

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, April 15, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m.

Reverend Dr. Rodney H. Travis, First Baptist Church, Ellisville, Missouri, offered the following prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts in gratitude to You for our great Nation. We thank You for the stirring history of our people, for our achievements of the past, and for our great leaders who have given so much for our freedom today.

Guide our Nation in the way of truth and peace and let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream. Help us to always remember that blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord.

We ask Your blessing and guidance upon the men and women of Congress, that they be filled with the love of truth and righteousness and that You would direct their deliberation and legislation.

In Jesus' 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. HOLT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HOLT 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 without amendment concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H. Con. Res. 44. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the 18th annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

H. Con. Res. 47. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

H. Con. Res. 50. Concurrent resolution authorizing the 1999 District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run to be run through the Capitol Grounds.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Senate

Resolution 105, adopted April 13, 1989, as amended by Public Law 105-275, and further amended by Senate Resolution 75, adopted March 25, 1999, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the following Senators to serve as members of the Senate National Security Working Group—

the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), Minority Administrative Co-Chairman;

the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), Minority Co-Chairman;

the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), Minority Co-Chairman;

the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY);

the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY);

the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN);

the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES);

the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY); and

the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN).

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

the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG);

the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM);

the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD); and

the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD).

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 105-244, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), to serve as a member of the Web-Based Education Commission, vice Dr. Richard J. Gowen, of South Dakota.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 3(b) of Public Law 105-341, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to the Women's Progress Commemoration Commission—

Elaine L. Chao, of Kentucky;  
Amy M. Holmes, of Washington, D.C.; and

Patricia C. Lamar, of Mississippi.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Executive

Order No. 12131, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, appoints the following Senators as members of the President's Export Council: the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS); the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT); and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI).

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order No. 12131, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President and upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, appoints the following Senators as members of the President's Export Council: the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS); and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON).

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minutes per side.

Will the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) kindly assume the Chair.

### THE POWER TO TAX IS THE POWER TO DESTROY

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, it was 180 years ago that Daniel Webster said in the case of *McCullough v. Maryland* that the power to tax is the power to destroy. Well, today this Federal Government has been destroying working families all across America with excess taxation.

I rise today to support H.J. Res. 37, the Tax Limitation Amendment, that will put a leash on this Federal Government by requiring a two-thirds majority vote in both Houses to raise taxes.

In 1994, as a private citizen, I led an effort to amend our own State constitution with very similar language. I am proud to say that Nevada voters in two consecutive elections overwhelmingly passed that measure, and it has become a Nevada law. By passing this law, the citizens in Nevada declared in a loud and clear voice that they want to put a leash on the way government spending and burdensome taxes are increased.

States whose governments have similarly imposed a supermajority requirement for tax increases experience greater economic growth, lower taxes and a reduced growth in government

□ 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.

spending. The Federal Government needs to put this same fat-free diet into existence by making it more difficult to raise taxes on America's hard-working men and women.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE JONESBORO SUN

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

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the staff and the publisher, Mr. John Trout, at the Jonesboro Sun. It has been an outstanding newspaper in the First Congressional District of Arkansas.

The Jonesboro Sun was recognized yesterday as one of two finalists in the Breaking News Reporting category in the 83rd annual Pulitzer Prizes in Journalism, Letters, Drama and Music.

The Sun was the only small newspaper selected as a finalist in the 1998 competition. Last March, the Sun showed us how a quality news team can work together and do a great job by covering the tragic shooting at Westside Middle School. It was a breaking story and the staff at the Sun was on the scene to cover it accurately and honestly. They worked long, hard hours on a story that hit all of us in Jonesboro and around the country.

I stand here today to commend the Sun, its staff and its publisher, and their dedication to northeast Arkansas and to quality journalism. They are what newspapers should be about.

#### PRESERVING STILTSVILLE, A COMMUNITY OF HOMES IN THE PRISTINE WATERS OF BISCAYNE BAY

(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, Miami maintains its ties to our rich cultural and architectural history through the preservation of historical sites, and one of these is Stiltsville, a community of homes located in the pristine waters of Biscayne Bay.

These seven wood frame homes have provided a source of pride and enjoyment for locals and visitors alike, but Stiltsville is facing the possibility of demolition as early as July of this year.

A group of dedicated organizations throughout the south Florida area have come together in an effort to save this historic architectural wonder and to allow future generations to be able to enjoy this unique feature of our area's history. Our goal is twofold, to obtain a declaration for Stiltsville as a national historic site and to stop its pending demolition.

Stiltsville is unique in its cultural and historical significance for our area

and, were it to be demolished, a structure with such rich design could never be replicated. We need to do what we can to save this piece of our precious south Florida history.

#### TAX DAY

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

Mr. FARR of California. Madam Speaker, today is tax day. Everybody knows how much they pay in taxes, but let us not forget that we also have this great country which has great public institutions, a great system of highways, parks and museums. Essentially, the public infrastructure that is paid by these taxes is second to none.

We are also a country of private property, and today we think about homeownership. Why? Because in our taxes we are allowed to deduct homeownership. We need to do a better job, though, with homeownership in America. We have 67 percent of Americans now owning homes, but those in the audience who are between the ages of 25 and 29 have to improve that. There is no better way to improve it than to be able to deduct the home mortgage from our taxes.

So I urge my colleagues to support the resolution of the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA), which will be introduced today, so that we can continue to preserve mortgage interest deductions in our taxes.

#### MORE MONEY DOWN THE RUSSIAN SINKHOLE

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, last year the Russians begged the International Monetary Fund and our Nation for further assistance. We provided up to \$4.8 billion that was supposed to go to economic stabilization, but most of the \$4.8 billion disappeared into the secret bank accounts of corrupt Russian officials who control Russia.

Robert Novak writes in this week's newspaper, "The monetary support for the country's currency allowed members of the Russian power structure to convert personal holdings into dollars. In that way, a substantial amount of the IMF funds ended up in numbered Swiss bank accounts."

Now the Russians are begging for another \$5 billion of U.S. taxpayer-backed loans and the Clinton administration is holding out the IMF carrot for Russia's help in dealing with Serbia.

U.S. taxpayers' money should never be risked in these foreign loan misadventures that go directly into the pockets of the most corrupt.

#### IT IS TIME TO ABOLISH OUR TAX CODE AND THROW THE IRS OUT WITH IT

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, our Tax Code penalizes achievement and rewards dependence. It subsidizes illegitimacy. It kills investment. It kills jobs. It destroys our exports and sales and subsidizes our imports.

Beam me up, Madam Speaker. In a nutshell, our Tax Code sucks. It is time to abolish it and throw the IRS out with it and give serious consideration to a national retail sales tax. It is time to tell the IRS, tax this.

I yield back the \$850 charge of compliance for every man, woman and child in America for this complex Tax Code we have in place.

#### THE BOMBING IN SERBIA MUST STOP

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

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, the bombing in Serbia must stop immediately. Serbia has never aggressed against the United States. Serbia is involved in a bloody civil war of which we should have no part, and have not declared war, as the Constitution requires. That makes this war both immoral and illegal.

Not only has the bombing done no good, it has made the situation much worse and the world more dangerous. Serb troops are not dying; American troops are not dying, but innocent civilians are being killed by the hundreds on both sides.

There are just too many uncanny accidents. The refugee problem, which was minimal before the bombing, is now catastrophic as a result. Congress should not fund this war and if we do, we have become an accomplice and morally responsible for the killing and the spread of this conflict that will surely occur if this bombing is not stopped.

#### MAKING EDUCATION A PRIORITY

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

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, over the past 2 weeks I had the opportunity to hold a series of town meetings in my district in central New Jersey. Everywhere I went I heard the same message, from parents, from teachers, from students. We need to invest in education.

In Plainsboro, educators talked to me about the importance of having teachers who are well trained in academic subjects like science and math.