

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, July 20, 2001

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, down through the ages You have taught us to seek Your kingdom. In our search we will not lose our way if we approach You with the free abandon of trust and the sheer delight of a child.

May pride not steel our hearts or arrogance distort our vision so that we would go after things far beyond us.

Rather, give peace to the soul of this Nation and the Members of this House. Free us from any restlessness in silence that we may listen more deeply to Your word in human hearts.

As a child takes rest in the wrapped arms of a parent, may our trust in You, Lord, be full-weighted and lasting.

O America, hope in the Lord both now and forever.

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 Texas (Mr. FROST) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FROST 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.

### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2216, 2001 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 204 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 204

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2216) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER. The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of the resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Yesterday, the Committee on Rules met and granted a normal conference report rule for H.R. 2216, the fiscal year 2001 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule also provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, this should not be a controversial rule. It is the type of rule that we grant for almost every conference report. Meanwhile, the underlying bill provides vital relief to our Nation's Armed Forces, and aid to areas that have been devastated by natural disasters. It does all this without busting the budget caps by designating pet projects as emergency spending.

I cannot remember the last time we passed an emergency supplemental bill through this House without resorting to the "emergency spending" gimmick that we use, and the administration deserves credit for holding the line on this one.

Our military needs our help. Without this bill and without the help from Congress, our Nation may fall short on its promise to provide adequate health care for our men and women in uniform. So today we provide more than \$1 billion for the defense health program.

At the same time, we are providing more than \$6 billion, largely to help our military maintain its facilities and its topnotch training and equipment, and we are helping the military deal with the energy crisis, they have a problem with that like the rest of us do, by providing \$735 million just to deal with rising energy costs in the daily routine they have.

We are not only taking care of the emergency needs of our military, though. Several communities in the Midwest have recently been devastated by floods and tornadoes, so we are giving the Army Corps of Engineers money to mitigate the damages from these natural disasters.

We are also helping low-income families deal with high heating costs by

adding money to the LIHEAP program. That is the program that helps them with their energy bills. And we are giving the IRS additional resources so they can mail out the tax rebate checks this summer. I know everybody is going to be glad to hear that.

I urge my colleagues to support this normal conference report rule, and to support the underlying bill. This legislation is a strong step forward as we work to care for our military personnel and to take care of all of those who are hurting at home.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in this bill, I think it is appropriate to paraphrase the promise of the President and the Vice President to our military and say that some help is on the way.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good conference agreement as far as it goes, since it provides \$5.6 billion for the urgent needs of our Armed Forces. But frankly, Mr. Speaker, the administration is remiss for not requesting even more funds early in its term so that the Congress might truly ensure that help is on the way.

I do have to take just a moment to point out that this conference agreement provides \$735 million to address the Pentagon's rising energy costs. This allocation is critical, but it also points to the fact that rising energy costs hit home all over the country, and can in fact endanger our national security.

That is true even here in Washington, D.C. It is so true that part of the help that is on the way in this bill is most likely going to the Vice President to help him pay his own rising energy bills at his residence.

This conference agreement contains a desperately needed additional \$300 million for LIHEAP for the remainder of the fiscal year to help those consumers who are facing power cutoffs because they have been unable to pay for soaring energy costs. I am very happy to support that additional funding, since I have cosponsored legislation to increase the funding available for this most valuable program.

But it seems strange to me that the Vice President, who has been telling Californians to bite the bullet when it comes to their own soaring energy electricity costs, has to go begging to the United States Navy to bail him out of his own \$186,000 electrical bill.

So some help is indeed on the way. It is on the way in the form of additional

☐ 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.