

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, July 15, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m.

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

We affirm in the ancient Psalm of David "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." Oh gracious God, as You are the shepherd of our souls and are with us in all the concerns of life, we ask Your blessing on all who are sick or infirm and who desire to find wholeness and health. Either for ourselves or those who are near and dear to us, we pray that Your healing power will visit all those in need and that our hearts and minds will be open to Your redeeming love. May Your strong arm, O God, give fortitude and strength and assure us always of that peace that passes all human understanding. In Your name 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.

Mr. GIBBONS. 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. GIBBONS. 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 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFFER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SCHAFFER 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, an-

nounced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2465. An act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2465) "An Act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon and appoints Mr. BURNS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. KYL, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. BYRD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 604. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to complete a land exchange with Georgia Power Company.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will receive 15 one-minute speeches on each side.

TRIBUTE TO AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION

(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, today I rise with great honor to pay tribute to the Air Force Sergeants Association, a private, not-for-profit organization that diligently represents this Nation's active and retired enlisted men and women of the United States Air Force and their families.

I would like to commend the Air Force Sergeants Association for their extraordinary efforts informing Congress on key personnel and readiness issues and also for promoting programs and policies which recognize the sacrifices of our "Sierra Hotel" Air Force enlisted members.

This year, from August 29 through September 3, the Air Force Sergeants Association will convene its annual international convention at the Silver

Legacy and Eldorado Hotels in Reno, Nevada. As an Air Force veteran, who knows firsthand the outstanding contributions of our enlisted force, I will be proud and honored to celebrate this occasion with them.

Mr. Speaker, for 38 years, the Air Force Sergeants Association has been an outspoken advocate for Air Force enlisted members, and I thank them for their wonderful efforts. I also want to thank the enlisted men and women from every service who truly are the backbone and soul of our fighting forces.

REPUBLICANS DOING WRONG IS WORSE THAN DOING NOTHING

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the willingness of House Republicans to jeopardize our economic prosperity, to jeopardize Medicare and Social Security is truly shocking.

Last night, the Republicans on the House Committee on Ways and Means approved a tax bill that is really based on the following principles: First, they will never pay down the over \$5 trillion of national debt and will continue to saddle American taxpayers with hundreds of millions of dollars of interest payments each year, the second largest item in the Federal budget.

Second, they will continue taking money that Americans have paid into the Social Security Trust Fund to use for other non-Social Security purposes.

House Republicans have made an art form this year of doing nothing in this House. But there is one thing worse, and that is doing wrong, doing wrong by Social Security, doing wrong by Medicare, and doing wrong that will interfere with our economic expansion.

Let us say no to this outrageous tax bill that the Republicans are promoting on America.

APA SAYS PRESENCE OF FATHERS IN FAMILIES IS NOT ESSENTIAL

(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, the APA has done it again. An article published in the current journal of the American Psychology Association reports that the presence of fathers in families is "not essential" and that fathers actually "may be detrimental to the child and the mother."

☐ 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.