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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Ronald F. Christian, Office of the Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, on this day, when our thoughts are focused on the violence that is all about us, we remember, reflect, and give thanks for individuals, young and old, who innocently lost their lives as a result of that violence. When a Cain kills an Able, we must confess that all of humanity is less because of it and all of humanity is pained from the act.

From shootings on city streets to the horrors of bombings bringing great loss of life and grief to people, our hearts cry out, Why, O God, Why?

With violence so commonplace, hatred so prevalent, anger so much a part of our lives, we must pray, O God, for a new understanding of Your peace.

We pray for a peace that will allow the lion and lamb to lie down together.

And, we pray for a peace where brother or sister will not again willfully or maliciously harm another human creature in Your kingdom.

So, for a few moments, as the work of the day begins in this place, we let our souls speak to You, O God, in words and thoughts that rise up in our innermost being. May the moments and our quiet personal expressions be a fitting tribute to the many who died a year ago and throughout this year as a result of humanity's violence. May our thoughts be also prayers for all those who now are left only with memories. Let us each in our own way remember and pray.

Hear our prayers, O Lord. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN TRIBUTE TO OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING VICTIMS

The SPEAKER. The Chair asks the House to join in a silent prayer for 168 seconds in honor and memory of the 168

Americans who died 1 year ago in Oklahoma City.

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 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.

EXPRESSION OF CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES OF VICTIMS AND THE PEOPLE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

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

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to rise today and on behalf of the entire House to express to the families of those who were killed 1 year ago and to the people of Oklahoma City who have borne up under such a tragedy the House's condolences, our sense of commitment to working with the people of Oklahoma City. I want to express the grief that all of us feel, both at the personal level for the loss of loved ones, for families torn apart, for children left without parents, for parents who lost children, but also to express what I think was the shock and the outrage of the whole House, and I believe of the whole country, that an American could do such a thing to other Americans.

I believe everyone in this House joins in condemning that kind of vicious and mindless violence against our fellow citizens, and on this day, in memory of the citizens of Oklahoma City, this House, I am sure, unanimously would want to extend our prayers, our concerns, and our thoughts to those families and in memory of their loved ones.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING VICTIMS

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

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the minority leader, Mr. Gephardt, and from my side of the aisle, we join with the Speaker in expressing our sadness of what has happened in Oklahoma City and where 168 were killed. We just had a silence of the whole House of 168 seconds in memory of those people who did lose their lives, so we should never forget or let this happen again, if possible.

I am not sure whether we could control sad incidents such as this, but to the people and individuals who were involved in government work, visiting that facility at Oklahoma City, we certainly go out and reach for them. As mentioned by the Speaker, some of these individuals were severely wounded, and watching in the news, these persons are fighting back, they are taking their wounds and they are moving ahead, and that is what we have to do in this great country.

So on behalf of my other colleagues, this is a sad day for us. Let us hope that it will never happen again.

LIBERAL JUDICIAL APPOINTEES

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

□ 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.



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Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the American peoples' values do not reflect the values of President Clinton's liberal judicial appointees. Recently, disturbing evidence has come to light about liberal judges who have let criminals off the hook because their social conscience got the best of them.

Mr. Speaker, we do not need judges who care more about criminals than they do victims. We do not need judges who try to blame society for individual wrongdoings. The American people want our judicial system to hold people personally accountable for their actions.

Mr. Speaker, one thing is clear—judges make a difference in the lives of all Americans. Judges set the benchmark for what criminals think they can get away with. President Clinton's judges do not represent the values of our citizens. The Clinton judges are letting criminals off the hook.

THE ISSUE OF CRIME

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, we have been talking so much about crime and about the prevention of crime, I am going to tell you, we are not going to be able to tackle the issue of crime until we get tough on criminals and, unfortunately, the Clinton administration continues to coddle criminals through the judges that they appoint.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to tell you, being from Florida, I am distressed by what a Florida judge recently wrote that was appointed by Bill Clinton. Rosemary Barkett, a Clinton judge, voted to reduce the death sentence of a murderer who sent a tape to the mother of the murdered victim, boasting about his crime and killing her daughter. Judge Barkett wrote:

The killer's impatience for change, for understanding, for reconciliation matured into taking the illogical and drastic action of murder. His frustration, anger and obsession of injustice overcame reason. The murder victim was a symbolic representation of the class which caused the perceived injustices.

She went on to say he matured into the decision of killing this person, then bragging about it by mailing a tape to the mother of the murdered victim. And so she reduced the sentence. Let me tell you over the next 4 years, President Clinton or President Dole will elect and select one out of every four Federal judges that we appoint. It does not matter what laws we pass in this Chamber, so long as the President nominates justices that coddle criminals. We have got to get tough on crime by pushing the existing laws that we have and not by making new ones.

LIBERALS AND CRIME

(Mr. BAKER of California asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, well, we have just heard it, today we are celebrating that sad tragedy of a year ago, and while this House and the liberals talk about taking away private citizens' right to own a weapon, we do almost nothing to those heinous killers and criminals who violate society's rules. We have heard about Harold Baer until we are sick of it. Harold Baer decides that it is OK to run away from policemen. From kindergarten we are taught policemen are our friends and we, even if a red light is in front of them and they tell to you go through the light, do what the policeman says.

They run away from the policeman and Harold Baer says that is a natural thing to do in that neighborhood so they should not have searched the poor, sorry individual who only had 80 pounds of cocaine in the trunk of their car.

Then Rosemary Barkett, who we just heard about, and I am going to read her famous line because nobody could even believe this. She says this about a killer who killed someone and then sent a tape recording mocking the killing to the victim's mother. This is what she said about that inhuman human being:

His impatience for change, for understanding, for reconciliation matured to taking the illogical and drastic action of murder. His frustration, his anger and his obsession of injustice overcame reason. The murder victim was a symbolic representation of the class which caused the perceived injustice.

You talk about it is society's fault, what nonsense. Let us get a new President and some new judges.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE OKLAHOMA CITY TRAGEDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, today, on the first anniversary of the tragedy that shook Oklahoma City and the entire Nation, I join with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in offering condolences to the friends and families of those who lost their lives—gratitude to those Federal workers and citizens whose bravery saved lives—and resolve to do all we can to prevent such acts of hateful terrorism and violence from happening again.

No words or deeds of this Congress can ever bring back the dedicated public servants, citizens, and innocent children who lost their lives in the Oklahoma City bombing. Even 1 year after this awful tragedy, it is hard to find meaning in their loss—to make sense of the random hatred they suffered. And as we move toward enacting crucial antiterrorism legislation in the Congress, the image of those who lost

their lives 1 year ago—especially the precious young children—reminds us of how fragile human life can be, and how each day is truly a blessing for ourselves and for our families.

My hope is that by remembering what happened on April 19, 1995, we will not only redouble our efforts to secure the safety and security of our citizens—beyond all boundaries of party or partisanship—but that we will also come to appreciate the gifts of service and citizenship we receive from our fellow Americans each and every day. Such gifts, like the good works of those who died in Oklahoma City and those who risked their lives to save others, are all too easy to take for granted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, there has been so much debate over the past 6 months to 1 year over the balanced budget, and the budget battle, and Americans have been so swept away with sort of the currents of the demagoguery that is coming out of the White House and the debate that is going back and forth that we have really lost sight of really what has been happening here.

We have been governing by CR, continuing resolutions, where, since we cannot get the President to agree to a balanced budget deal, we go from month to month to month. I have been disappointed that we have not been able to get a balanced budget and wish that we could have moved swifter, wished that we would have had a President that would have signed the first balanced budget plan in a generation. But I found out something very interesting this past week.

What I found out was, even governing by CR, we are ahead of schedule to balancing the budget. We are further along on that 7-year track to balancing the budget than we would have been even if we had passed our 7-year plan last year. And this is great news. On the front page of Investors' Business Daily this morning, had a wonderful quote. The quote said that, while Bill Clinton has been winning the PR battle with the public, the Republicans have been quietly winning the war. This is great news for all of America today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. BAKER].

Mr. BAKER of California. It is good news, and I try and keep this fact well hidden, but I am one of the few budget analysts on the floor. For 4 years I worked for the department of finance in the State of California. If I had had