

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, March 14, 2001

The House met at 10 a.m.

Dr. Calvin C. Turpin, National Chaplain, The American Legion, Hollister, California, offered the following prayer:

Our Father and our God, ruler of all nations, recognizing that this is a day that Thou hast made, we rejoice in the blessing it brings. We thank thee for giving us this great and good land for our heritage. Bless America with noble industry and successful business, productive educational institutions, and kind and gentle manners.

Spare us from violence, discord, and confusion. Grant to us the ability to preserve the liberties that come from Thee. Make of us one united people, with justice and fairness that prevails without question; that there be peace among all nations and all people. Bless President Bush. Guide those who legislate, and grant wisdom to those who judge. Help America become the greater Nation she is capable of becoming. 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PLATTS 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.

WELCOME TO DR. CALVIN C. TURPIN

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

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged today to introduce Dr. Calvin Turpin, who just gave us our prayer. Dr. Turpin hails from my district, from the city of Hollister, which is one of California's oldest counties. Actually, Hollister is the earthquake capital of the world. Even though it is a small county and a county seat, it has very powerful people.

Dr. Turpin is truly a citizen of the world. He has traveled the world over, inspiring service men and women to maintain their faith in God and country, even during the darkest hours of battle. He is a servant to all who have served their country in good times and bad, and looked for the comfort of a counsel.

Currently Dr. Turpin fulfills his mission to God as the national chaplain of the American Legion. He does us all proud in this role. But it is I who am proudest today to say that Dr. Turpin shares his wisdom and his grace with us, fresh from my district. I thank him for being here and for bringing a solid sense of duty and integrity to this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I include a biography of Dr. Turpin to be printed in the Extension of Remarks section of the RECORD.

WGAL TV OF LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize WGAL TV based in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. For years, WGAL has done a great job of providing local news and community programming for Lancaster and all of central Pennsylvania. Radio and TV stations air public service announcements from time to time as a service to their communities.

I learned this week that WGAL donated a total of 1,062 spots of valuable air time to Ad Council public service announcements. That is about three a day, just for Ad Council.

I want to congratulate WGAL on its dedication to its community. Around Lancaster, Channel 8 is known as the hometown station. They have that reputation by caring for our community, doing their part to make the world a better place.

On behalf of Lancaster and central Pennsylvania, I want to say thank you to all the good people at WGAL TV, Channel 8, in Lancaster.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S TAX CUT

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, the President's tax cut plan is not only contrary to the goals and the needs of the American people, but it actually

flies in the face of the facts of the promises we made here in the 106th Congress.

The fiscal year 2000 budget resolution, do Members remember that? It passed the House 221 to 208 on an almost entirely party-line vote. This budget resolution specifically promised that tax cuts would focus on "the lower- and middle-income taxpayers." The Republican majority promised that Congress will not approve "any tax legislation" that would provide substantially more benefits to the top 10 percent of the taxpayers than to the remaining 90 percent. That is right in the budget resolution.

What happened to the promise? The tax plan offers substantially more benefits, 60 percent of the President's tax refund, to the top 10 percent of the American taxpayers. In fact, this tax cut returns 43 percent, nearly half of its benefits, to the top 1 percent of the earners.

Why are my Republican colleagues now abandoning the promise that they made to the low- and middle-class folks of America?

EDDIE TIMANUS DEMONSTRATES HOW ENDURANCE AND TENACITY CAN ALLOW US TO REALIZE OUR GOALS

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to share a story about a friend of mine who has overcome great adversity. His name is Eddie Timanus.

Eddie has been completely blind since he was a toddler, but he has chosen not to let this disability stop him from realizing his goals.

Eddie has dreamed of being a contestant on the TV game show Jeopardy. After years of trying to make the cut, he was selected in 1998. The producers of Jeopardy agreed to make accommodations for him, namely, giving Eddie a list of the categories in Braille.

Eddie went on to win five, count that, five episodes of Jeopardy, and nearly \$70,000. I know how much tenacity it has taken to accomplish these kinds of dreams in spite of the hardships. Eddie deserves our admiration, not just because he is a Jeopardy grand champion, but because he is a testament to the principle that enduring trials produces endurance, which helps people bring the best out of themselves.

□ 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.

I want to thank Eddie for showing us what people who are visually impaired can do, and actually each one of us can do, when given the opportunity.

TIME TO STOP THE GRAVY TRAIN TO COMMUNISTS

(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, news reports say China and Russia will sign a treaty opposing U.S. policy. China and Russia say, and I quote: "America is too powerful and we must stymie their missile shield."

Now, if that is not enough to spike our vodka, we give Russia billions of dollars a year in aid. China now takes at least \$10 billion a month out of the American trade surplus. Some experts say it is as high as \$20 billion a month.

Mr. Speaker, we have a trade deficit of \$40 billion a month. Think about it. It is time to stop this gravy train to these Communist pimps, so help me; half a trillion dollars a year, and they have missiles pointed at us.

I yield back the fact that America, with a half a trillion dollars in trade deficit, is an America looking at a financial disaster.

CONGRATULATING HEBREW HOMES HEALTH NETWORK, UNITED FOUNDATION FOR AIDS, AND SOUTH SHORE HOSPITAL FOR HELPING FROSENE SONDERLING CREATE THE JACKSON PLAZA CENTER

(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, Frosene Sonderling's wish came to fruition in my hometown of Miami when Hebrew Homes Health Network and United Foundation for AIDS opened the Jackson Plaza Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

The center is dedicated to persons battling diabetes, Alzheimer's, cancer, and Frosene's main cause, the elimination of HIV-AIDS.

In association with South Shore Hospital, the beneficiaries of the Jackson Plaza Center will now have access to direct patient care, to housing, to community service, and to education. The center is becoming a home to many in our community in helping to preserve the quality of so many lives.

Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Hebrew Homes Health Network, United Foundation for AIDS, and the South Shore Hospital for championing this cause in our South Florida community, and for making Frosene Sonderling's dream a reality.

Frosene was a former constituent of mine who worked tirelessly to raise

funds for AIDS research. She was a noted contributor to organizations that help people infected with HIV, and she harbored her selfless passion to help this infirm population. Her donations benefited medical research for AIDS treatment; and before her death, Frosene shared a dream of a state-of-the-art facility. We are now very proud that it is in our midst.

THE BUSH TAX CUT IS TOO BIG

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is becoming very clear that whether one is old or young, the Bush tax cut is too big and will not allow us to meet the priorities of this Nation.

For those parents who want a decent education, a first-class education for their children, who want quality teachers in every classroom, who want modern schools, who want to make sure that in fact we can reduce class sizes because we now know that children learn better in smaller classes, the Bush tax cut is crowding that out.

For the elderly, the Washington Post points out today that the Bush tax cut is a raid on the Medicare trust fund, that Medicare is being raided for the purposes of paying for the tax cut. So both the young, who we seek to provide educational reforms for and a quality program, and the elderly, who we seek prescription drug benefits for, who seek to have their health care coverage taken care of, those funds are now being raided to pay for the Bush tax cut.

We should not allow it. We should understand the priorities of this Nation; and the priorities of this Nation are that people want Social Security and Medicare protected, and they want a first-class education system for America's children.

We cannot have that if we have the Bush tax cut.

AMERICA MUST BE ON GUARD AGAINST RUSSIA AND ROGUE NATIONS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the President of Russia recently concluded an agreement with the Ayatollah of Iran. Russia has been helping Iran in the development of a nuclear power plant, and that cooperation will continue.

It is curious why a nation such as Iran, a major petroleum producer, would need nuclear power. I fear that the answer is found elsewhere. This agreement with Russia is also a major

arms pact. Iran is seeking advanced military equipment from the Russian government.

Global stability depends on isolating rogue nations, such as Iran, North Korea, Libya, and Syria. The Russians are providing arms and technical assistance to a terrorist state which intends to expand its reach throughout that vital region.

The recent espionage case involving a top FBI official underscores the fact that Russia's intentions towards the United States are not benign. We still live in a dangerous world and the Russian government is making that world less secure. We must be on our guard.

BROKEN PROMISES BY PRESIDENT BUSH

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, that wrenching sound we heard from Pennsylvania Avenue yesterday was President George Bush breaking a promise to the American people. Last September President Bush promised the American people he would work to reduce carbon dioxide pollution from generating plants. Yesterday he broke that pledge.

Despite the fact that since last September the evidence has accumulated rapidly, the global climate change is occurring due to carbon dioxide pollution. Even though that evidence has increased, unfortunately, so has the administration's willingness to follow the dictates of the oil and gas industry.

For a President who said that the reason he did this is that he is worried about an energy crisis, we find that laughable in the West, because for the last 2 months we have been asking the President of the United States to do something about energy prices, to impose a short-term wholesale price cap, and he has refused to even consider it.

We are going to urge him to reconsider that, because I can promise the Members this, this President broke his promise. It has not broken our spirit to bring Americans clean energy at a reasonable price.

THE QUALITY CHEESE ACT OF 2001

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

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce the bipartisan Quality Cheese Act of 2001, a bill that will prohibit the use of dry ultra-filtered milk, of casein, and milk-protein concentrates in the making of standardized cheese.

□ 1015

The plight of our Nation's dairy farmers continues to worsen. In Wisconsin alone, dairy farmers lost \$500