

TEAM Act passed in the Senate. The TEAM Act in essence says that employers may organize groups which run counter to the independent unions, actually undercut the activities of the independent unions or will guarantee that unions will never be organized; they are independent.

In addition to that, I just came from a hearing this morning where an attack was being made on organized labor's contributions to political campaigns. Organized labor is being singled out, and they are being pummeled by the Republican majority because they made contributions in large numbers to Democrats. The labor unions are being told you cannot do this. They want new regulations on labor unions.

Labor unions are already the most overregulated institutions in our society. The regulations on labor unions, as my colleagues know, do not compare with anything else. We do not regulate corporations as much as we regulate labor unions, but we are going to impose more regulations on them to keep them from making contributions to people they consider operating politically in their own interests.

I have a chart which shows that all of the sectors of the American economy are giving large amounts of money to political candidates. The chart is from the Center for Political Responsiveness which shows what the financial sector gave, the agricultural sector gave, the defense industry, the energy industry. All of these are greater than organized labor.

Alexis Herman should be put in place because we need that leadership in labor, and let us stop the attack on organized labor.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DELAY). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House stands in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.)

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

We are appreciative of those women and men who devote their abilities to government service and who see in their tasks the opportunity to serve You, oh God, by being of service to others.

We are indebted to those public servants whose names we know and who occupy positions of great trust. But we especially remember this day those people whose names are not well-

known, but whose commitment and enthusiasm to their tasks is acknowledged and valued.

Whatever our responsibility, let us go forward in unity and in trust to do the works of justice and mercy. This is our earnest prayer. 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.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California [Mrs. TAUSCHER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. TAUSCHER 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.

CINCINNATI FLOOD YIELDS TWO YOUNG HEROES

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, whenever natural disaster strikes, America gets a few new heroes, selfless individuals who come to the aid of their neighbors in need.

Earlier this month Cincinnati, my community, was one of those river communities in the Midwest that felt the effects of the worst floods in the last 30 years. And true to form, Cincinnatians were at their best, from the city and county employees who worked day and night, to the charitable organizations, churches, schools and businesses, to neighborhood folks who lent a helping hand.

One of the most heartwarming stories I heard centers around two young ladies from Oakdale School in Bridge-town: Paige Craynon, who is 9 years old, and April Pitman, who is 10. On their own, Paige and April went door-

to-door collecting items to help suffering flood victims. Then their classmates at Oakdale School joined in and brought in supplies to help those in need.

That is what America is all about, Mr. Speaker. Let me join my colleagues and my fellow Cincinnatians in congratulating Paige and April and all their classmates at Oakdale School for a job well done.

A BALANCED BUDGET CANNOT WAIT

(Mrs. TAUSCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, last week more than 100 members of the Democratic Caucus signed the Tauscher-Stenholm-Minge letter that called on both the President and the Republican majority to present a CBO-scored balanced budget proposal. This letter was an attempt to move the stalled budget process forward in a bipartisan manner.

As a former investment banker who spent 14 years on Wall Street, I find it is inconceivable that we could go yet another year without coming to a resolution on a balanced budget.

Today, I am encouraged to hear Speaker GINGRICH has suggested delaying tax cuts until a balanced budget is reached.

If the Speaker or any of our colleagues would like a blueprint for balancing the budget without raising or cutting taxes, I ask them to take a close look at the Blue Dog Coalition budget. Our budget deals with tax cuts outside the scope of the balanced budget plan while keeping them consistent with a balanced budget.

The coalition budget is a plan that can help us move forward toward achieving a truly bipartisan balanced budget. I implore my colleagues to listen to the American people who sent us here. Let us go to work on balancing the budget. We cannot wait any longer.

H.R. 400, THE 21ST CENTURY PATENT SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT ACT

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, opponents of H.R. 400, the 21st Century Patent System Improvement Act, have embraced a "Chicken Little" strategy distinguished by two attributes: First they announce H.R. 400 sells out the country and, second, they repeat it again and again. This dumbing-down approach only produces heat, not light.

If these same opponents took time to read H.R. 400 they would understand why it helps our national economy. The 18-month publication requirement in the bill would allow an American inventor to review a given application and decide if he should continue to develop his own idea or to pursue other