PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Enable us, O gracious God, to lift our hearts and souls above the commotion of the moment and the busy tasks that are before us, to offer our thanks and praise for the innumerable blessings and benefits which You have given to us and to all people. May our spirits transcend the obligations and duties that must be accomplished in our daily lives to catch a spiritual vision where justice is our byword and service to others our great joy.

With this prayer of thanksgiving we offer to You, O God, our appreciation that we can live lives of promise and commitment and in a world that is often confused and bewildering, we can have a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction.

In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). 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. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Chair's approval of the Journal.

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

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

Mr. GIBBONS. 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 5, rule I, 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Colorado [Mr. HEFLEY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HEFLEY 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.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN SMITH

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, Thursday, October 9 was a very sad day for basketball and sports fans alike. After 36 seasons as head coach of the North Carolina Tarheels, Dean Smith, the ultimate competitor, left his post and passed the reins to his longtime assistant. With this announcement, Dean Smith ended an era in college basketball. His record of 879 total victories, 11 trips to the Final Four, 13 ACC Championships, and 2 National Championships will never be matched.

These stats and scores point out what every basketball fan already knows. Dean Smith is the winningest coach in college basketball history. His impact on the sports history books is only rivaled by his impact on the lives, hearts, and minds of his players. To quote a lesser known Tarheel, Michael Jordan, he says, ''He's like a father figure to us all.''

Today I honor a man who represents the best that college sports has to offer, a man of true integrity and class who makes North Carolinians proud that he calls Chapel Hill home. Thank you, Coach Smith, for your many years of commitment. We surely will miss you.

OPPOSE H.R. 1270

(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, a letter circulated around Capitol Hill yesterday boasts that passing H.R. 1270 will save money. Mr. Speaker, if it were not for the severity of this issue, this letter would be laughable. This is yet another example of the nuclear industry distorting the truth. The truth is that H.R. 1270 will cost the American taxpayers $1.5 billion, that is with a ''B,'' over the next 5 years. Contrast this with the cost of onsite storage and the taxpayers will save, even then, close to $1 billion over the next 5 years.

Rather than have high level nuclear waste transported through communities across this country, we could use this money to decrease the deficit, provide more tax relief for the American taxpayers, improve our roads, hire more teachers, or put more police officers on the street.

I urge my colleagues to get the facts. Do not be fooled by the nuclear industry. This is a bad bill. It is a bad bill for all Americans. Oppose H.R. 1270.

WHEN WILL THE WHITE HOUSE WISE UP?

(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, China's President is in America. President Jiang told the press China will not tolerate any interference by the U.S. Government. In fact, President Jiang sent over a list of irritant subjects he will not even discuss, Members.

No. 1, he will not even talk about trade, even though it is going to hit $60 billion. No. 2, no, he will not talk about human rights. No. 3, he does not even want to hear about the last Presidential election. Do not mention John Huang, Charlie Trie. Stay out, Uncle Sam. And guess what? The White House said, ''Don't worry, this is no big deal.''

Beam me up. The White House will not wise up until there is a full-blown rice paddy on the east lawn of the White House. Somebody is smoking dope.

THE CLINTON WHITE HOUSE LEGACY

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, there is a great deal of talk these days about the legacy that this administration will leave. I think it is fair to say that this White House has indeed set a new standard of ethics.

I think it is fair to say that this White House has set a new standard in the use of the Lincoln bedroom.

I think it is fair to say that this White House has set a new standard in terms of raising money on Federal property.

I think it is fair to say that this White House has set a new standard in terms of deciding which rich donors get to accompany the Secretary of Commerce on trade missions.

I think it is fair to say that this White House has set a new standard in terms of raising money at Buddhist temples, shaking down impoverished Indian tribes. Using the IRS for political purposes, rewarding top dollar fund-raisers with Commerce Department jobs, making huge money from cattle futures while declaring moral outrage at the decade of greed, and coming up with the ''I don't recall'' defense whenever the subject turns to raising money.

I agree, that is quite a legacy.

CELEBRATORY ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING VISIT OF CHINA'S MILITARY LEADERS TO THE UNITED STATES IS INAPPROPRIATE

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Clinton administration will roll out the red carpet for the ruler of a regime that rolled out the tanks in Tiananmen Square. Tomorrow the Clinton administration will give a 21-gun salute to the heads of the Chinese military that proliferates weapons of mass destruction and brutally occupies Tibet. I do not think that that is an appropriate welcome.

While I agree that we must engage China, that the leaders of our two countries must meet to discuss issues of concern, I think it is completely inappropriate to have such a celebratory