

tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT) at 2 o'clock p.m.

PRAYER

Reverend Richard Lothian III, Community Baptist Church of Somerset, Somerset, New Jersey, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, known by many names, we thank You for this day and for the lives that You have placed in our care. We come before You with full hearts, mindful that we carry the hope and trust of a Nation. We rejoice in the blessings of mind and spirit which You have freely given us. We understand that these gifts were given for a purpose, that we might know and do Your will on earth through love and service.

As we face the tasks before us, help us to feel Your presence in even the smallest of things, Your voice in every voice, Your hand in every act, Your love in every kindness.

Dear God, we ask that You will be with us in our deliberations and decisions this day. Help us to lead without manipulation, to listen without defensiveness, to challenge without anger, and to change without fear.

And may we serve with wisdom and strength those who trust and rest in our care, even as we trust and rest in Yours.

In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALLENGER 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.

REVEREND TERRY LOTHIAN III

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I am very privileged today in introducing Reverend Terry Lothian who offered the opening prayer of the House this afternoon. He is a graduate of the Eastern Baptist College and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, was the chaplain at the Somerset County Jail for many years, and for more than 12 years has been Pastor of the Community Baptist Church of Somerset.

Many times here in Washington I welcomed constituent groups, from

school groups to families to senior citizens, and am very happy to be able to welcome Reverend Lothian and his wife Carolyn and others from Community Baptist Church here in Washington, D.C. He has played such a key role in so many peoples' lives, and I am very happy that he was able to be a part of the proceedings of our House this afternoon and certainly wish him well.

CHECK THIS OUT

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, foreign aid for Russia, billions for Japan and Germany, missiles for China, citizenship for illegal immigrants, free condoms for school kids, free needles for drug addicts. Now if that is not enough to roast the pork barrel, check this out:

Uncle Sam is now paying the taxes of foreign citizens who work for the International Monetary Fund. Let me say it again. Uncle Sam, with our tax dollars, is paying the taxes for foreign workers. To boot, to make it worse, the White House wants another \$18 billion for this slush fund of international welfare, and the experts agree.

Beam me up, my colleagues. I suggest that Congress hire a crew of proctologists to go in and counsel these so-called experts.

I yield back what intelligent life there is left in D.C.

THE BLOATED FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY IS ALIVE AND WELL UNDER THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, it was just 2 short years ago that the Clinton administration proclaimed that the era of big government was over. My, oh my, how quickly things have changed, Mr. Speaker.

Now judging from his most recent budget proposal, the era of abusive bloated Federal bureaucracy is alive and well under the Clinton administration. What other possible explanation could there be for \$128 billion in new taxes in his 1999 budget proposal?

In all fairness to the President, however, he has the right, as he has in the past, to propose all of the tax increases that he desires. Certainly it is his prerogative as the top elected official of this country.

However, Mr. Speaker, I think most people will see through this big government, big tax increase proposal for exactly what it is: a thinly disguised effort by the administration to once again stick its greedy hands into the pockets of every working man and woman in America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of any money we all may have left.

THE CONTINUING CAMPAIGN TO DESTROY JUDGE KENNETH STARR

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, a White House official was quoted in the New York Times last month referring to our continuing campaign to destroy Ken Starr.

Now let us do it again. "Our continuing campaign to destroy Ken Starr."

I sincerely appreciate my fair-minded friends on the other side of the aisle if they would defend the White House, which openly acknowledges their strategy to destroy Judge Starr, the special counsel named by a 3-judge panel and the Attorney General to investigate allegations of serious wrongdoing by the President.

Am I to conclude that the Democrat party thinks it is okay to smear the independent counsel? Am I to conclude that the Democrat party does not care that the White House was in possession of 900 FBI files of Republicans, in gross violation of the law and the civil rights of American citizens? Am I to conclude that the Democrat party does not care if the integrity of our judicial system is violated and that obstruction of justice and lying under oath is okay if it is done by a Democrat? Am I to conclude that the President is in fact above the law because the Dow Jones is doing great?

LEWIS AND CLARK INTERPRETIVE CENTER HAS OPENED ITS DOORS IN GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today is the day that dreams of hundreds of Montanans has come true. With their hard work and determination, the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls has opened its doors to the public. It has taken more than a dozen years, but the work of dedicated community volunteers has paid off.

Mr. Speaker, these Montanans had a vision. They envisioned a place where all Americans could come to learn more about the heroic journey of Lewis and Clark. The reality today is 5,500 square feet of exhibits which tell the story of an exciting adventure from 1804 to 1806 of the journey which opened up the American West.

I want to extend my personal congratulations to the community of Great Falls and a special salute to the 125 volunteers who have signed up to help with the day-to-day work of greeting tourists and providing interpretive talks to visitors, and I want to invite everyone in the Chamber and all those looking in across the Nation to come to Montana and visit us this summer. It is a place where dreams still can come true.