The House met at 10 a.m. The Reverend Dr. Paul A. Wee, Church of the Reformation, ELCA, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us pray.

O God, we give You thanks for this night past and for this new day. Fill it, we pray, with the presence of Your spirit that all we do and say may be pleasing in Your sight.

Inspire within us compassion for all those in want this day in this city, this Nation, and this world. Keep before our eyes a burning vision of the Shalom that binds in one the human family throughout this world. We especially ask Your blessing upon the States from which we come and upon the District of Columbia in which we gather. May the hospitality shown to each of us here be reflected in the way in which we welcome the stranger in our midst. Give us above all this day a passion for justice and a spirit of joy in Your service.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and asks the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BEREUTER 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, announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1501. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide grants to ensure increased accountability for juvenile offenders; to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to provide quality prevention programs and accountability programs relating to juvenile delinquency; and for other purposes.

H.R. 2561. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2605. An act making appropriations for energy and water development 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. 1501) "An Act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide grants to ensure increased accountability for juvenile offenders; to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to provide quality prevention programs and accountability programs relating to juvenile delinquency; and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. HATCH, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. KENNEDY, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2561) "An Act making appropriations 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. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BOND, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LUTENBERG, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. DURBIN, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2605) "An Act making appropriations for energy and water development 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. DOMENICI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GORTON, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. REED, Mr. BYRD, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. MURRAY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. INOUYE, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 305. An act to reform unfair and anti-competitive practices in the professional boxing industry.

S. 918. An act to authorize the Small Business Administration to provide financial and business development assistance to military reservists' small businesses, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 507) "An Act to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes." agrees to a conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. VONNOVICH, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, and Mrs. BOXER, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Office of the Clerk,

Hon. J. Dennis Hastert,
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 July 28, 1999 at 10:10 a.m., that the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 66.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Jeff Trandahl,
Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on each side.

RESPONSIBLE GAMING EDUCATION WEEK

(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, as Members of Congress, we should always be encouraged when the private sector tackles one of the social problems facing our Nation without government help.

Such is the case with our Nation's gaming industry. However, it should also be important to recall that a vast...
majority of Americans who choose to gamble do so responsibly.

In an effort to emphasize the casino gaming entertainment industry’s commitment to responsible gaming, August 2 to August 6 has been designated as “responsible gaming education week.”

This campaign follows last year’s inaugural implementation of this successful program. The idea is designed to raise the awareness of persons with disordered gaming habits and to further educate casino employees and customers about the importance of responsible gaming.

During this week, all casino employees will be asked to actively promote and institute responsible gaming practices within their companies. As a part of this effort, over 250,000 educational brochures on the characteristics of disordered gambling and the importance of responsible gaming will be provided to casino employees across America.

Mr. Speaker, obviously the gaming industry is taking positive steps to improve the gaming entertainment opportunities by helping those with addictive problems.

EYES WIDE SHUT

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, when I think of the manner in which the GOP tax cut legislation was drafted, the title of the movie “Eyes Wide Shut” comes to mind.

Still, this is no sultry suspense film. In this horror, we will only find a terrible plot that sacrifices Medicare and Social Security while taking $112 billion away from school construction.

The stars of this movie, the House Republicans, act with a level of irresponsibility that automatically comes from doing anything with your eyes shut. With such blocked vision, it is hard to believe that they have a clear view of the problems or their solutions.

Beyond all the hype, the GOP tax cut is hardly a masterpiece. It is poorly directed, horribly produced, and the Republican actors demonstrate a sophomoric concern for people of our country.

I can only hope that their vision will go from wide shut to wide open and that we will ultimately be able to fulfill our duty of fiscal responsibility and public service to the American people.

LOOK OUT AMERICA, BIG BROTHER MAY BE WATCHING AGAIN

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, hold on to our floppy disks. The Clinton administration, everybody’s favorite Big Brother, may soon be following our computers’ every move.

According to the New York Times, administration officials are contemplating the creation of an extensive computer monitoring system overseen by the FBI and the GSA that will have the capability of collecting data from computer networks all across this country.

This news should send a chill up the spine of anybody who has followed this administration’s actions on privacy issues. Remember, these are the folks who want each and every American to have a special identification number so that their medical records could be tracked by the Federal Government.

These are the folks who wanted to collect a host of personal information about the millions of Americans who receive in-home care from Medicare. These are the folks who wanted to give the FBI the authority to wire tap one out of every 100 phones in this country.

So when they start talking about computer security, be wary. Let us keep their hands off our e-mail.

REPUBLICAN TAX BILL

(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, Republicans keep the promise in the budget surplus belongs to the American people, falsely implying that we Democrats disagree with that.

For the record, we do not disagree. The surplus belongs to the American people. They are the ones who have paid for it. They are the ones who worked for it. That is why we are listening to the American people, who are telling us that their values is to use the surplus to pay down the national debt and to save Social Security and Medicare.

Republicans, on the other hand, are listening to all the special interests and high-priced Washington lobbyists, who are telling them to waste the surplus on a trillion dollar tax giveaway.

So, Mr. Speaker, actions speak louder than words. It is we Democrats who are listening to the voices and values of America’s working families. Because we know this Government does belong to them and they are demanding that we exercise some real fiscal discipline, pay down the national debt, and extend the life of Social Security and Medicare. Democrats are committed to doing that.

If the Republicans really believed the surplus belongs to the American people, they would listen to the voices of those people.

POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN CUBA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, while many may turn a blind eye to the reality that plagues the Cuban people, Amnesty International does not. It monitors and advocates on behalf of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in the island of Cuba.

A recent case is that of political activist and human rights dissidenter Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina, who was arbitrarily arrested again on July 11 of this year solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression.

His whereabouts now? Unknown.

The prisoner of conscience Marta Beatriz Roque, who was sentenced by Castro’s kangaroo courts earlier this year after languishing for close to 2 years in a squalid jail cell for exercising her human rights and civil liberties, was severely punished by the regime on July 16 for refusing to eat and staying mute in a silent protest for the unjust incarceration that she is subjected to.

These examples of the Cuban dictatorship’s cruelties are grave and numerous. Other countries may wish to ignore them. However, the U.S. Congress cannot and indeed we must not.

HINCKLEY SHOULD GO TO JAIL AND WE SHOULD THROW AWAY THE KEYS

(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, John Hinckley shot President Reagan, James Brady, and two security guards with intent to kill. Hinckley also plotted to kill President Carter.

Deemed insane, Hinckley was put in the hospital. And now that hospital says Hinckley has regained his health, he is no longer insane, and he should be entitled to and they are granting him “supervised leave.” And the Government will not appeal it.

Unbelievable.

What is next, Mr. Speaker? White House tours? Disney World?

Beam me up. Hinckley should go to jail. We should throw away the keys.

WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR BOAT

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

Mr. SCHAEFFER. Mr. Speaker, last week President contender and self-proclaimed environmental guru, Vice President Al Gore, treated himself to what amounted to a $7.1 million taxpayer-funded and environmentally