

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, March 3, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Michael E. Robinson, Head of Upper School, St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School, offered the following prayer:

O God, You have so revealed Yourself in the glory of the heavens and in the many faces of the nations, in the still small voice and in the might of the forces of nature. Make us aware of Your presence as You come in judgment through the events of our time. Help us to discern through the many competing claims, the right and the just by using the tools of reason, compassion and wisdom. Help us to be good citizens, to work for the common good, to be willing to sacrifice whatever it takes to work with You, and to remake this world into Your kingdom, the place where Your will is done, where Your children may know no other way but the way of righteousness, justice, and peace. This we ask, anxious yet calm in You; unsure, yet certain in You; weak, yet strong in You; through Him who is the saviour of us all, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland 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 bills of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 314. An act to provide for a loan guarantee program to address the Year 2000 computer problems of small business concerns, and for other purposes.

S. 447. An act to deem as timely filed, and process for payment, the applications submitted by the Dodson School Districts for certain Impact Aid payments for fiscal year 1999.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4355(a) of title 10, United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the United States Military Academy—

the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM), from the Committee on Armed Services; and

the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), from the Committee on Appropriations.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 6968(a) of title 10, United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy—

the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), from the Committee on Armed Services; and

the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), from the Committee on Appropriations.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 9355(a) of title 10, United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the United States Air Force Academy—

the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), from the Committee on Armed Services; and

the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), from the Committee on Appropriations.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki)—

the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON);

the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM); and

the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK).

### WELCOME TO REV. MICHAEL E. ROBINSON

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN) and I take great pleasure in introducing to the House today the Reverend Michael Robinson.

The gentleman from Texas and I are proud parents of children at St. Pat-

rick's Day School here in the District of Columbia. The Reverend Robinson is the Upper School director for St. Patrick's and has just done an incredible job. He and his wife Frances and their two children are members of the St. Patrick's community in every way, whether it be the church or through the school. I saw him this morning directing traffic, shepherding students and parents in. He will be doing the same thing this evening, as well as guiding them spiritually and educationally throughout the day. I think it is a tribute to Reverend Robinson that he is always the teacher. He is accompanied today by the St. Patrick's Student Council as well.

Reverend Robinson will leave St. Patrick's and join the St. Nicholas School in Chattanooga, Tennessee, this next semester as Headmaster. He will leave behind many parents and students who have been touched forever by his work, as I say, both spiritually, educationally, in so many ways. We wish him well and take great pleasure and celebrate all that he has done for St. Patrick's and the many students and parishioners that attend therein.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on each side.

### NEW DOCUMENTARY FEATURES MEMBER AS HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

(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, a new documentary by renowned filmmaker Steven Spielberg, entitled "The Last Days," tells the tragic tale of the Nazi Holocaust through the eyes of five Hungarian Jews who personally experienced and survived this horrific period of history.

One of the survivors featured in the documentary is one of the most articulate Members of Congress, our colleague from California, TOM LANTOS. TOM is one of the five Hungarian Jews who describes their experiences in a Nazi war camp. Fortunately, unlike an estimated 438,000 other Hungarian Jews and millions of other Jews in Europe, our colleague was able to escape his death sentence.

☐ 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.

It is to TOM's credit that, decades after his experience with totalitarianism, he has not forgotten those around the world who live under repressive regimes. From China to Cuba, TOM gives voice to those who are forced to remain silent by repressive regimes. I urge all of our colleagues to view "The Last Days" to remind ourselves that we must always fight against tyranny.

UNVEILING 1999 DEMOCRATIC AGENDA

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to say that in just a short period of time over at the Library of Congress, President Clinton, Vice President GORE and Democrats in the House and the Senate will unveil our 1999 Democratic agenda which, once again, is a families first agenda. The centerpiece of our congressional agenda is to invest the surplus, to save Social Security and Medicare and pay down the debt.

What Democrats are doing with this agenda is continuing on the path of fiscal responsibility by investing the surplus to save Social Security and Medicare and pay down the debt to keep our economy growing. With regard to Social Security, we reserve 62 percent of the projected budget surplus to preserve Social Security until 2055. With regard to Medicare, we reserve 15 percent of the projected surplus for Medicare, ensuring that the Medicare trust fund is secure for 20 years.

We are paying down the debt, Mr. Speaker. We are investing a total of 77 percent of the surplus in Social Security and Medicare to reduce the national debt to its lowest level since 1917. This is what the Democrats are all about.

MAKING TAX RELIEF A REALITY

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, the American people are overtaxed. Americans work almost 3 hours every 8-hour workday just to pay their taxes. Federal taxes, State taxes, income taxes, sales taxes, utility taxes, death taxes and on and on.

But what many folks do not realize is that they are paying way too much. The government is charging the American people more than it needs to pay its bills, an estimated \$2.6 trillion over the next 10 years of tax overcharge. That is a whopping \$27,000 per family, money those families could put forward to buy a home or pay for their children's college.

Mr. Speaker, no one would tolerate a phone company or cable company that

overcharged them and then refused to return the money. Indeed, we would all call upon the government for relief. Yet the government is overcharging the American taxpayer. It is time they knew about it.

Mr. and Mrs. America, help is on the way. Today I will announce a national initiative designed to make tax relief a reality. I will be joined by many colleagues who, like myself, are committed to showing that Americans are overtaxed. We are united in the belief that we can both save Social Security and return a portion of the overcharge to Americans in the form of a tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, that money does not belong to the government. It belongs to the American taxpayers. Americans earned it, Americans paid it, Americans deserve a refund. Return the tax overcharge, and the American people will be treated properly and fairly by this government.

1999 DEMOCRATIC AGENDA

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today Democrats from both Chambers will unveil our agenda for the 106th Congress. At the top of that agenda are the two pillars of retirement security, Social Security and Medicare. So that there can be no doubt about our priorities, I will state it loud and clear. Democrats are committed to using the lion's share of the Federal surplus to protect Social Security and Medicare well into the future.

For the first time in three decades, the Federal Government has a surplus. This is a historic opportunity to protect Social Security and Medicare so that our seniors can live independently and with dignity. Protecting Social Security and Medicare is sound fiscal planning. Two-thirds of our seniors rely on Social Security for over one-half of their income. Medicare ensures that 99 percent of our seniors have health insurance. These two programs are paramount to a strong and a vibrant America and should come before a 10 percent tax cut that benefits mostly the wealthy. The surplus must be used carefully, not spent irresponsibly on a one-time, feel-good tax break.

On behalf of our peers and our parents and our children, let us not squander this historic opportunity.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET DOES NOT ADD UP

(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, the Congressional Budget Office, or the CBO, has issued a report confirming

what everyone in Washington has known for 1 month now. The President's budget does not add up.

The nonpartisan CBO has carefully documented exactly why the President's budget does not do what it says it does. The numbers in his budget are not even close. The spending caps are busted. Social Security is endangered. The surpluses are not what they appear to be.

The administration has no response to this nonpartisan report. Through slick accounting and deception, the budget looks wonderful on paper. The problem is that there is not an economist to be found who can defend it. The double counting of imaginary money and the shifting of funds make a mockery of the budget promises signed into law just 2 years ago in the bipartisan balanced budget agreement. That agreement was supposed to prevent exactly the kind of budgetary chicanery that is contained in the President's budget.

The American people deserve better, Mr. Speaker.

THE ONLY SURPLUS IN WASHINGTON

(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, who is kidding whom? The only surplus in Washington, D.C., is in the Social Security trust fund. The truth is, Social Security money coming in one door today is going out the other door tomorrow, because the facts are very clear. The Social Security trust fund is a big basket full of IOUs. The reason is very simple: Politicians from both parties have reached in and borrowed money from the Social Security trust fund and have not repaid it. Billions and billions of dollars. Beam me up. Now we are saying Social Security is going to run out of money. I say not one dime of Social Security should be used for anything but Social Security.

I yield back any economic common sense that may be left down here.

THE SURPLUS BELONGS TO THE TAXPAYERS

(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, I have a simple question to ask. To whom does the surplus belong? Anyone listening to the other side would conclude that the surplus belongs to the government. In speech after speech, I have heard implied that politicians in Washington have the first claim to the money as if it is their money.

The surplus belongs to the taxpayers. It is their money. The surplus is in fact