

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, September 7, 2000**

The House met at 10 a.m.

Chaplain James T. Akers, Kansas American Legion, Madison, Kansas, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, Giver of Peace and Author of Truth, we acknowledge Your rule over our lives and the life of this Nation. We know You have plans for us and the power to make them happen. Give our representatives a vision of Your will for America today. Help us to always remember that we serve a great people and hold a sacred trust on their behalf. May we see that no Nation lives for itself alone, but is responsible to You for the well-being of Your creation. Now, let Your blessing rest upon this House, its leadership, its dedicated Members and staff, and of course this very great country. All this we pray in Your most gracious name. 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 California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California 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 has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 134. Concurrent resolution designating September 8, 2000, as Galveston Hurricane National Remembrance Day.

**ADMINISTRATION ATTACKS THE BOY SCOUTS**

(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, it never ceases to amaze me just how out of touch the Clinton-Gore administration

is with the problems, the real problems, facing this Nation.

For example, more than 5 million acres of beautiful forest lands have burned to a black ash due to years of mismanagement and neglect by this administration, and yet the Clinton-Gore administration has decided to focus its time, its energy, and the taxpayer dollars of every hardworking American on whether or not the Boy Scouts should be allowed to camp on public grounds.

That is right, Mr. Speaker. This administration has launched its latest politically motivated attack against one of our Nation's most respected institutions, the Boy Scouts of America. Everyone knows that the Boy Scouts have done more for this country than the Clinton-Gore administration and the Boy Scouts are out educating young adults in character, responsibility and citizenship, three qualities that have not often been used to describe this administration.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that the Clinton-Gore administration stop attacking every group that is making our Nation great and instead start focusing on the problems of this Nation.

**AIDS SPENDING IN D.C. APPROPRIATIONS**

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, as we consider the D.C. appropriations bill, let us not forget our ongoing battle with one of the deadliest diseases affecting more than 40 million persons worldwide: AIDS.

In our Nation alone the number of new cases each year remains at 40,000, making this a leading cause of death. We have an obligation to act. We have seen substantial increases in Federal funding for research, education and treatment. The Congressional Black Caucus, working with the White House, secured \$251 million in funds for programs in minority communities. Government-wide AIDS spending is estimated at \$10 billion in fiscal year 2000.

Progress has been made, but we must do more. Current research has determined that needle exchange programs, which I support, help curtail infection rates by more than 10 percent. This deadly infectious disease cannot be allowed to spread unchecked. Vote against amendments to the D.C. bill that threaten this principle.

**EYE DEGENERATIVE DISEASES**

(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, Isaac, Daria, and Ilana Lidsky, young constituents from my congressional district, are three of the approximately 6 million people who have retinal degenerative diseases. Along with their parents, Betti and Carlos, the Lidsky family works tirelessly to raise research funds for eye degenerative diseases. This Saturday, along with the Lidskys will hold their annual dinner which has helped make possible unprecedented medical advances.

In a groundbreaking study, supported by the Foundation Fighting Blindness, scientists amazingly restored vision in a mouse using oral doses of a chemical compound derived from vitamin A. This miracle offers evidence that researchers will soon be able to develop similar cures for patients with retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration, and other retinal degenerative diseases which may lead to blindness.

Now more than ever, in an effort to make these treatments available, we need to support funding for the National Eye Institute so that our Nation's researchers will have the resources needed to make sight-debilitating diseases extinct.

Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, CBS's "60 Minutes" will highlight the Lidskys' uplifting story, and I urge my colleagues to tune in and learn what each of us can do in order to help realize a cure soon.

**RUSSIAN-BUILT MISSILES POINTED AT U.S.**

(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, Russian President Putin told the United Nations that America does not need the Star Wars program.

Think about it. This Rusky wants it both ways. First, he builds missiles with billions of dollars of foreign aid from Uncle Sam; takes our money, builds the missiles; and if that is not enough to bust my colleagues' rubles, he then sells these missiles to our enemies who then point them at us.

I say here on the House floor that this guy, Putin, is not only drinking too much vodka, he is smoking dope. I say it is time to protect America from

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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