

## 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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.

Can you believe this absurdity? Dads are dangerous. So I say to dads, do not bother about running home to play ball or read with your child. According to these psychologists, you will not be missed.

This report is on the heels of the national outrage the APA caused when they published another report stating sexual abuse does not harm children. First, praising pedophilia, now dumbing down dads.

Mr. Speaker, two decades of research support the fact that children who are raised without fathers are at greater risk than children raised with fathers and mothers. In fact, studies of over 25,000 children found that kids who grow up without a father are twice as likely to drop out of school, they are two and a half times as likely to become teen moms, and also the likelihood that a young male will engage in criminal activity doubles.

These studies and hundreds of others uphold that dads do make a difference. When will the APA ever learn?

#### NEW SURPLUS AND FISCAL DISCIPLINE

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

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, the people sent us here to do a job. They sent us here to preserve Social Security and Medicare. We must save Social Security and Medicare first before squandering any of the Social Security surplus or any other government surplus.

Paying down the Federal debt is truly the greatest gift we can give to our children and our grandchildren. Paying down the Federal debt means lower interest rates for a working family, more capital available for small businesses, and a brighter future for our children.

Let us not get carried away with this budget surplus feeding frenzy. Let us remain disciplined, focused, and fiscally conservative. The time to fix the roof is now, while the sun is shining.

#### WHAT A DIFFERENCE A REPUBLICAN CONGRESS MAKES

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, what a difference a Republican Congress makes. For 40 years, Congress debated ways to expand government, promising more benefits in exchange for a bit less freedom.

Few, if any, candidates ran on tax increases, but somehow taxes kept getting higher and higher.

Welfare assistance was so broke that even those on welfare knew that the

system was seriously wrong, counter-productive, and harmful. Yet, nothing was done.

Then the American people said enough and elected Republicans to the majority in 1994 for the first time in 40 years.

Now we are debating ways to cut taxes, not raise them. Perhaps the most significant achievement is the historic welfare reform bill signed into law in 1996. For millions and millions of families who have moved from welfare to work, they now have hopes for a brighter future, a seemingly impossible dream when despair filled their days and nights. The children in those families now have productive and fulfilling lives to look forward to.

What a difference the Republican Congress makes.

#### HOW MANY AMERICANS MUST BE VICTIMIZED BEFORE BORDERS ARE SECURE?

(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, two Texas women were beaten to death in their own home. They were two of nine victims supposedly killed by the infamous railroad killer from Mexico. The border is wide open. From narcotics to terrorists, the border is wide open.

Tell me, Mr. Speaker, how many more Americans must be murdered in their own home? How many more Americans must die of drug overdoses? How many more Americans must be victimized and live in fear of terrorists? Tell me, Mr. Speaker, how many more Americans must be abused before Congress secures our border? Beam me up.

I yield back a massive problem that can and will not be solved.

#### TRIBUTE TO VIKKI BUCKLEY

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of Vikki Buckley, Colorado's Secretary of State, who passed away yesterday after suffering an apparent heart attack on Tuesday.

Quoting a friend of hers, "Vikki's no longer in the hands of doctors. She's now in the arms of God."

Vikki proudly proclaimed herself to not be a hyphenated American. She held the distinction of being the first black Secretary of State and the first female black candidate elected as a Republican for a statewide constitutional office.

She is an outspoken conservative. Vikki served as the States chief election official and traveled around the

State and country speaking out on various issues of importance to her.

Most recently, she gave the opening remarks at the National Rifle Association's annual meeting in Denver. Her speech has been acknowledged nationwide as among the most insightful concerning the heart of humanity and preserving the entire Constitution of the United States, including the second amendment.

I for one got to know Vikki quite well. In 1994, I was a statewide candidate Republican nominee for Lieutenant Governor, and I spent almost the whole year on the campaign trail with Vikki. She is one who cares passionately about her country. She is an inspiration to all who knew her. She was deeply devoted to her family.

Although she is gone and away from us now, her inspiration and memory will inspire Americans for generations to come. I pray that God receives her openly into his heavenly kingdom and that her soul and all of the souls of those who have departed in faith rest in peace.

#### REPUBLICAN TAX CUT PLAN IS FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Republican tax cut plan of a trillion dollars is fiscally irresponsible and will leave a legacy of debt and deficit for the next generation of taxpayers, and that is why they only show us charts for the first 5 years of their tax cut plan. They do not show us the last 5 years where the tax cuts will explode and leave us with an enormous gap in the budget.

Their tax cut plan will create higher deficits and, therefore, create higher interest rates for American families and businesses.

That is not a value we Democrats share. Democrats believe that we have to pay down the national debt, and Republicans want a massive tax cut. Democrats value the contribution of seniors who have helped build families and community and who should be able to retire with dignity and health security. That is why we want to pay the debt, extend the life for Social Security and Medicare.

Republicans want to go on a wild tax cut spree that leaves nothing for Medicare, nothing for Social Security, and nothing for our prescription drug program. That is fiscal irresponsibility we cannot have. It is a value we do not share.

#### DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS DIFFER ON TAX PHILOSOPHIES

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