

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, March 8, 2001

The House met at 10 a.m.

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

Lord God, Holy One of Israel, only by Your prophetic Spirit do we come to understand ourselves and our children.

Our behavior no more than our prayer reveals the whole of us. Enable us to uncover the many layers of our own being before You. And may we always rejoice in the self-revelation of others.

The work of Your Spirit upon us and within us is an awesome doing; so personal, so patient, so caring, so loving. Make us more attentive to Your movement within us through personal prayer and reflection. May we respond to Your inspiration with alacrity and gratitude.

Help us to recognize the work of Your Spirit in others, and guide us by this same Spirit to listen deeply to others, especially our children. You are our saving Lord, 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.

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 Chair'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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Indiana (Mr. HILL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HILL 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.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. There will be five 1-minute announcements on each side.

### TAX RELIEF IS ABOUT JOB SECURITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, President Bush has proposed a package of tax relief that includes across-the-board tax relief for everyone. His plan even takes 6 million Americans off the tax rolls all together. It is a fair and balanced proposal that will certainly benefit hard-working Americans and offer them more flexibility on how they want to spend their money.

One thing America offers is opportunity for all. That is why our plan does not seek to redistribute wealth, like some Democrats wish to do. We realize that everyone who pays taxes ought to get relief. There must be an incentive for Americans to create jobs and businesses. Freedom and capitalism is why our country is the world's greatest Nation.

Our legislation gives back some of what taxpayers have overpaid to the government so that they can get a new washer and dryer or get their children new school clothes or even pay some of the college tuition or car bills that cost so much nowadays. The bottom line is that it is the taxpayers' money. They can spend it much better than anyone in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are going to provide tax relief to all Americans. The President and leaders in Congress are trying to reach out to the opponents of our plan in order to foster a bipartisan agreement without compromising the needs of the taxpayer.

### TIME FOR A NATIONAL SALES TAX

(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, I will vote today for President Bush's tax cut. But cutting taxes, income taxes, is not enough. It is time to replace the income tax with a national retail sales tax.

Think about it. Our income Tax Code rewards dependency, subsidizes illegitimacy, penalizes work and achieve-

ment. Beam me up. It is time to let freedom truly ring in America. And I ask my colleagues, who can truly be free in America if the government controls our income and our labor? America should control their own financial destiny.

I yield back the fact that the income tax levied on all citizens is a Communist idea first proposed by Karl Marx and now practiced in the United States of America.

### VOTING FOR ACROSS-THE-BOARD TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the President included maximum debt reduction, strengthening Social Security and Medicare and a \$1 trillion budget reserve to pay for things that may come up, like agriculture.

I am also very pleased that he is strengthening our families by lifting the burden of death tax that makes it hard to pass on the farm or family business to the next generation, addressing the marriage penalty and doubling the per-child tax credit.

But today we vote on an across-the-board tax relief for our families. As I travel around southwest Minnesota talking to families and farmers and small businesses, they tell me that we need to give the economy a boost right now to keep it moving in the right direction. This will provide real money that families can use to pay down credit card debt or to spend a little less time working for the government and a little more time with their own families.

It is because of this that this Kennedy will be voting for across-the-board tax relief today.

### BUDGET FIRST, TAX CUT LATER

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, the House will take up and consider a major tax cut today without ever having first adopted a budget to see if the tax cut will fit within that budget. No American family, no business would engage in major spending without first adopting a budget.

The Congressional Budget Act of 1974 requires the Congress to adopt a budget

□ 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.