

Lord, we love You. You are the way, the truth, and the life. Help us lead others to know You and Your peace. We proclaim to all that Jesus is Lord, in whose name we pray. 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 Florida (Mr. SHAW) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SHAW 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. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 260. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore, enhance, and manage private land to improve fish and wildlife habitats through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

S. 1316. An act to authorize the Small Business Administration to provide emergency relief to shellfish growers affected by toxic red tide losses.

WELCOMING DR. RUFFIN SNOW

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a great American from my district who is here this morning. Dr. Ruffin Snow, who is the pastor of Tri-City Baptist Church in Conover, North Carolina, gave the morning prayer here on the House floor this morning.

Dr. Snow is one of the strongest men of faith that I have come to know in western North Carolina. For 7 years he has headed the Tri-City Baptist Church and has worked in ministry since 1963. He has both a Master's of Divinity and a Doctorate of Ministry. I have been to Pastor Snow's church. It truly embodies what he strives for his flock to be, and that is an Acts 1:8 church, telling people about Jesus in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the world, essentially taking the message of Jesus to the world, not just to the community, but to the whole world.

As part of that tradition, he is here today sharing his words with the Speaker and the Members of Congress.

Over 3,000 people come to worship every week at Tri-City Baptist, and the Holy Spirit is doing wonders there in that body of believers. I thank Pastor Snow and his family for being here today to be a part of this and for serving as our guest chaplain.

A FISCAL FIRST STEP

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will complete its constitutionally mandated initial round of work on the annual appropriations bills that fund our national government.

This spring and summer, the House's restructured Committee on Appropriations and its staff have worked under an accelerated schedule and within an extremely disciplined fiscal budget environment, and they have produced bills that are worthy of the needs and values of the American people.

When the final two of the House's 11 spending bills are passed this week, Foreign Operations and the Transportation, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development bills, the House will have put us on track to hold domestic discretionary spending next year below this year's level.

If we hold to these levels, the Federal Government will realize a real cut in domestic discretionary spending in 2006 for the first time since the Reagan administration. By the end of this week, we will have targeted more than 100 low-priority government programs for termination, more than even President Bush proposed in his austere budget.

These difficult, but necessary, reductions will tighten the Federal Government's belt to the tune of \$4.6 billion. In these bills, the House has met our Nation's pressing needs here at home and around the world, but at the same time has held every program accountable to the American people. Passage of these bills puts us on a path to deficit reduction, just as Republicans promised at the beginning of this Congress.

As we showed in the 1990s, the best, and indeed the only, way to cut the deficit is to hold down government spending while creating an environment for greater economic growth through tax relief. That is exactly what is happening now.

With Federal revenues up and spending checked and even reduced, the Congressional Budget Office has lowered its projected deficit for the year. We are finally on that glide-path to balance. The gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) deserves an enormous amount of credit for this achievement, and I would be remiss if I did not also thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the ranking member, for his work, especially given this year's accelerated schedule and restructured committee.

The House has taken the first step toward reaffirming fiscal accountability again in 2006; but with the process only half over, you can bet, Mr. Speaker, it will not be our last.

SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY FIRST

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, our Republican colleagues have unveiled a new proposal to privatize the Social Security surplus. Maybe I am a little confused, but was President Bush not just in West Virginia saying the Social Security trust fund and its surplus did not exist? In West Virginia the President said, There is no Social Security trust fund, just IOUs stacked in an old filing cabinet.

In Washington, D.C., this discovery of the surplus counts as progress. I welcome the Republicans' discovery of the Social Security surplus. The problem is in the last 5 years they have spent \$630 billion of the Social Security surplus on everything under the sun but Social Security.

Privatization of Social Security is the poison pill to progress. Our first priority should be to save Social Security first. That is the position of the American people, and that is the position of the Democratic Party. Before we create private accounts or do anything else to fundamentally alter Social Security, we must guarantee its future. The goal is to strengthen Social Security for the future, something privatization fails to do. The American people have rejected the President's privatization proposal of Social Security, and they will undoubtedly reject this unbaked new idea.

SUPREME COURT COURTS CONFUSION

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, yesterday in the Supreme Court it was the Ten Commandments versus the Ten Commandments. The score: one for the Ten Commandments and one against the Ten Commandments.

The Supreme Court ruled in a Kentucky courthouse they have to take down those Ten Commandments. The Supreme Court ruled the same day, yesterday, that the Ten Commandments on the Texas capitol grounds, they can leave them up. This was a 5-4 decision, and the Supreme Court has created confusion to legal minds throughout the country and to citizens of this Republic.

Stephen Breyer voted one way in one case, and the other way in the other. He is the swing vote. So what do we do in the future when we want to address the Ten Commandments and where they should be placed? Do we call him

on the phone and ask permission and wait for him to deny it or grant it?

Madam Speaker, the first amendment of the Constitution is very simple. It says Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion. But there is a second phrase: or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. We have a Nation with a long religious history. Contrary to France whose Constitution states that it is a secular republic, in France religion and government never meet.

We are not that way. Congress starts with a prayer. We have In God We Trust above the flag. We have Moses in the back. The Supreme Court has the Ten Commandments above it in its Chambers.

The Supreme Court's ruling is confusing and defies predictability. The Supreme Court has created a hostility towards religion. The Supreme Court has become a court of confusion.

FUTURE CONGRESSES WILL ASK

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, the President will address the Nation tonight on Iraq.

At some point in the future, Members of a future Congress will look back at the war in Iraq and ask how we could have let it happen. They will ask why did our leaders try hard to convince the American people that Iraq had something to do with 9/11 when it did not. They will ask why did our government use awesome destructive power against the people of Iraq who posed no imminent threat to our Nation, and did not attack us.

They will ask how our leaders were able to convince us to stay in Iraq for so many years at the cost of so many lives. They will ask why there was no discussion about the countless deaths of innocent Iraqi civilians. They will ask why our leaders talked us into spending money for an unnecessary war when so many real needs for education and health care were unmet. They will ask how did we let fear so penetrate our hearts and our psyches that we forgot who we were, that we forgot our duty to justice, that we forgot our duty to liberty, that we forgot our duty to truth.

GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARDS

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 10 Girl Scouts from the Sixth Congressional District of Georgia for earning the highly coveted Girl Scout Gold Award.

Through hard work, dedication and perseverance, Kathryn Cook, Kristen Crawford, Aimee Jarvis, Amy Kroeger,

Tera Lekan, Elizabeth Roddy, Brittany Scott, Michelle Teplis, Kelly Watson, and Jordan Wynn, with their community service projects, have positively affected, literally, the world.

Collecting school supplies to donate to young Iraqi students, sewing and stuffing 250 teddy bears for pediatric and emergency ward patients, collecting and donating essentials to foster care children, and writing books for children in both English and Spanish. These are just some of the many projects taken on by these girls.

The Girl Scout program is based on four fundamental goals that encourage girls to develop to their full potential, relate to others with increasing understanding, skill and respect, develop a meaningful set of values to guide their actions and contribute to the improvement of society.

Congratulations to each of these young American girls for their accomplishments and for embracing worthy principles. We look forward to their continued excellent example and for their future leadership.

NO SECURITY IN PRIVATIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give voice to the youth of my district. I recently had a Social Security e-town hall where young adults joined me online to discuss this important issue.

Billy, a constituent of mine from Long Beach, is currently a student at the University of Southern California. He questioned the wisdom and the solvency of the President's plan. He specifically asked me what would the worst case scenario consequences of the President's plan be.

My answer to him was simple. It is clear that Republicans have no desire to strengthen Social Security for future generations.

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Instead, their only intention is to privatize this guaranteed retirement program.

Privatization is a first step on the road to the worst case scenario. Privatization proposals hurt everyone, including today's beneficiaries. But it especially hurts young workers who end up paying for the administrative costs of privatization on the front end and then end up paying for it twice with large benefit cuts on the back end. Privatization does absolutely nothing to extend the solvency of Social Security.

If we really wanted to save Social Security, let us work to ensure its solvency. Let us not dismantle guaranteed benefits, especially for young workers like Billy.

EMINENT DOMAIN DECISION

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today against this recent Supreme Court decision in *Kelo v. New London*, which grossly misrepresents the intent and historical precedent regarding government taking of private property. Our Founding Fathers intended to protect private property by limiting government authority.

One would expect that private property taken by eminent domain would become land available for public use such as parks and roads. Unfortunately, this decision creates a loophole for government to manipulate the definition of public use simply to generate greater tax revenue.

Protection of private property is a fundamental right protected in a strong democracy. The Supreme Court's ruling is an insult to all Americans who have worked hard to have a home to call their own. It is a ruling that encourages the strong to take from the weak and flies in the face of what government is intended to do, that is, to protect the lives and property of all American citizens.

THE REPUBLICANS' SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, every working day, every salary and wage-earning American will pay 6.2 percent, or 12.4 if they are self-employed, of their salary to Social Security, that is, up to the first \$90,000. That is creating a \$168 billion surplus, which is being borrowed and spent by this administration, some of it to give tax breaks to the wealthiest among us.

Now the Republicans have a new plan. Here is what Congressional Quarterly says: "The House version essentially counts the Social Security surplus twice. First, the government would borrow the surplus from Social Security's trust funds in exchange for special Treasury bonds, as it does now. It would then direct the surplus into individual accounts, but then borrow it back again in exchange for more bonds. But only the debt to the individual accounts would appear in the government's budget; the debt to Social Security's trust funds would remain 'off budget,' as is now. The surplus itself would be spent as part of the regular budget."

Huh? That is the solution to the problems of Social Security? That is making the future retirement of Americans more secure? That is dealing with the fact that you are stealing money from working people and giving it to people who invest for a living? Give me a break.