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No. 2

House of Representatives

The House met at 12 noon.

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let our prayers of thanksgiving, O God, rise as incense to the heavens as we express our gratitude for all Your wondrous blessings. May Your good words of peace, of reconciliation, of faithfulness echo in our hearts and in our lives.

On this day we remember those men and women who have dedicated themselves to public service, who use their abilities as leaders in doing the works of righteousness and justice for all people. We pray, almighty God, that You would bless their efforts as they seek to demonstrate anew the strength that comes when people join in a vision that unites each person for the common good.

May Your peace, O God, that You freely give to us in the depths of our hearts, be with us this day and every day, 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 Michigan [Mr. KILDEE] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. JIM BUNNING, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JIM BUNNING, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 8, 1997.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you that I consider my service as a member of the Ethics Committee complete.

Best personal regards,

JIM BUNNING,
Member of Congress.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 4(e)(3) of rule X, I hereby appoint the Honorable LAMAR SMITH of Texas to fill a vacancy on the Select Committee on Ethics.

MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO OMNIBUS CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I offer a joint resolution (H.J. Res. 25) making technical corrections to the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997 (Public Law 104-208), and for other purposes, and I ask unanimous consent that the House immediately consider and pass the joint resolution.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

Mr. OBEY. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to object, but I simply do so to enable the gentleman from Louisiana to explain his request.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to explain the changes to the fiscal year 1997 Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act proposed in the joint resolution that is the object of my unanimous-consent request.

As the gentleman will recall, one of the last actions of the 104th Congress was to pass this Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act. Back in late September, even though we were intensely negotiating for several consecutive days almost around the clock, we were running out of time before the new fiscal year began. We were rushing to complete our work. In this rush, several errors and omissions were made during the bill preparation so that what was signed into law did not reflect the actual agreement on this bill in a few instances.

The bill was hand enrolled and was over 8 inches thick, plus another 4 inches for the Statement of Managers. During the preparation and reproduction of the bill, one page was omitted in the copy that became law. This bill had 1,929 pages, and the Statement of Managers had nearly 1,000 pages. While it is unfortunate that this type of error occurred, considering the sheer volume of the bill and the time we had to put it together, I think we did a pretty good job. Section 1 of this joint resolution inserts the matter that was inadvertently dropped.

Sections 2 and 3 deal with correcting text that did not reflect agreement on the bill. These drafting errors resulted from failing to change all portions of preliminary text to reflect the intent of the final agreement.

The corrections proposed by this joint resolution reflect only the original agreement on this Omnibus Appropriations Act, not any changes to that agreement. They are necessary to fully carry out the original agreement.

□ 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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