

moving in the right direction, but what is happening is we are borrowing the money from Social Security to pay down the Wall Street debt so the \$5.7 trillion that we now have as a national debt continues to go up.

Maybe an analogy is saying that Mr. GORE suggests that we take out one credit card and we use that credit card to pay off another credit card when there is no real money out there.

I think this is the time in this presidential election year to discuss and debate how we are going to fix Social Security, how we are going to keep it there, not only for the existing retirees and the near retirees, but for future generations. It is the most important program that probably we have in government. It is the largest program in this country. It is the largest program in the world.

What is happening is some people suggest, look, the United States is as good as its word. If it borrows the money, it is going to pay it back. Even if it paid it all back, it is only going to keep Social Security solvent until 2034. But will the Federal Government pay that money back? Where is it going to come from? We are going to have to increase borrowing, cut other government programs, or increase taxes. That is where it is going to come from.

As a demonstration of Federal Government's commitment, this Congress and the President, in 1977, when there was a problem of fewer dollars coming in than was needed to pay out benefits, what did they do? In 1977, they increased taxes and reduced benefits. In 1983, again, we ran out of enough money to pay benefits, so, again, they reduced benefits and increased taxes.

If we do nothing, I say to Mr. GORE, then taxes are going to increase up to 55 percent, increase in Social Security taxes for our kids. That is what the trustees of the Social Security Administration said. If we do not want to increase taxes, then we cut benefits by 33 percent.

This is an appropriate time to discuss where we are going to go on Social Security to keep it solvent. If my colleagues look at the red area, how much we are going into the red over the years, the Social Security actuaries project that we are short \$120 trillion. Remember, our annual budget here is \$1.7 trillion. Over the next 75 years, we are short \$120 trillion of there being less money coming in from the Social Security tax than we need to pay out the benefits that are promised.

If we look at the possibility of getting real investment, then all we have got to do is beat a zero percent return. Some of the think tanks around town have projected that one is not even going to get back the money that one paid in. Some of the projections go as high as a 1.7 percent return on the Social Security money that one pays into Social Security.

Can the stock market do any better than that? The average for any 12-year period since 1926 has been 3.7. The aver-

age for a retiree's lifetime has been up to a 7.88 percent return. We can do better than Social Security. Let us move ahead. Let us debate it. Let us discuss it. Let us not hide the problem under the rug.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, in past days, we have celebrated with our brothers and sisters of faith the Passover of the Lord and the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. With family customs and solemn traditions, we have participated in the annual rights of spring.

Shower on us Your waters of renewed life and penetrating freedom so that we may truly live as children born of Your Spirit.

May the profound suffering of others and the death of anyone, embraced with the utter abandonment of faith, create in us compassionate hearts ready to respond to those in most need of Your justice.

May the awakening of the heart or the birth of any of Your creatures produce in us a vibrant respect for all life. In this season of hope, we search for continuing signs of Your presence in our midst. For You live now and forever. 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 Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT 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 THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 14, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 14, 2000 at 10:20 a.m.

That the Senate agreed to House amendments, S. 1567.

That the Senate agreed to House amendments, S. 1769.

That the Senate passed without amendment, H.R. 1231.

That the Senate agreed to House amendments to Senate amendments, H.R. 1753.

That the Senate passed without amendment, H.R. 2368.

That the Senate passed without amendment, H.R. 2862.

That the Senate passed without amendment, H.R. 2863.

That the Senate passed without amendment, H.R. 3063.

That the Senate passed without amendment, H.R. 3090.

That the Senate passed without amendment, H. J. Res. 86.

That the Senate passed without amendment, H. Con. Res. 269.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, Speaker pro tempore WOLF signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution on Wednesday, April 19, 2000:

H.R. 1231, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain national forest lands to Elko County, Nevada, for continued use as a cemetery;

H.R. 1615, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to extend the designation of a portion of the Lamprey River in New Hampshire as a recreational river to include an additional river segment;

H.R. 1753, to promote the research, identification, assessment, exploration, and development of gas hydrate resources, and for other purposes;

H.R. 2368, to assist in the resettlement and relocation of the people of Bikini Atoll by amending the terms of the trust fund established during the United States administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;

H.R. 2862, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to release reversionary interests held by the United States in certain parcels of land in Washington County, Utah, to facilitate an anticipated land exchange;

H.R. 2863, to clarify the legal effect on the United States of the acquisition of a parcel of land in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve in the State of Utah;

H.R. 3063, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium that may be held by an entity in any one State, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3090, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to restore certain

lands to the Elim Native Corporation, and for other purposes;

J. Res. 86, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Korean War and the service by members of the Armed Forces during such war, and for other purposes;

S. 1567, to designate the United States Courthouse located at 223 Broad Avenue in Albany, Georgia, as the "C.B. King United States Courthouse;"

S. 1769, to exempt certain reports from automatic elimination and sunset pursuant to the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995, and for other purposes.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is Private Calendar day. The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

BELINDA MCGREGOR

The Clerk called the Senate bill (S. 452) for the relief of Belinda McGregor.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

S. 452

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENCE.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), Belinda McGregor shall be held and considered to have been selected for a diversity immigrant visa for fiscal year 2000 as of the date of the enactment of this Act upon payment of the required visa fee.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Belinda McGregor, or any child (as defined in section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act) of Belinda McGregor, enters the United States before the date of the enactment of this Act, he or she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2. REDUCTION OF NUMBER OF AVAILABLE VISAS.

Upon the granting of permanent residence to Belinda McGregor as provided in this Act, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by one number during the current fiscal year the total number of immigrant visas available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 203(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(c)).

The bill was ordered and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DISPENSING WITH FURTHER CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that further call of the Private Calendar be dispensed with.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, April 12, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed please find copies of resolutions approved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on April 11, 2000, in accordance with 40 U.S.C. § 606.

With warm regards, I remain
Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, April 13, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed are copies of resolutions adopted on April 11, 2000 by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

With kind regards, I am
Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman.

There was no objection.

FUNDING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

(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, 25 years ago, Congress passed the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act. Twenty-five years ago, Congress made a commitment to disabled students all over America, promising them we would do our part to make sure they got as good an education as other kids.

Twenty-five years ago, Congress made a promise to contribute 40 percent of the cost of educating disabled children, but it was an empty promise.

For 19 years, the Democrats controlled the House and never once did they even come close to keeping that funding promise. Twenty years of consecutive Democratic Congresses never even funded 5 percent.

Special education has for years been yet another unfunded mandate created only to make those who wrote the law look good and placing an enormous financial burden on local schools.

Since coming into the majority, the Republican House has more than doubled Congress' commitment to disabled kids.

Today, we will be voting on the IDEA Full Funding Act of 2000. I urge my Democratic colleagues to join the Republicans in making good on our commitment to disabled children.

THE FBI IN YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO, OWNED BY THE MOB

(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, I have evidence that certain FBI agents in Youngstown, Ohio, have violated the RICO statute, and I shall prove it. For years they were owned by the Mob; but now they have made a big mistake, Mr. Speaker. Youngstown FBI agents stole large sums of cash that were vouchered to be paid to their street informants. In addition, they failed to report that cash on their tax returns. Bingo. But what is even worse, they quote/unquote suggested to one of their field operative informants that he should commit murder. Mr. Speaker, murder. Not only in Boston, now in Youngstown, Ohio.

It is out of control. The Congress of the United States should pass H.R. 4105. There are buddies investigating buddies in the Justice Department, and they are getting away with murder. Enough is enough.

I yield back the FBI fox in the hen house.

THE SIGNAL WE SEND WITH PNTR

(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, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, which was established just 2 years ago by Congress, stated yesterday that there are systematic, egregious, and ongoing manifestations of religious persecution in China. It is obvious to me and many of my fellow Nevadans that this is yet another reason why we should not, I repeat should not, extend the privilege of permanent normal trade relations with China.

Mr. Speaker, granting PNTR to China sends a signal that the United States condones the inexcusable religious persecutions and human rights abuses that occur currently today.

We would also be sending the signal that the United States is willing to endanger its own national security. After all, we would be trading with a country that holds Americans hostage every day by maintaining nuclear weapons targeted at the United States mainland.