

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, February 6, 2001

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 6, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN SHIMKUS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, You created each of us in Your own likeness. In the divine image You created us. Male and female You created us.

May we know our dignity by the very fact of our creation, our being, our very living this new day imaging You.

May we treat each other with the sacred honor that each is due. Seeing Your reflection in the eyes of the other, may we touch intelligence, imagination, internal powers and know eternal freedom.

Lord God, having come from You, living in You and destined for You, guide us in all we say and do this day, to sustain and further Your creation.

Teach this Congress and all people of this Nation how to seek the best ways to be Your instruments of a new creation; loving only what is good and seeking only what is true and lasting, 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 his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. PENCE 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.

REMEMBERING FOUNDING FATHERS WHO FOUGHT AGAINST SLAVERY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, on this day in history, February 6, 1865, 136 years ago, the 13th amendment went into effect, ending 246 years of slavery in America. Slavery was introduced into America in 1619 by the Dutch and subsequently encouraged in the Colonies by the British Crown. In fact, it was not until after the Declaration of Independence was signed that it became possible to abolish slavery, and half of the States promptly did it at that time.

Significantly, the major opposition to slavery in America was led by religious groups like the Quakers, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and Methodists, and was joined by many of the religious Founding Fathers, including signers of the Declaration like Benjamin Rush, John Witherspoon, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, and John Adams, as well as the signers of the Constitution like Rufus King, John Dickinson, James Wilson, and William Livingston.

While much attention today is often paid to Founding Fathers who owned slaves, nearly nothing is said of the many who opposed slavery. Therefore, it is worth remembering that the work of so many of our Founding Fathers to end slavery finally came to maturity when the 13th amendment was adopted, 136 years ago.

REMEMBERING ALAN CRANSTON

(Ms. HARMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, my first job offer on the Hill came from the late California Senator, Alan Cranston, who will be remembered at a memorial service this afternoon by generations of colleagues and staffers.

Though I never worked on Alan's staff, I relied on him for counsel and support for 3 decades. Alan was a mentor to me when I served in senior staff positions for Senator John Tunney. I always had the sense that Alan was looking out for John and me, and for California's interests.

We remained friends through the years and saw each other last at Stanford University only a few months ago.

Alan's counsel and continued focus on issues he cared passionately about, especially world peace, set the marker. He was always working. No doubt he was working until the moment he left us.

I was fortunate to know and learn from him. We were fortunate to have him as a congressional leader for 24 years.

RONALD REAGAN MEMORIAL ACT

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and very fitting that I am today introducing the Ronald Reagan Memorial Act as we celebrate this great man's 90th birthday. This bill establishes a Presidential memorial for one of the most influential men of the 20th century. As one of our most notable Presidents, Ronald Reagan initiated policies that helped win the Cold War, tamed the economic stagnation of the early eighties by cutting taxes and increasing funding for the national defense, and helped to restore the United States as the leader of the world front. In doing so, President Reagan helped restore the America people's faith in our system of government and capitalism and returned pride in being an American.

Specifically, this bill creates and then requires the Ronald Reagan Memorial Commission to cooperate with the Secretary of the Interior in the National Capital Memorial Commission to identify and then recommend to Congress an appropriate site for the construction of a memorial honoring former President Ronald Reagan.

This bill specifies that the memorial be situated in "Area 1" as identified in the Commemorative Works Act, and that is between the Lincoln Memorial and the United States Capitol building. The Ronald Reagan Memorial Commission would also select the memorial design and raise the necessary funds to complete the memorial.

Mr. Speaker, this bill honors a great American who deserves a national tribute in a place of prominence and recognition.

COZY DEALS BETWEEN NON-PROFIT MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND FOR-PROFIT COMPANIES

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House

☐ 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.

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Last week, Mr. Speaker, the Wall Street Journal reported on some cozy deals between nonprofit medical research institutes and for-profit companies. It works this way: a nonprofit institute wins millions in research dollars from the National Institutes of Health. The director of the institute also happens to own a for-profit company that has exclusive rights to the institute's research. The for-profit company turns that research into a marketable product and makes millions. Everyone is flush, except for American taxpayers.

Does this raise conflict-of-interest issues? You bet. Why is the Federal Government using our tax dollars to give for-profit companies a free ride? Good question.

Why do Americans pay the highest prescription drug prices in the world, when billions of U.S. tax dollars go into the development of these drugs? Because Congress is not doing its job.

The U.S. invests more than any other nation in medical research. The drug industry feeds off our tax dollars to develop outrageously profitable drugs, and then they "thank" American taxpayers by charging us the highest prices in the world.

It is a racket, and it must stop. Drug companies must compensate taxpayers fairly through lower prices or royalty payments for our front-end investment in their products.

TAX RELIEF NOW

(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, last month Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan echoed what this Republican-led Congress has supported for years, that we should pay down our national debt and grant Americans tax relief, instead of increasing the size of the Federal Government.

According to the Census Bureau, Mr. Speaker, the average household pays almost \$9,500 in Federal income taxes this year, and that is twice what the average family paid in 1985. But we do not only pay Federal income taxes, we pay taxes when we use the phone, buy clothing, pump gas, sell stock, sleep at a motel, ride on an airplane, get married, or even when we die.

It is time for hard-working Americans to get a break from all of these taxes. Now is the time. We can enact meaningful tax relief while still remaining fiscally responsible and paying off our national debt.

There is no excuse, Mr. Speaker, not to give the Americans what they want, what they need, and what they deserve, a tax break.

SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENT'S PRO-AMERICAN, PRO-WORKER, RETROACTIVE TAX CUT

(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, there are opponents trying to kill President Bush's tax cut. They say it is too big, it is not targeted. They say it is even retroactive.

Now, if that is not enough to glorify a 1040, they say they are upset because all Americans would get a tax cut.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. I support the pro-American, pro-worker, retroactive tax cut of President Bush.

Let me say this, Congress: there are not two or three United States of America, there is just one; one people, under God. And one tax cut that qualifies for all of America strengthens our Republic.

I yield back the fact that we have a Tax Code that would give Hulk Hogan a hernia.

AMERICA NEEDS TAX RELIEF NOW

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, while the Federal Government prepares to inhale a nearly \$5.7 trillion tax surplus over the next 10 years, I rise to speak on behalf of the families, small businesses and family farms of Indiana who face a much less promising future.

Despite the talk of boom times, Hoosier families in my district are faced with layoffs at major employers in Columbus and New Castle, Indiana; and many of the small businesses dependent on these companies are fearful as well.

This House of Representatives is the heart of the American Government; and as such, it should resonate with the hearts of the people.

Mr. Speaker, the people's hearts are anxious with increasingly disappointing news about our economy. All this while income tax rates measured as a percentage of the economy are at the highest level ever.

Mr. Speaker, our Congress must again be the Congress of economic recovery. President Reagan, whose birth we celebrate today, showed us the way to turn around this American economy, by cutting taxes for all taxpayers. In order for our country to recover economically, we must cut taxes big and cut taxes now.

ELIMINATE THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask an important fundamental issue of fairness that particularly affects the middle class, and that is the question, is it right, is it fair that, under our Tax Code, a married working couple, a couple with two incomes, pay higher taxes just because they are married? Is it right that 28 million married working couples pay on average \$1,400 more in higher taxes just because they are married, \$1,400 more than an identical couple that chooses to live together outside of marriage? That is wrong.

I was proud when this House and Senate last year sent H.R. 6, the Marriage Tax Elimination Act, to the White House to be signed into law. Unfortunately, President Clinton at that time vetoed our effort to eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

But we have an opportunity. President Bush has indicated during his campaign he would sign into law the Marriage Tax Elimination Act, a bipartisan effort to wipe out the marriage tax penalty.

Let us pursue this opportunity. As we work to provide broad-based, real fundamental tax relief for working families, let us remember middle class working couples, and let us eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

IT IS TIME FOR TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, every American who pays taxes deserves a tax cut. With consumer confidence starting to slump and the economy starting to slow down, the Congress and President needs to work in a bipartisan manner to pass meaningful tax relief for the American people. Cutting taxes is essential to strengthening our economy.

With President Bush, we have a greater opportunity to get tax relief to the American people. President Bush has a tax relief proposal that will cut taxes for every American who pays taxes. This proposal will spur economic growth in two ways: first, it will put more money in the wallets of the American people; second, it will take money off the table in Washington, making it more difficult for the government to grow out of control.

Mr. Speaker, we need to reduce marginal tax rates; we need to eliminate the death tax; we need to eliminate the marriage penalty; and we need to have a charitable tax deduction. A series of changes needs to be made in the Tax Code to make it more fair and simpler for all Americans.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.