

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, December 6, 2001

The House met at 9 a.m.

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

Eternal God, You reveal Yourself in the Sacred Scriptures. In blessing Abram, You said:

"I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you."

May this blessing now fall upon this Nation and this Chamber.

Since we tend to rejoice with friends and supporters, yet fear or ignore those who disagree or curse us, may Your Holy Word of blessing assure every one of us that You are one with us always, whether we feel praised or offended, blessed or cursed.

As You chose Abram, You have chosen these Representatives and the communities which have elected them to be Your very own.

Called by You to live into the bright promise of future and willing to be led by faith, may Your people prove worthy always to be blessed and never cursed.

May our attention to Your call and our gratitude for Your direction foster such a deep union in us and with You that we become a blessing to all the communities of the earth 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 Florida (Mr. FOLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FOLEY 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.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 76. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 88. Concurrent resolution expressing solidarity with Israel in the fight against terrorism.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 96-114, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of Kevin B. Lefton, of Virginia, to the Congressional Award Board, vice John Falk.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 1-minute speeches at the end of legislative business today.

### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 305 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 305

*Resolved*, That it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of Thursday, December 6, 2001, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules relating to the following measures:

(1) The bill (H.R. 3008) to reauthorize the trade adjustment assistance program under the Trade Act of 1974.

(2) The bill (H.R. 3129) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2002 and 2003 for the United States Customs Service for antiterrorism, drug interdiction, and other operations, for the Office of the United States Trade Representative, for the United States International Trade Commission, and for other purposes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Committee on Rules met and passed this resolution providing that it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of Thursday, December 6, 2001, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules relating to the following measures:

One, the bill, H.R. 3008, to reauthorize the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program under the Trade Act of 1974; and, two, the bill, H.R. 3129, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2002 and 2003 for the United States Customs Service for antiterrorism, drug interdiction, and other operations, for the Office of the United States Trade Representative, for the United States International Trade Commission, and for other purposes.

Mr. Speaker, our textile workers are hurting and they are hurting bad. In the last year, 60,000 textile workers have lost their jobs, 20,000 of them in North Carolina alone. The industry has done its best through technology to compete, but they have not had a level playing field.

These folks are the best our country has to offer. They are working hard to make ends meet. When they get laid off, they do not come whining to the government, they say maybe we could have done something better or different, but then they go out and get two jobs to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, someone has to stick up for these folks because the government does have something to do with these layoffs. Our textile workers are hurting because of low-cost foreign imports, and many of these imports are illegal. Asian countries avoid our quotas by shipping their goods through other countries. That is unacceptable, and it is time for it to stop. For years, our government has turned a blind eye to it.

The Customs authorization bill that we will consider today will help fight these illegal textile transshipments. It provides the Customs Service with \$9.5 million for transshipment enforcement operations. These funds must be used to hire 72 new employees who will be stationed both here at home and abroad to enforce our textile trade laws. It is high time for the government to start taking our textile industry seriously.

This bill will not solve all of our problems, and it will not come anywhere close to solving our problems as we see them today, but at least we are getting somewhere and we are making some headway.

Mr. Speaker, the other bill we are going to consider today is a renewal of the Trade Adjustment Assistance program. This program gives job training and education benefits to workers who lose their jobs because of trade. To be honest about it, I have always had mixed feelings about TAA because my

□ 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.