

Then he went on to say they were met on a great battlefield of that nation and we come here to dedicate that to those who fought and died here.

Then he ends that Gettysburg Address with almost a prayer: "This government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the Earth."

Let me end with where I started. We opened our day's business today in this House with prayer; we did the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, in which we recognized that we are in a Nation under God; and over the Speaker's Chair inscribed in marble in large letters are the words "In God We Trust." And yet at the same time we now have required the removal of His commandments from that courthouse in Alabama.

I submit that if our textbooks had not been bled dry of the Christian heritage of our country, if in fact our leaders today would go back and read the Federalist Papers to understand the milieu in which our Constitution was written, that they would understand very clearly that our Founding Fathers never could have imagined that we would have interpreted that Establishment Clause as requiring freedom from religion, and that is what they are trying to do. They clearly meant it to assure freedom of religion.

Those are two very different concepts, Mr. Speaker, and my prayer is, my hope is, that our leaders today will go back for a refresher course in our history, look again at our Founding Fathers and who they were and what they stood for and what they fought and what they died for and what they said and what they did in their Congress and what they did in their Supreme Court and what we taught in our schools.

If we did that, Mr. Speaker, those Ten Commandments would be hauled back as quickly as one could to that courthouse in Alabama, because their presence there clearly is not at any variance with any of the principles of our Founding Fathers.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, they would be appalled that we had so misinterpreted their assurance that never should the State empower any religion so that can could oppress others. They would ask us, How could you have misunderstood? Didn't we make it clear to you that we were talking about an establishment of religion? Wasn't it clear from all of our personal statements, from all of what we did in our courts, from what we said in our Congress, that we believed that God was essential in our Nation?

Certainly children should pray in schools. Certainly the Ten Commandments should be in public places. We are a Christian Nation, established by Christian people, and I hope, Mr. Speaker, that our leadership in our courts and in our Congress and in all of our States go back and review our history so they can understand from whence we came, because if we do not,

Mr. Speaker, go back and understand from whence we came, I am concerned about where we are going.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LEACH (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of attending a family funeral.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. RYAN of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PAUL) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, September 9, 10, and 11.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, September 9, 2003, at 12:30 p.m., for morning hour debates.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3978. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral John J. Totushek, United States Naval Reserve, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3979. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on the temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in supporting Plan Colombia; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3980. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Iraq pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)(i); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3981. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicaid Program; Time limitation on Price Recalculations and

Recordkeeping Requirements Under the Drug Rebate Program [CMS-2175-FC] (RIN: 0938-AM20) received September 4, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3982. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Qatar for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-20), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

3983. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Egypt for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-27), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

3984. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Egypt for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-30), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

3985. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Israel for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-31), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

3986. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Bahrain for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-19), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

3987. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Jordan for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-26), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

3988. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-28), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

3989. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Jordan for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-21), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

3990. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Pakistan for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-18), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

3991. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Jordan for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-34), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

3992. A letter from the Executive Director, Consumer Product Safety Commission,