

PRAYER

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

As individuals we know how satisfying it is to affirm that You, O God, are the personal God who cares about our own needs and petitions. We know, too, how easily we can try to make Your nature so it fits with our own personal background or with our own particular Nation or with our own private interest. Yet, at our best moments we celebrate that You are God of all creation, that You are the judge of every people and Nation, and You have forgiveness and mercy available to every person. Help us, gracious God, to lift our vision of Your presence in our lives and of Your place and power in the universe so we see You as the creator and redeemer of all who seek Your grace. In Your name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RAHALL 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.

TAKES ONE-THIRD OF THE YEAR TO PICK UP THE TAB FOR OUR BLOATED GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY

(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, Katherin Whitehorn once said, "The easiest way for our children to learn about money is for you to have none." Well, if Katherin Whitehorn is right, then the first 130 days of this year America's children have earned their doctorate on money because during this time every penny earned by the hard-working men and women of this Nation has been taken away by local, State and Federal Government taxation. It did not go to pay for kids' education, it did not go to pay for the home mortgage, and it did not go to pay medical expenses. Instead, it all went to expanding government bureaucracies.

Mr. Speaker, fully one-third of this year's effort of these hard-working

Americans was spent just to pick up the tab of this bloated government bureaucracy. Decades of unchecked growth and deficit spending by the tax and spenders has left hard-working men and women of this country with this crushing tax burden.

The vast majority of Americans do not object to paying their fair share of taxes, but they do object to the suffocating level of taxation that exists today.

Mr. Speaker, for our children's sake let us allow hard-working families to keep more of their money, not less. I urge all of my colleagues to support meaningful tax reform this year.

OUR NUMBER ONE SECURITY THREAT

(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, China has accused America of deliberately bombing their embassy in Yugoslavia. That is unbelievable, and experts cannot believe this. I am not surprised. In fact, China has always considered America as their arch enemy.

Let us tell it like it is today:

The bombing of the Chinese embassy was an honest mistake. The Chinese fallout is no mistake. The reality is evident and clear. The number one security threat facing the American people is China. I might add it has been financed with American dollars.

I yield back all the missiles pointed at the United States of America, Mr. Speaker. Beam me up.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MUST NOT BE TOLERATED

(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, May is Victims of Pornography Month. Today I want to mention an outrage:

The American Psychological Association recently published a study suggesting that sexual relationships between adults and children are less harmful than believed and might actually be positive for "willing" children. My colleagues heard correctly.

The authors of this study attacked the term "child sexual abuse" in favor of the term "adult-child sex." They conclude that child sexual abuse is not wrong unless the adult sexual encounter is unwanted by the child.

May I suggest that this outrageous junk science, as Dr. Laura Schlessinger calls it, is very offensive? All of us who are parents should be offended by this effort to normalize child sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse does result in long-term psychological harm, and it must not be tolerated.

Shame on the American Psychological Association for giving a forum for such dangerous and unprofessional propaganda for pedophilia.

THERE WILL NEVER BE A BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO CUT TAXES

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Tax Freedom Day and to reiterate my call for lower taxes.

According to the nonpartisan Tax Foundation, the average American will have to work 131 days or until May 11; that is, today, just to pay his or her taxes.

This graph says it all.

I believe it is outrageous. Clearly the time has come for Congress and the President to cut taxes so the American people can keep more of their hard-earned money.

Taxes are at an historic high, higher than World War II. With a strong economy and the Federal Government running a surplus, there will never be a better time than today to cut taxes.

This year's budget calls for 800 billion in reduction in Federal taxes over the next 10 years. This much-needed tax cut will strengthen working families and keep our economy moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to work together this year to ensure that the American people receive the tax relief they deserve and not this.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY RESOLUTION

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, on May 15, peace officers from around the country will travel to Washington for a day of commemoration and honor for fellow officers slain in the line of duty. The National Peace Officers Memorial Day serves as a solemn reminder of the sacrifice and commitment to safety that these men and women make on our behalf. I am joined by over 130 of my colleagues as I introduce today a resolution that expresses the gratitude of the House of Representatives for the work these officers perform.

There are currently more than 700,000 men and women who place their lives at risk every day as they serve as the guardians of law and order. Every year approximately 1 in 9 officers is assaulted, 1 in 25 officers is injured, and 1 in 4,400 officers is killed in the line of duty. Last year 158 officers were killed in the line of duty, and about 60,000 were injured.

While the crime of murder has been reduced on the national level, the murder rate of peace officers has tragically risen.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will join me in expressing our appreciation to all peace officers in paying tribute to those slain in line of duty and to their surviving families.

PROSTATE CANCER WAKE-UP CALL

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

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, in 1999 over 179,000 men in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. Everyone has a story. One of the most heartwarming stories is that of New York Yankee skipper Joe Torre. While the latest news reports that Joe Torre's surgery has successfully removed the cancer from his body and he will be back on the job soon, news of his condition should serve as a wake-up call for all middle aged men.

In 1999, Mr. Speaker, an estimated 37,000 men will die from prostate cancer. The good news is that this type of cancer is easily treatable if it is found in the early stages, as it was with Torre. A routine physical examination provided to all the Yankees led to the diagnosis. The Yankees are not only champions on the field where America's pastime is played, the organization is also a champion off the field, whereas in the case of appropriate preventive care timely action saves lives.

Another well-deserved salute to George Steinbrenner and the Yankees management.

In Congress, Mr. Speaker, we must continue to support funding for ongoing research into the cause and cures of prostate cancer. I join all Yankee fans everywhere, and there is no bigger fan than me, in wishing Joe Torre a speedy recovery. He is a glowing example of how we can beat cancer.

A TAX SYSTEM THAT REWARDS HARD WORK AND SACRIFICE

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

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, each year working moms and dads face more and more stress over paying their tax bill. This year the average taxpayer must give up nearly 5 months of paychecks just to pay their share of local, State and federal taxes. Those of us in the majority believe our constituents should keep more of their hard earned money. We know that they are spending more hours at work and less time at home. That is why we are going to eliminate our burdensome Tax Code and replace it with a new tax system that rewards work and sacrifice, a tax

system that makes dreams of a new home, a secure retirement or a better life for their children a reality. They should be able to spend their paycheck before Washington does.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we are working to make sure every day is Tax Freedom Day, where one can wake up knowing that there is more money in their pocket and more freedom to pursue their dreams.

FREEWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY A FLY

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, the Endangered Species Act passed in 1973 was well-intentioned legislation. But the Fish and Wildlife Service, especially in California, is working outside of the ESA and undermining the original intent.

The Galena Interchange is a freeway construction project in my district that is being held hostage by the Delhi Sands flower-loving fly. The Galena Interchange is not an expansive new highway program. We are not talking about building a new six-lane highway. It is a simple project connecting Interstate 15 to Galena Street, and it has received \$20 million in Federal, State and local funds last year to correct the commuters' nightmare.

After plans have been designed and the funds allocated, Fish and Wildlife claims that the county needs to establish a preserve for the Delhi Sands flower-loving fly and wants as many as 200 acres of the Inland Empire's priciest industrial lands for habitat mitigation. Two hundred acres could cost as much as \$32 million, 32 million for a \$20 million project. On top of all this, not one fly has been found in this area. Apparently the Branch Chief of the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office heard the buzz of the fly but did not see it and now wants \$32 million.

We need common sense reform. Support this legislation.

CONGRATULATING ST. PATRICK HOSPITAL IN MISSOULA, MONTANA

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

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the National Hospital Week, a time when we pay tribute to our Nation's hospitals and health systems and the workers and the volunteers and the other health professionals who are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a week, curing and caring for their neighbors, the folks who need them. An example of this dedication is St. Patrick Hos-

pital in Missoula, Montana. I want to commend St. Patrick Hospital for receiving the American Hospital Association's 1999 NOVA award.

NOVA awards spotlight innovative community partnerships that respond to community needs. St. Patrick Hospital is the 1999 NOVA award winner for giving people a sense of hope that their lives will improve and be more secure, and that is exactly what the residents in the low-income neighborhoods served by St. Patrick needed. The hospital formed the Healthy Neighborhood Project. Healthy neighborhoods offer a down payment assistance for first-time home buyers and supports a tool lending library. It is also helping to build a new playground and sponsors a summer reading program at the local elementary school.

I am very proud to recognize St. Patrick for its achievements. It is a stellar example of a hospital that is making a difference in its community.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PROVIDE TAX RELIEF FOR WORKING FAMILIES

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

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an advocate for the taxpayers of northeastern Wisconsin. See, today, as my colleagues have already heard, is the day when Americans finally stop working for the Federal Government and start working for their own families. The average American works 131 days just to pay his or her taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I am sad to report that this year Tax Freedom Day is the latest ever.

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As a matter of fact, Tax Freedom Day has moved back 11 days since 1993. This is unacceptable, and I believe it is time for this Congress to act.

One of my constituents, Jane Savides of Appleton, recently wrote me about the excessive burden of taxes on her family. Jane writes, quote, we just put our taxes in the mail today, and as usual we owe the government more money. We all have to put food on the table, buy clothes and save for college. We have been putting more money away for our kids' education, but the more we save for them the more we get hit with taxes.

I could not agree with Jane more. I appeal to my colleagues, now is the time to provide real tax relief to families like the Savides family. It is time to give all of our constituents true freedom, the freedom to earn more money.

TAX FREEDOM DAY 1980-1999

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House