

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, March 11, 1999**

The House met at 10 a.m.

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

We pray, gracious God, that we are not judged by our attempts to do the works of justice or by our failures to do the people You would have us be, but rather by Your mercy and forgiveness and grace. We seek to do the right, but we also miss the mark; we wish to remember others with appreciation, but we can become too filled with pride to show gratitude; we can talk about the need for respect in our communities, but we can also speak words without any change in our deeds. May the words we say with our lips find meaning with what we believe in our hearts, and all that we believe in our hearts may we practice in our daily lives. 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.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PALLONE 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.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

The SPEAKER. The Chair announces that there will be 10 1-minute on each side.

**VOTE NO ON H.R. 45**

(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, H.R. 45 is the nuclear waste lottery. We bet our homes, our property, the safety of our family, and then if one of these nuclear carnivals passes by our property, bingo, we get big bucks.

This is a lawyer's dream. Thousands of innocent people will get a large payment of taxpayer money because the

transportation of this deadly radioactive waste will devalue and endanger their property. Mr. Speaker, let me explain.

Recently the New Mexico State Supreme Court ruled that Mr. John Komis of Santa Fe will be awarded more than \$884,000 in damages resulting from the devaluation of his property simply due to the transportation of nuclear waste past his property.

If H.R. 45 were to pass, almost 80,000 tons of nuclear garbage will be shipped across our Nation's highways, destroying property values across this country like a string of dominos falling in its path, and who will pay for this devaluation of private property? The American taxpayer will foot the bill to support a radical, extremely costly policy mandated by H.R. 45.

Mr. Speaker, this is a risk America cannot afford.

**STRENGTHENING RETIREMENT SECURITY FOR MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES INTO THE 21ST CENTURY**

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, the Republicans have failed to make a commitment to use any of the Federal surplus to shore up the Medicare Trust Fund.

Medicare, as we know, is projected to become insolvent in 2008.

Democrats call for strengthening and improving Medicare by locking in 15 percent of the projected budget surplus over the next 15 years in the Medicare trust fund. Democrats would add at least a decade to the life of the Medicare Trust Fund while we work to enact long-term reforms to extend the life of the plan. Republicans, on the other hand, are pursuing broad-based tax cuts instead of saving Medicare, and they want short-term giveaways instead of long-term investments in the future.

The Democrats have the only plan that extends the life span of both Social Security and Medicare and strengthens retirement security for middle class families well into the 21st century.

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S WOMEN'S PARK**

(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. Madam Speaker, I would like to tell my colleagues and the visitors here today about a very special place in south Florida, the Women's Park. This is the very first park of its kind anywhere in the entire country that is devoted solely to the contributions that women have made to our community, our history, to our society and our lives. It is hoped that the many achievements made by women will be recognized throughout the entire year and not just now during the month of March, which is designated as Women's History Month. When the Women's Park opened in Miami in 1992, it was dedicated to all the women of the community in recognition of their diverse contributions to our quality of life.

Madam Speaker, I hope that the Women's Park in Miami will serve as an inspiration to celebrate the many achievements of women throughout our country, and if any of my congressional colleagues would like to start such a women's park in their communities, I will be glad to work with them so we can all celebrate the many achievements of women.

**URGING SPEAKER NOT TO ALLOW VOTE ON TROOPS IN KOSOVO TODAY**

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, the House of Representatives has become like a scene from Alice in Wonderland. Yesterday in the Committee on Ways and Means we were asked to bring out a bill by the Speaker with a recommendation that it do not pass because the Speaker wants it brought to the floor but does not intend to vote for it. Today, even more amazingly, we have a foreign policy issue where the President of the United States and the Secretary of State have asked that it not be voted on now while the peace negotiations in Kosovo are proceeding. Yet the Speaker brings it to the floor intending not to vote for it, and he is third in succession in the United States Government. It is the President, the Vice President and the Speaker of the House; the third most important man in the country is running foreign policy here while we are putting at risk our soldiers in Kosovo.

Now I ask you, Mr. Speaker, do not bring this issue to a vote today. It is irresponsible, it should not be done, it puts our soldiers at risk, and those of

□ 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.