

Jones who said "Don't give up the ship," it's the other Jones who might have said "Don't give up the shipping subsidy."

□ 1300

REV. RANDY ALBANO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BENTSEN] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Reverend Randy Albano, who works in my district assisting seafarers throughout the world who travel to the Port of Houston, in their personal and spiritual needs. Father Albano recently brought to light the vicious murder of three Romanian stowaways beaten and thrown overboard from a ship off the coast of Spain and, through his contacts, was able to assure the safety of the vessel's crew members in bringing the responsible parties to justice.

Father Albano, working out of the Barbours Cut Seafarers' Center in LaPorte, TX, intervened with the Canadian Government on behalf of eight Filipino seamen who wrote to him that they had witnessed their officers murder three Romanian stowaways. Two of the Romanians were set adrift on a small makeshift raft after they were discovered, and the raft subsequently fell apart in the high seas, and the third Romanian was stabbed to death on the deck of the ship and then cast overboard.

The Filipino crewmen, fearing for their lives, contacted Father Albano for guidance. He referred the matter to the Canadian Government, which detained the captain in Halifax, NS.

I have contacted the Canadian Ambassador to express my concern that the Filipino seamen be granted refugee status and that the captain and officers of the ship be prosecuted for these unspeakable crimes.

I would especially like to express my deep appreciation for Father Albano for the important work that he does and also to the Barbours Cut Seafarers' Center and its many civic volunteers from LaPorte, including Lou Lawler. Father Albano, and the volunteers at the Seafarers' Center in Barbours Cut have done so much to ensure safe travel on the high seas and to improve working conditions and the quality of life for seafarers.

Once again, Father Albano has courageously helped to ensure that the rule of law and basic respect for humanity are observed on the high seas.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand 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.

AFTER RECESS

The recess have expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. UPTON] at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Rabbi Edward Davis, Young Israel Temple, Hollywood, FL, offered the following prayer:

Avinu Shebashamayim, Our Heavenly Father, we seek Your blessing for wisdom every day of our lives. Recognizing our limitations, we find it necessary to ask You for Your guidance. There are times when we feel incapable of solving our problems. Yet our vision is global and optimistic. We feel confident that with Your assistance we will be successful in creating and maintaining a safe and secure environment for our neighborhoods, our country, and our world. Bestow Your blessing upon the Members of this House. Grant them good health, family enrichment, financial security, and the wisdom to decide issues with prudence and compassion. These men and women make decisions that effect us all. May America be rewarded by our faith in them; and may our faith in You, O God, be strong. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MONTGOMERY 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.

STAND FOR CHILDREN

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, this weekend in Washington, there was a march. It was entitled "Stand for Children." And I could not agree more that we should put politics aside and give our children a better nation than what we had inherited. If the President this year is willing to act and not just talk, I think that we can do this.

In my hand is the world's most expensive credit card. It is a credit card that has accumulated 5 trillion dollars' worth of debt and accumulating budget deficits of \$150 to \$200 billion a year. This a voting card for a Member of Congress. This is the most unconscion-

able thing that any government could do to its children, because the adults in our country will not pay this. It will be our children and theirs who get to pay off this massive debt.

Mr. Speaker, we can pass legislation this year that will balance the budget while at the same time providing \$500 more for parents with dependent children at home, lowering the average cost of a college loan by \$2,100, saving families over \$100 a month on their mortgage, and will provide real opportunities for children when they get out of school and look for jobs. All we have to do is balance the budget.

If the President really does feel the pain of kids today, he should put politics aside and begin to act.

MEDICARE CUTS PROPOSED

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Medicare trustees are going to issue their annual report to Congress and to the American people, and we already know that the Republican leadership is going to take advantage of this to try to suggest that the trustees' report justifies their severe and extreme changes in the Medicare Program for senior citizens.

I would suggest that the Democrats in the House of Representatives last year, with an amendment that was brought forward by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GIBBONS] and this year in the budget that was proposed by the President that we voted on, suggested minor changes or cuts, if you will, in the Medicare Program that would keep the Medicare Program solvent well into the next century.

The extreme cuts and changes in Medicare that the Republicans are proposing are not needed. The Medicare trustees' report should not be an excuse to justify, if you will, the changes that the Republican leadership is proposed in Medicare. Rather, we should be getting together to make those minor cuts, if you will, to save the program and keep it solvent on a bipartisan basis.

A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, no one doubts the importance of a balanced budget to America's families. But what we are doubting is President Clinton's commitment.

Well, the Senate vote this week on a balanced budget amendment is his chance to actually prove his commitment to a balanced budget. All he has to do is use his widely acclaimed oratorical skills, and lead the Somersault Six down the path to a balanced budget.

These Somersault Six are six Senators of his own party who had previously voted in favor of the amendment, but then switched their vote last