

imperative, I believe, to raise the awareness around the crisis of teenage pregnancy.

Nearly 1 million teenagers in this country become pregnant every year. One in four of these teenagers will have a second baby within years of the first child. In Indiana, from which I hail, if you will, we have 37,340 teenage girls who become pregnant every year. Just imagine, 37,340 teenage girls become pregnant every year. Eighty-eight out of every 1,000 girls age 15 to 19 become pregnant in Indiana every year.

When a teenager has a baby, it reduces her chances of completing high school. It reduces her chances of earning a decent wage. Her access to health care will decrease, which will contribute to poor nutritional health for her and her baby. In so many cases, because she cannot afford a baby-sitter, this young woman either loses her job for missing days to stay with a child or is forced to leave her baby in situations that are totally undesirable.

In addition, my recent bill, the Responsible Fatherhood Act seeks to address many of the fathers who are either unwilling or unable to be a source of support, both financially and emotionally, for their children. The effects of teenage pregnancy may also have negative effects on young fathers.

I would hasten to add, however, Mr. Speaker, that the majority of teenage girls who become pregnant have not had relationships with young boys. The babies are fathered by men who are not teenagers.

□ 1300

Some studies suggest, on the other hand, that teenage fathers obtain somewhat lower education levels, suffer from loss of earnings on the order of 10 to 15 percent annually, and are more likely to end up in prison. This too causes long-term consequences for society as a whole.

There are no easy answers to solving teenage pregnancy, and our approach must be comprehensive and multifaceted. I would like to acknowledge the successful efforts that have been made as a result of communities working through a variety of programs that coordinate parents, schools, communities, and religious organizations.

I would like to recognize the important work of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. The organization does a tremendous job because it recognizes the broad consequences for society and the individuals directly involved when children continue to have children. We must empower and support the brave individuals all over the country who are working with programs at the grass-roots level to reduce teenage pregnancy. It is programs such as these that give our young people a fighting chance and an alternative to engaging in destructive behavior.

We believe that if young people have a strategy for the future and have hope about their career and have economic security, they are more likely to value the need to develop themselves, rather than getting involved in behavior that is self-destructive, including premature sex.

I would like to recognize an important bill introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE). This bill, the Mentoring for Success Act, will provide grants to expand mentoring through new programs and existing programs throughout the country, hopefully reaching around 200,000 young people.

As the gentleman from Nebraska mentioned, studies have shown that young people who are mentored will be 50 percent less likely to skip school, 50 percent less likely to begin using drugs, 36 percent less likely to lie to a parent, 30 percent less likely to commit a violent act of any kind, and certainly they are less likely to drop out of high school.

Mr. Speaker, let me add in closing that I stand here as a Member of the United States Congress and am the product of a teenage pregnancy. However, the amount of community support, religious support, and school support that I received as a young person has boded well in terms of my future. I hope that we can work together in Congress to pass important pieces of legislation and to offer the necessary resources to counteract this pandemic.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

The Reverend Gene Arey, New Harvest Ministry, Waynesboro, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Father God, we acknowledge You as the Ruler of all nations and we pray for peace and justice in our world.

We pray First Timothy 2:1-4, "I exhort, therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men; for kings; and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who will

have all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

Father, I pray for our President and the First Lady. Bless them this day and give them the wisdom to do all that is set before them.

I pray for these Representatives, to have the wisdom of God to accomplish all that is set before them to do. Bless them for their commitment to serve the people of our Nation and carry out their duties.

Father, in Jesus' Name I call this United States of America blessed in Jesus' Name.

God bless America. Amen.

#### 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.

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

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

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

Mr. BALLENGER. 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 pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. EVANS 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.

#### SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### WELCOME TO THE REVEREND GENE AREY

(Mr. GOODLATTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to say a word about our guest Chaplain who is also my constituent.

The Reverend Gene Arey, who was born and raised in Waynesboro, Virginia, has served as copastor of Waynesboro's New Harvest Worship Center with his wife, Linda. The couple cofounded the church, located at 535 West Main Street, more than 7 years ago. Reverend and Mrs. Arey, who are active in foreign missions, recently returned from Romania, where they also serve as church leaders. Reverend Arey was ordained by Archbishop Silas Owiti of Kenya, Africa, and Dr. Decker Tapscott, pastor of Faith Christian Church in Warrenton, Virginia. Reverend Arey is joined in Washington today by his wife, his son Larry, daughter-in-law Kay, and granddaughter Olivia who live in Greenville, Virginia, also in my district.

#### ENERGY EFFICIENCY

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the President will be in St. Paul, Minnesota, on Thursday to unveil his vision for a national energy policy. Minnesotans understand the value of a balanced approach that needs to be part of an energy policy which embraces our environmental qualities. We must have clean fuels, renewable energy and improved energy efficiency and invest in alternative energy resources. The Vice President said conservation is a sign of personal virtue, but not a basis for policy. In Minnesota, conservation is common sense. It means saving energy and money by using our resources more efficiently. Improved energy standards for consumer products would eliminate the need for an additional 180 new power plants. Energy efficiency standards have already saved American consumers \$50 billion this past decade. Minnesotans expect conservation to be an important part of any energy policy that balances today's energy needs with the needs of future generations.

#### H.R. 1 EXPANDS CHOICE FOR PARENTS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, children should not be trapped in failing schools where they cannot possibly reach their fullest educational potential. That is why H.R. 1 includes a school choice program that enables parents to remove their children from schools that, as President Bush says, do not teach and will not change.

Before giving parents the option of sending their children to another

school, H.R. 1 gives low-performing schools the chance to improve by offering them financial assistance to increase student achievement. If these schools do not make adequate progress after 2 years, parents will be able to send their children to another public school. After 3 years of chronic failure, disadvantaged students will be eligible for private school scholarships.

H.R. 1, it should be noted, aims to bolster failing public schools by giving them special financial help. But more funding cannot be the final remedy. There must be a safety valve that allows children to escape continually low-performing schools.

It goes without saying that we are all committed to improving the quality of our Nation's schools; but first and foremost, students themselves should be our most pressing concern. And it is our responsibility to empower parents to make the right decision for their children's future.

#### CALIFORNIA'S ELECTRICITY CRISIS

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, we now know what GOP means. It means gas, oil and petroleum. What is the administration's answer to the electricity crisis confronting the West and soon the rest of the Nation? Drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve, cut research into renewable energy research, cut conservation programs.

Mr. Speaker, that is not the answer for the western electricity crisis. We must conserve. We must move more into renewable sources. We must do more research. But most of all, we have to bring down the criminal prices that are being charged for wholesale electricity in California and the rest of the West. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, this Congress, this administration, must act now. It is the prices that are killing the California and western economy. It is the prices that are going to kill the rest of this Nation's economy. California is being bled dry by electricity wholesalers. We are being charged \$2.5 billion a month for our electricity. This cannot stand. It is time for Congress, it is time for this administration to act. Let us get away from a gas, oil and petroleum policy for this administration.

#### INCREASED SPENDING JEOPARDIZES FUTURE OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the so-called transition cost for Social Security, if we do nothing, if we

make no changes, is \$120 trillion over the next 75 years. If we start now by developing the kind of bridge that will bridge the gap between expected revenues and expenditures that is necessary to increase the returns over what Social Security will otherwise be able to pay, we can do it. The average return that is paid in Social Security taxes is now estimated by the Social Security actuaries to be 1.7 percent return on that so-called investment, or those taxes. In a perfect congressional world, we would not have a tax cut, we would stop the dramatic increase in spending of this Congress that jeopardizes not only the economy but leaves our kids with a huge debt and jeopardizes the future of Social Security and Medicare. Let us hold the line on increased spending.

#### TIME TO INVESTIGATE THE FBI

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. What is the big surprise, Mr. Speaker, in the McVeigh case? The FBI has been hiding evidence for years. Think about it.

If you really believe that two Libyan mules blew up Pan Am 103, you are on Prozac.

If you really believe that the best FBI sharpshooter just happened to accidentally shoot Mrs. Weaver right between the eyes, you still believe in Mother Goose.

Congress, if you believe the Waco jury heard the whole truth from the FBI, you still believe in the Tooth Fairy.

And, Congress, if you still believe the propaganda about the assassination of JFK, by God, you still believe that Mae West is a virgin.

Beam me up. It is time for an investigation into FBI hiding and concealing exculpatory evidence on criminal defendants.

I yield back the FBI corruption from Boston, Massachusetts to Youngstown, Ohio.

#### MILITARY WEAR

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I understand that some Members of Congress are working on legislation which will tell the United States Army what kind of headgear to wear. I believe this action is micromanagement at its worst and makes Congress the fashion police.

For those of us who have strong ties to the military community, this entire episode has been a whirlwind of emotions. Like most of my constituents, I too felt the issuance of a black beret, the modern-day symbol of excellence in the United States Armed Forces, to all