

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, March 16, 2000

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Right Reverend M. Thomas Shaw, III, Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts, Boston, Massachusetts, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, You have given us another new day. Again, today You give us the opportunity to experience Your rich and dynamic creativity. Again, today You invite us into your compassion, Your justice, Your hope, and, most of all, Your deep and abiding peace.

You tell us, God, that we are co-creators with You. Replenish us with Your life-giving spirit this morning. Open us to Your renewing power that we might be makers of peace and hope and justice and compassion with You. Draw us into the deep places of Your heart where we find the wisdom and grace to share in Your creativity. Help us to be gracious and open to one another because we know that each of us brings a share of Your creative vision.

We ask this all in Your 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 New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HOUGHTON 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.

WELCOMING RIGHT REVEREND M. THOMAS SHAW III, TO U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, every so often somebody comes into our lives that has a tremendous impact on us. And this is the case of the man who just gave the invocation, Bishop Thomas Shaw.

He left his diocese, as the largest Episcopal diocese in this country, to come down and be with us for a month, not to preach, not to tell us things, but

to learn with us about this great democracy.

He has given us much, and the most important thing he has given us is his example. Everyone has words. We use a lot of words around here. His example has been extraordinary. And I only hope that the examples that he gives to us will be given to others in other parts of this country to be able to come down and understand this precious thing which we call a Republic.

So I thank Bishop Shaw for being with us.

LET US STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, when some extra change comes our way, put it somewhere safe for a rainy day. As old as this adage may seem, it is a life lesson that has escaped some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Our grandmothers who planted this concept in our ears while giving us a few extra dollars might now frown upon the careless proposals set forth by the GOP with respect to our budget surplus.

With the rainy days that many forecast, the budget surplus should be put in the safest places. The budget surplus should be put in Social Security for the rainy day FY 2023, where some predict the fund may face depletion. It should be placed in Medicare to protect us from the rainy day of rising costs in the area of cost care for our elderly. It should be used to begin wiping away the cloud of our national debt.

The grandparents who shared their wisdom are the same people who will benefit from our responsible actions. Let us follow the advice of those who know best. Let us strengthen Social Security and Medicare. Let us pay down the national debt. Let us use our budget surplus to safeguard against a coming rainy day.

COLOMBIA AID PACKAGE

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, let us face it, illegal drugs are killing our kids at an alarming rate. Every year we lose 52,000 young lives to drugs, nearly equal to the number of Americans killed in Vietnam over 10 years.

According to the U.S. drug czar, one of every two American kids will try il-

legal drugs by the time they reach the 12th grade; many will become habitual users, leading to a life of crime, or worse, death.

This is staggering. The cost of drug abuse to our society is estimated to be \$110 billion per year. Not to mention the cost of countless lives lost and dreams broken.

Each day that we put off consideration of the Colombia aid package, more of our kids will fall victim to the estimated 14 metric tons of heroin and 357 metric tons of cocaine which enters our country each year.

With our strong support, Colombia could be successful at slowing the flow of drugs from their country to ours. Failing to provide this important aid now may result in the loss of Colombia to the drug cartels and future generations of Americans to drug addiction.

I urge support for the Colombia aid package.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the story of Jim Rinaman and his daughter Julia. Her story is the sixth account in my series of 1-minutes of more than 10,000 children who have been abducted to foreign countries.

In 1996, Mr. Rinaman's ex-wife, Sylvia Breitbach, escorted her mother back to Germany and took Julia with her. Ten days later Jim was notified via fax that she would not be returning and that she was keeping his daughter in Germany.

He immediately filed a Hague petition. And at an initial hearing, Sylvia was ordered to return Julia. She appealed the decision and has gone on to delay further court proceedings.

Jim has been through the German court process three times and still has not gained custody of nor access to his child. He has no contact or had had no contact with Julia since her abduction.

Mr. Speaker, these 1-minutes are about families and reuniting children with their parents. They are just the first steps in what will be an ongoing dialogue with the American people, the foreign countries who have our children, and my colleagues to bring our children home.

HISTORICAL LEGACY OF RONALD AND NANCY REAGAN

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

☐ 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.