

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, March 2, 2000

The House met at 10 a.m.

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

Let us pray using the words of Psalm 84:

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. 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 Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS 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 without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3557. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, in recognition of his accomplishments as a priest, a chaplain, and a humanitarian.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 935. An act to authorize research to promote the conversion of biomass into biobased industrial products, and for other purposes.

THE IRS IS A MESS

(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, some recent disturbing news. Earlier this week, the General Accounting Office reported that the IRS, the Internal Revenue Service, America's tax collecting agency, does not know how much money it is collecting or, worse yet, where the money is going.

The GAO audit showed that the IRS frequently gives improper refunds and fails to promptly correct its own errors, costing the American taxpayers several billions of dollars every year.

Mr. Speaker, if the IRS cannot keep track of its property, income, or budget, how can the American taxpayer feel confident that they are not getting ripped off?

Even more disturbing, Mr. Speaker, is that the IRS is vulnerable to serious computer security problems, placing the financial and secure information of every American taxpayer in jeopardy.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that the IRS clean up its act. The American taxpayer is required to be diligent in paying its taxes. The IRS must be diligent in its duty to the American people, or we should get rid of it.

I yield back the unbelievable sloppy practices of our Nation's tax collector.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AMERICANS DESERVE A BETTER PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY CONTEST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, we are engaged right now in a Presidential primary contest on both the Republican and the Democratic side, and charges have been thrown back and forth, but I think America deserves better than this.

I know in Robert Kennedy's campaign in 1968, we got better than this; and in Ronald Reagan's campaign in 1980 we also got better than this. They seemed to have appealed to the better angels in all of us.

Unfortunately, today in Washington a man by the name of Al Sharpton is meeting with the Clinton administra-

tion and several Democratic Members of Congress. These Democratic Members of Congress continue to be in a close alliance with Mr. Sharpton, and there continues to be a close alliance between Mr. Sharpton and the Democratic Party, especially in New York City.

Unfortunately, Mr. Sharpton is a man and a political figure who has been described by most media outlets as a racist and a bigot. Sadly, Mr. Sharpton's record has been deplorable, as have those Democrats who continue to embrace him and his views.

The Wall Street Journal wrote on February 29 of this year, "Mr. GORE and Mr. Bradley are willfully blind to Mr. Sharpton's form of racism." In fact, last night on CNN, Jeff Greenfield asked both Democratic candidates whether they were willing to distance themselves from Mr. Sharpton. Both of them continued to legitimize his presence in the New York primary; and Mr. GORE actually justified visiting him, after telling reporters he was only going to New York to visit his sister.

The Calgary Herald wrote in 1999, "Mr. Sharpton has been linked to the Nation of Islam, the radical, anti-Semitic black organization that is led by Louis Farrakhan." And in 1995, at what is called the Freddy's Fashion Mart Boycott, the Wall Street Journal quoted Mr. Sharpton and said, "Sharpton turned a landlord-tenant dispute between the Jewish owner of Freddy's clothing store and a black subtenant into, 'a theater of hatred' in Harlem, marching outside the store screaming about 'bloodsucking Jews' and 'Jew bastards.'" That was the Wall Street Journal, 2/29.

The Weekly Standard wrote on 2/28 of this year, "Sharpton juiced up the crowds about 'white interlopers' and 'diamond merchants.'"

The Wall Street Journal on February 29 of this year said, "One protester, Roland Smith, ran into the store, shot and wounded three whites and a Pakistani. Then he set a fire killing five Hispanics and one African American security guard, taunted by the protesters as a 'cracker lover.' Smith then fatally shot himself."

Unfortunately, most Americans, including those Democrats that now race to embrace Mr. Sharpton and his brand of politics, remember in 1988 the Tawana Brawley Hoax. The Washington Post wrote in 1998, "Sharpton and others falsely accused a former assistant DA of attacking and raping 15-year-old Brawley."

☐ 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.