.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my Republican counterparts under the leadership of the gentleman from Ohio (Coach OXLEY). It was 1991 when the Democrats last won the game. The Republicans have learned to be very gracious winners, and now they are learning to be very gracious losers, and the Democrats appreciate that.

There were, however, 7 seconds remaining in the game, and some of us feared the gentleman from Ohio (Coach OXLEY) would figure out a way to keep the clock running for another 3 hours until he determined he agreed with the final outcome.

Mr. Speaker, it was a lot of fun, and it was good to see in the midst of a heated budget debate we could come together for some fun and camaraderie, and raise money for a good cause.

BUDGET RESPONSIBILITY

(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, I urge my colleagues to support the Republican budget carefully crafted by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) for fiscal year 2005, because it is a responsible plan that sets clear priorities.

As we fight the war on terrorism, we will make sure we have the tools that we need to fight the enemy abroad and protect our homeland. Defense spending has increased 7.1 percent, and homeland security has increased 9.5 percent.

Additionally, we are committed to continuing the policies of economic recovery through job creation. The budget allows for making tax cuts, like the marriage penalty and child deduction, permanent so American families can keep more of their own hard-earned money.

□ 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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Finally, we are going to cut the deficit in half in 4 years by holding the line on nondefense and nonhomeland security, and by eliminating waste, fraud and abuse. We must be better managers of the taxpayers' money, and this budget will be a positive step in the right direction.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION DECISION UNDERMINES SETTLEMENT

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, the European Commission's antitrust investigation of Microsoft offered an opportunity to complement the recent U.S. settlement reached with the software corporation. Unfortunately, the Commission's ruling undermines the U.S. settlement and signals potential danger for the technology sector and for consumers at home and abroad.

The Commission's ruling will impose drastic anticompetitive penalties on Microsoft, including a requirement that Microsoft sell a degraded version of its Windows software without a media player. Microsoft is already subject to a tough regulatory framework that promotes competition and innovation, and European consumers and companies continue to enjoy the benefits of this framework.

The Commission's ruling, however, will now subject Microsoft to a new and contradictory set of regulations. The negative impact of this ruling will also extend far beyond the U.S. information technology industry as a whole. Competition authorities in other countries may now decide to follow the Commission's lead and reject longstanding principles of international comity, beginning a chain of second-guesses and doubts surrounding the U.S. in matters involving U.S. companies.

For all these reasons, I strongly urge our administration to use every available resource to ensure that the European Commission reconsider its current strategy and redouble its efforts to resolve this dispute in a manner that complements rather than undermines the U.S. settlement and which offers improved computer software, not dismembered operating systems with less efficient platforms for consumers and businesses worldwide.

UNFUNDED LIABILITIES

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today is going to be a good debate on the budget. We are going to hear suggestions, maybe from both sides of the aisle, certainly from the Demo-

crats, that we do not spend enough in this budget.

The reason I am supporting this budget is because it is probably the most frugal budget spending increase we have had since 1996. There is a weakness in this budget that some day we are going to have to face up to, and that is unfunded liabilities. The day before yesterday, the Medicare and Social Security trustees estimated that the unfunded liabilities for those programs are \$71 trillion. What that means is, in 15 years, we are going to have to use 28 percent of the general fund revenue to make up the difference between our promises and the tax funds coming in for Social Security and Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, we have got to deal with the entitlement programs if we are not going to leave our kids and our grandkids with a huge debt.

SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC SUBSTITUTE ON BUDGET RESOLUTION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today this Congress will debate a budget resolution which I believe captures the hopes and aspirations and dreams of America. However, it is a tragedy that my friends on the other side of the aisle would seek to put a spear in the hearts of those who seek an opportunity.

The AMVETS, the Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans, and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States said the passage of the Republican budget resolution as presented would be a disservice to these men and women who have served this country and are currently serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world in our fight against terrorism.

I support the Democratic substitute which realizes that we must have full funding of homeland security, and I support the Congressional Black Caucus' budget resolution that recognizes we must have full funding of Leave No Child Behind. Anyone who listened to the testimony in the 9/11 hearing knows that the war against terrorism has not yet even been started sufficiently.

Mr. Speaker, I want hopes and dreams and aspirations of Americans to be vested in a budget resolution that respects them and not disrespects them.

AMERICAN JUDGES SHOULD ENFORCE AMERICAN LAWS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court's recent use of foreign law as a precedent in several cases

is disturbing. This judicial activism threatens our Nation's sovereignty. For example, in a capital punishment case, a justice cited the Supreme Court of Zimbabwe as precedent.

Zimbabwe is led by a brutal dictator, Robert Mugabe. According to a State Department official, "He has succeeded in reducing a once-promising nation with a bright future to a state of ruin, desolation, and isolation."

I hope the Supreme Court in the future will not seek guidance from the Supreme Court of Zimbabwe anytime again. Our judges should enforce American laws and the United States Constitution, not the laws and legal precedents of other countries.

Mr. Speaker, also, the Subcommittee on Constitutional Law is holding a hearing on this very subject right now.

BIPARTISAN EFFORTS NEEDED TO REDUCE FEDERAL DEFICIT

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, we need to be in a bipartisan fight against the Federal deficit. One of the tools we have in fighting the Federal deficit is called the pay-as-you-go rule, and it is a tool that works very, very well because when the pay-as-you-go rule is in effect, any Member of Congress, Democrat or Republican, if they are going to propose a new spending or a new tax cut, they are required to show how they are going to pay for it. This is common sense.

Unfortunately, my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle refuse to apply this common-sense rule that was effective during the 1990s in reducing the Federal deficit.

Now, there is one thing we ought to be able to agree on, when you are in a fight, it does not make sense to tie one hand behind yourself. And the Republicans are tying one hand behind us, and the pay-as-you-go rule is going to be the pay-as-you-gone rule. I am disappointed that my Republican colleagues are taking a dive against the Federal deficit.

□ 1015

MEDICAL LIABILITY CAPS NEEDED

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, a year ago this House passed some meaningful legislation, H.R. 5, which would limit medical liability. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, that good legislation has languished on the other side of the Capitol. The reason this is important is because it continues to affect States throughout the country. My State of Texas actually enacted caps on non-economic damages last September. That was a good thing down in Texas,