

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, October 24, 2001

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Eugene Roberson, First Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church, North Chicago, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

We come to thee for direction as You led Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We ask Your blessing on these outstanding leaders who have been given an awesome responsibility to lead this country to greater height and success.

We ask Your blessing as they make objective and powerful decisions that will affect this country and the lives of its citizens. We pray You will give them sight, insight, and foresight.

Give sight that they may look on issues, give them insight that they may look into issues, and foresight to look beyond issues.

Give them strength to rise above conflicts, principalities, against powers, and against the rulers of the darkness of this country so that progress will be achieved.

We pray that each Member of Congress will use their knowledge, skills and intestinal fortitude to do God's will for America.

We pray for peace and unity that this country will live out its true meaning of justice and freedom.

We pray for their going out and coming in and that You will make them the head and not the tail.

We thank You for all that they will achieve during this Congressional session.

In Jesus' 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.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FLAKE 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.

THE REVEREND EUGENE ROBERSON, FIRST CORINTHIAN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, NORTH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago I worshipped at North Chicago's First Corinthian Baptist Church and met Pastor Eugene Roberson. He is a leader.

Pastor Roberson is one of our spiritual leaders in northern Illinois. Under his hand, First Corinthian welcomed 800 new members and will dedicate a new sanctuary this Sunday.

He is a mentor to young people from Zion, Waukegan, and North Chicago. He is also a seventh grade physical education teacher at Central Junior High School in Zion, Illinois. In recognition of his community service, Pastor Roberson received the distinguished Harambee Award of Excellence from the College of Lake County.

Pastor Roberson, a man of integrity and committed to family, is fond of saying, "God is good all of the time, and all the time, God is good." With his wife, Geraldine Herron Roberson, they are proud parents of three, Kristian, LaTonya and Eugene II, who blessed the Robersons with four grandchildren.

We look to Pastor Roberson in this time of adversity. We are reassured under his expanding ministry, and it is my honor to thank him for leading the United States Congress in prayer today during our hours of trial. On behalf of Congress, I thank Pastor Roberson.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair announces there will be 15 1-minute speeches per side.

WE WILL NOT SUCCUMB TO THE THREAT OF ANTHRAX

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week the Speaker of the House decided, based on credible information and a significant threat, to shut down some of our office buildings. We thought we had coordinated with the other body. Lo and behold, all of a sudden headlines say wimp. The Speaker acted appropriately, concerned for the people who work here, and I would much prefer a headline saying "wimp" than "morons."

Somehow, somewhere the majority leader decided last week to be tough and be brave and stand up here and say we will not go home, we will work. I thank the Speaker and I thank our leadership for doing what was appropriate to protect the lives of hundreds of employees who work in this building each and every day.

Mr. Speaker, we will not succumb to the threat of anthrax. It struck my district. It struck our capital, but we will not relent.

Mr. bin Laden and other associates of your terror reign, your days are numbered. Your days are about over. We will not succumb to the fear because America remains united against the threat of terrorism, and we are united as people of this country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their comments to the Chair.

REVERSE ROBIN HOOD IS CONTINUING BY CONGRESS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, after the attacks, we rushed through \$16 billion for the airlines, and we were told there was not time to take care of the workers. Their time would come soon. We were promised maybe the next week or the week after we would help the workers. Well, soon is not here yet.

Today, a \$100 billion so-called economic stimulus package, and guess what, \$25 billion up front to repeal a loophole closing tax provision, \$25 billion for the largest corporations in

☐ 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.

America in a retroactive tax cut to 1986, paid for by FICA taxes, paid for by the working people of this country, coming out of the Social Security Trust Fund going straight to corporate coffers.

Mr. Speaker, guess what, they do not have to give a penny to the workers or provide assistance to the millions of Americans that have lost their jobs. This is in the form of a so-called economic stimulus. Reverse Robin Hood is continuing here on the floor under the guise of helping the American people and the economy.

This has to stop. Let us give workers help with their health insurance. Let us stop dumping money into the corporate coffers.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF NAN HERRING BURNSIDE

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I celebrate the life of Nan Herring Burnside, a constituent and fellow educator whose death on October 14 represented a great loss to all who knew her, particularly the many students whom she has helped and their grateful parents.

Upon graduation from the University of Miami, Nan became a teacher in the Miami area, and she remained there for the next 35 years. She was a co-principal at Bay Point School, an alternative educational and rehabilitation center focusing on behavior management for troubled youths.

She was a devoted Christian, and an active member of the First Baptist Church of Perrine. She shared her faith openly with those around here, and was an inspiration to family, friends and students. Like her mother, Amy Steinman, an appropriations analyst for the House majority whip's office, shares her mother's generosity and commitment.

I want to express my deepest condolences to Amy and to her brother John, and to all of the staff and students at Bay Point School.

Nan personified all that was good and noble in this world. She will be sorely missed, especially by her family, the Bay Point community, and all who will continue to work hard to ensure that her legacy lives on in changing the lives of our troubled youth.

CONGRESS BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON THE DRAGON

(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, while everyone is choosing their words very carefully, news reports continue to

link the Taliban government with China.

On Tuesday, September 11, we all know that the Taliban attacked America with one hand; on the same day with the other hand, the Taliban signed a memorandum of understanding cooperative agreement with China. Something stinks here.

Bin Laden is in the headlines, but we better be very careful that China is not popping up in the details and fine print. To boot, we are financing the biggest war machine in world history with U.S. dollars in China. Beam me up.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the fact that Congress better keep an eye on the dragon, and the dragon can reach New York and Washington a lot quicker and easier than the Taliban did.

FEAR IS USELESS, WHAT IS NEEDED IS TRUST

(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, in these uncertain days, it is important that we cling to the permanent things and the ancient truths. Among them is the principle that fear is useless, what is needed is trust.

As we prepare in the next hour to vote on H.R. 2975, the PATRIOT Act of 2001, I rise as a proud member of the Committee on the Judiciary to say this legislation is about trust. It is not about fear. It is about trusting the law enforcement authorities of this country with the powers, some temporary, some permanent, to stop those who would wage war on our citizens before they level the attacks.

We do not bring this legislation to this floor in fear. We bring this legislation to the floor in trust. We trust in God. We trust in the governing authorities that our God has placed for such a time as this. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in strongly supporting the PATRIOT Act of 2001.

AMERICANS NEED TO KEEP TERRORIST THREATS IN PERSPECTIVE

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to make a few comments about the terrorist activity going on and recognize it for what it is.

Terrorists are nongovernmental groups who are trying to disrupt legitimate governments. They do that, they attempt to do that disruption by terrifying people. Therefore, they are called terrorists. They do this by trying to instill fear, to cause substantial expense

to legitimate governments, to disrupt daily life and achieve their goals in that way when they cannot achieve them through legitimate power.

We have to keep that in mind in our response. It is very important that we do not become fearful, that we do not become terrified, and that we go about our normal lives.

Mr. Speaker, let me speak for a moment as the scientist that I am. Let us keep things in perspective. I am very concerned that our Nation seems to be fearful, extremely fearful of anthrax. Recognize the risk and put it in perspective. Every day of the week approximately 120 Americans get killed in car accidents, and many more injured; yet very few have been affected by terrorist activities. I urge Americans to fly. It is safe. I ask Americans not to ignore the threat of anthrax, but simply be careful.

□ 1015

ECONOMIC STIMULATION FOR SPECIAL INTERESTS

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker after September 11, the American people came together, Democrats, Republicans, rural, urban, East, West, North, South, white, black, Hispanic and Asian. The American people wanted this, and they demand it from us.

But today is a different story. The so-called stimulus package that we have on the floor today is being presented wrapped in red, white and blue, but it is a charade. It is a Trojan horse for every special interest package that has come around for the last 10 years. The American people are not and will not be fooled. This so-called stimulus package is a wish list of every special interest tax rebate and tax cut that will not stimulate our economy and does nothing to help us from the September 11 tragedy. The wrapping of special interest legislation in our patriotic feelings is wrong, and it is not in the spirit of our bipartisan war effort.

Do not wrap your special interest in our flag and expect the American people to accept it.

URGING SUPPORT FOR THE ECONOMIC SECURITY AND RECOVERY ACT

(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, today we will debate and vote on H.R. 3090, the Economic Security and Recovery Act of 2001. I urge everyone's support for this bill. There is no doubt that our