

business community to review Federal tax implications to Guam's economy and determine whether or not to delink from the U.S. Tax Code. But the immediate issue before us is the impact of the anticipated tax plan.

Last week I wrote to Treasury Secretary O'Neill urging him that special consideration be given for Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. I simply want Members of Congress and the White House and Treasury Department officials to understand the implications for any tax cut proposal on the operations of the Government of Guam and the impact to our communities, and I hope that we can work something out.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

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□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) at 2 p.m.

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#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "I love you O Lord, my strength." David prays this with such great abandonment.

Often when we pray, O Lord, it is with routine and out of daily concerns. But when overwhelmed with distress and responsibilities, we sometimes approach David's depths and cry out that You be our strength.

In this age of information and as a powerful Nation, we can easily be caught up in our own agenda and see no further; foolish enough to think that we can accomplish great deeds on our own.

But without You we can do nothing; nothing of lasting value, nothing of true significance, nothing that will touch the people around us and move them deeply.

Help us now, O Lord, as a Nation and as this governing body.

Shield us from moments of crisis and distress. Instead, renew in us the love You evidence in our history. Allow us to be so overwhelmed by Your loving presence today, that with all our hearts we may pray:

"I love You, O Lord, my strength" now and forever. Amen

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#### 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.

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#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. OSBORNE 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.

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#### GOOD NEWS FOR AMERICA'S SENIORS

(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 have some good news for our Nation's senior citizens. Today we have the chance to make a promise to our seniors that Social Security and Medicare will be there for them when they need it. After all, it is only fair.

Americans pay into the Social Security and Medicare systems all of their lives; they deserve to know that their benefits will be there for them when they retire. The Social Security and Medicare Lockbox Act will lock away \$2.9 trillion in Social Security and Medicare trust funds guaranteeing that these precious funds are not spent on wasteful, big government programs.

This lockbox legislation is good news and reiterates our commitment to ensuring retirement security for America's seniors, today and in the future.

I encourage all of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to support this important legislation and make a real commitment to our seniors by protecting the future of Social Security and Medicare.

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#### HEATING FUEL COSTS

(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, home heating fuel costs have doubled. The companies blame OPEC and the bitter winter. Now if that is not enough to insulate your BVDs, these same companies are now saying, and I quote, they are losing money. Beam me up.

I say it is time to impose a \$100 million fine on this bunch of bric-a-bracin, ratchet-fratchet nincompoops who have a license to steal and are stealing from our constituents.

I yield back all of the gas of the beer drinkers association as an in-kind contribution to all of these poor, unprofitable, crying energy companies.

#### ENERGY CRISIS AS IT AFFECTS AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about energy as it affects agriculture. Due to high fuel prices, the cost of running farm machinery has skyrocketed. In addition, natural gas is necessary to manufacture fertilizers such as anhydrous ammonia. As the planting season approaches, anhydrous ammonia is almost impossible to obtain and extremely expensive if it can be found at all. As a result, the troubled agriculture industry is under even greater stress today than it ever has been.

As with most crises, there is also an opportunity. At the present time, we have an excellent opportunity to double or even triple the production of alternative fuels like ethanol and soy diesel. If we do this, three benefits will occur:

One, we lessen our dependence on foreign oil, and this will be good for the country.

Number two, we will reduce undesirable fuel emissions, and this will be good for the environment.

Number three, we will utilize surplus crops in a profitable manner, and this will be good for agriculture.

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#### SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE LOCKBOX LEGISLATION

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

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, for over 30 years, the Social Security and Medicare Part A trust funds have been used to distort the budget surplus numbers and mask deficits. This must not continue.

Today we have the opportunity to cast a vote that will end this shortsighted and fiscally irresponsible practice. Today we have the opportunity to lock away all surpluses in the Social Security and Medicare trust funds and ensure that these funds can only be spent to provide retirement and health care security for our seniors.

Mr. Speaker, the first step to saving Social Security and Medicare is to stop spending it on unrelated government programs. This is an essential first step to preserve and strengthen these programs for current and future retirees.

I urge my colleagues to send a clear message to all Americans and end the raid on Social Security and Medicare.

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#### PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

(Mr. OTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1