The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. Biggert).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC
I hereby appoint the Honorable Judy Biggert to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Coble) for 5 minutes.

LOS ALAMOS SECURITY PROBLEM

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, the Los Alamos security problem is not a trivial matter. An official familiar with the investigation was quoted last weekend as having said hopefully the drives never left the secured area; if we believe this version, we will then be convinced that Santa Claus is a viable entity. But that is not the case.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, in poll after poll, the American people have made it clear that the number one issue on their minds is education. Americans want to make sure their children are well prepared for tomorrow. Americans want to know that their education tax dollars are being spent on their children, not on bureaucrats or needless studies.

Why is it, then, that this administration's Education Department got a D-minus from Ernst and Young, a private auditing firm? If a private company had gotten that rating, the Securities and Exchange Commission would suspend their stock from trading.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, in poll after poll, the American people have made it clear that the number one issue on their minds is education.

With faith in You as the source of life and all true authority in Heaven and on earth, we dare to call You: "Abba," "Father." Shower upon us all Your loving care and understanding forgiveness.

In a special way we pray for all the Members of this House who are fathers. Bind their families in love. Protect them wherever they may be. Grant that peace and prosperity in this Nation may provide security to all who seek to be fathers in the future. Born of fathers, we give You thanks and praise for the life we have received by these men. All of us are Your children 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. Brown) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Mr. BROWN of Ohio led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:
I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-
lle for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE AT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

Mr. Pitts. Madam Speaker, in poll after poll, the American people have made it clear that the number one issue on their minds is education. Americans want to make sure their children are well prepared for tomorrow. Americans want to know that their education tax dollars are being spent on their children, not on bureaucracies or needless studies.

Why is it, then, that this administration's Education Department got a D-minus from Ernst and Young, a private auditing firm? If a private company had gotten that rating, the Securities and Exchange Commission would suspend their stock from trading.

Why is it that the Department of Education's own employees are bilking the Department and sticking the taxpayers with the tab?