

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning hour debates, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 25 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: O Shepherd and Guardian of our souls, we have returned to You.

At times we do not realize how we have distanced ourselves from You. Not always attentive to Your voice, we tend to wander on our own.

Then, by Your grace, You bring us back.

When a sense of alienation shadows our soul, we find our differences difficult to bear and move away from each other.

Help us to overcome our hesitancy to accept diversity.

Bringing us to a deeper level of awareness by Your Spirit, make us one Nation.

Give us listening hearts, willing to give each other time and attention and ready to respond to Your Spirit living in one another now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. TRAFICANT 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.

MOROCCAN GIFTS

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, Mrs. Clinton has decided that she wants New York to be her new home. Of

course, if New York decides this fall that the feeling is not mutual, she may decide to move somewhere else.

She certainly has no lack of friends in other places. Just this weekend she was in Annapolis, Maryland, raising money from the rich and famous. And we are pretty sure she still has some friends back home in Arkansas.

But it seems that some of her very best friends are from more exotic places. Last year she returned from the country of Morocco with \$52,000 in gifts from Moroccan leaders.

One of the presents she received was a \$20,000 purse. That is one heck of a purse. It has gold overlay, 64 diamonds, and 11 garnets.

I suppose, to be fair, we should point out that her husband was held in such high regard by the Nicaraguans that he came home with a \$650 humidor for his cigars to be put in.

With friends like these, who needs the Senate?

But it must be lonely at the top.

TAX CODE MUST GO

(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, the Tax Code must go.

Our labor, our savings, our investments all taxed. Our boat, our goat, our vote all taxed. Our sweat, our thrift, our future all taxed.

Beam me up.

Tax this.

It is time to replace the socialist Income Tax Code in America with a simple flat 15 percent sales tax.

No more forms, no more lawyers, no more accountants, no more IRS and, once again, Congress will restore liberty, true liberty, in America.

I yield back with the slogan "the Tax Code must go."

U.S. SHOULD NOT BECOME
WORLD'S POLICEMAN

(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, as a former Air Force pilot and veteran, I have a special sensitivity and permanent appreciation for the needs and concerns of our Nation's military.

It seems obvious to me and to the men and women who serve in our military forces that I have spoken with that the Clinton-Gore administration has put our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines in danger by continually asking the military to do more and more with less and less.

Over the past 8 years, President Clinton has requested drastic cuts in military spending and yet continues to send our troops all over the world.

As Commander in Chief, President Clinton has deployed U.S. forces 34 times, while cutting troop strength by 40 percent.

During the previous 40 years throughout the Cold War and prior to the Clinton administration, our military forces were only deployed 10 times.

Madam Speaker, our military should not become the world's policeman.

I am proud that this Republican Congress realizes the importance of maintaining a strong national defense and that our military serves the United States first and the rest of the world second.

"PORKER OF THE WEEK" AWARD

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, it appears that this time the Federal Government is the one that is due a substantial refund. Auditors within the Federal Emergency Management Agency have found \$442 million in emergency funds that should be returned by States that did not need or abused these emergency dollars.

As my colleagues know, FEMA is often called upon to provide emergency aid to States in cases of natural disaster. However, the agency is starting to be viewed as a Federal insurance company which hands out free money to repair and to renovate.

In one case, the New Orleans sheriff's office has kept \$56,000 it received for flood clean-up work that was performed free by prisoners.

California is holding on to \$1.4 million it received to fight a wildfire that was recovered from a negligent party. And Georgia used \$15 million in emergency payments to not only repair flood damage but to also upgrade a facility.

FEMA funds are taxpayer funds. They are not part of a slush fund for States to tap into for whatever they want. The guilty State governments get my "Porker of the Week" Award.

106TH CONGRESS HAS AGENDA
FOR SUCCESS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, nothing we do here in Congress can be accomplished alone. Today I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have worked to make the 106th Congress' record one of accomplishment and not of partisan gridlock.

This Congress has passed some of the most solid education reform ever brought before this body, measures that will give parents and teachers more flexibility to meet students' unique needs.

But that is not all. We have also worked tirelessly to pay off our national public debt, which is saddling

children born this year with a \$13,300 debt burden.

Our debt relief measure also saves the average household an estimated \$4,000 in interest payments over the next 10 years.

Think of what American families can do with that \$4,000 in additional income.

The 106th Congress has an agenda for success, and I am proud to be part of it.

REPUBLICAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, since 1995, Republicans have worked to change the very essence of government to make it an example of common sense, not nonsense.

While it is impossible to change 40 years of big government overnight, we are making significant progress.

This year alone, House Republicans passed a Medicare lockbox bill, a sequel to last year's successful Social Security lockbox measure, which protected Social Security surpluses from being spent on anything but Social Security or debt reduction.

We have also passed a prescription drug measure that makes prescription drugs affordable and available to the 30 percent of Medicare beneficiaries who currently cannot afford the prescription drugs they need.

We have also passed the IDEA Full Funding Act, legislation to help handicapped children get the best education possible.

These measures bring much-needed fairness to the Federal Government, and Republicans will continue to work to make legislation like this a priority for Congress.

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, the Census Bureau is proving that it is another arrogant Federal agency with a power-mad, public-be-damned attitude.

Despite the huge public outcry against the personal, intrusive questions on the Census long form, the Bureau wants to keep prying with the same or similar personal questions on the form called the American Community Survey to be sent to 250,000 homes each month.

The lame defense of questions on the long form was that these questions had been approved by Congress and that they had been asked before.

Well, Congress never had a vote on the specific questions and no Member saw those questions beforehand except possibly a few on the Subcommittee on the Census.

Also, if these nosy, personal questions were asked in the past, it was before the Federal Government got as big and out of control as it is today and before the age of the Internet.

I guess with the computer-controlled society we have today, true privacy is a thing of the past. But the Congress should offer at least a little resistance and not allow the Census Bureau to keep butting its nose into areas that should be none of our Federal Big Brother's business.

106TH CONGRESS HAS DONE NOTHING FOR AMERICANS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish I had good news, but this Republican Congress is about to recess for our work session in the district and we have no real Medicare prescription drug benefit for our seniors.

Medicare is down. HMOs are closing. Over a million seniors will be kicked off of the HMO+Choice program through the Medicare. And we cannot give them a Medicare drug prescription benefit. We have no Patients' Bill of Rights, which allows individuals not to suffer the drive-by refusal of service in our hospitals.

We have no housing for individuals who work but cannot afford the large payments of high-priced condominiums, and the housing appropriations was cut.

We have no legislation to repair the crumbling schools throughout our Nation because we could not pass a school construction bill that would lend dollars to local communities to help them build new schools for our children.

And, yes, as we start another school year, we did not have the courage to pass real gun safety legislation that would close the loopholes that keep guns out of the hands of children.

All I can say is a bunch of nos. What have we done? Nothing for Americans.

"LA FE" CLINIC, EL PASO, TEXAS

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

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, this morning I would like to take a moment to recognize a community health clinic in my district that has recently received national recognition.

The clinic is called Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe, or, as we call it in El Paso, "La Fe" Clinic. It was named as the best clinic in the Nation by one of the largest Hispanic advocacy groups in the United States, the National Concilio de la Raza.

I am very proud of the work that La Fe Clinic is doing in El Paso. It is truly a stellar facility that serves the needs of many local community residents.

I should add that many of these residents would have no other place to receive affordable health care if it were not for La Fe Clinic. This clinic has been at the center of this community for 34 years and continues to play an integral part in the health of El Paso's south side residents.

La Fe Clinic is truly a remarkable organization. In 1999, this clinic served almost 18,000 clients. This facility provides low-cost prescription medication to the elderly and to other patrons; provides pediatric care; provides dental care, even treating the dental needs of patients with AIDS; and assists in signing up children for the CHIPS program in Texas.

I would like to recognize the chief executive officer, Mr. Salvador Balcorta, and the staff of the La Fe Clinic for maintaining a vision and focus for the clinic many times against what seemed to be insurmountable odds.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on H.R. 4888 and H.R. 4923 will be taken after debate has concluded on those motions.

Record votes on remaining motions to suspend the rules will be taken later today.

□ 1015

VETERANS BENEFITS ACT OF 2000

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4850) to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in rates of compensation paid to veterans with service-connected disabilities, to enhance programs providing compensation and life insurance benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4850

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Benefits Act of 2000".

TITLE I—ANNUAL COMPENSATION INCREASE

SEC. 101. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, effective on December 1, 2000, increase the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary, as specified in subsection (b).