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## House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m.

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

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.

With these stirring words of Isaac Watts we recall Your providence, O God, to us and to all people. Your abiding word has led us in days of old to acknowledge Your acts of creation and Your blessings to us as a nation. And as we anticipate the days ahead, Your gifts of justice and mercy give us hope and give us encouragement. For these and all Your gifts, O God, we offer this prayer of thanksgiving and praise. 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.

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

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

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

Mr. CHABOT. 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. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WELDON of Florida 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.

### APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR 2D SESSION OF 104TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the provisions of 22 U.S.C. 276h, the Chair appoints the following Members of the House to the Mexico-United States interparliamentary group for the 2d session of the 104th Congress: Mr. KOLBE, Arizona, Chairman; Mr. BALLENGER, North Carolina, Vice Chairman; Mr. GILMAN, New York; Mr. DREIER, California; Mr. GALLEGLY, California; Mr. MANZULLO, Illinois; Mr. BILBRAY, California; Mr. DE LA GARZA, Texas; Mr. RANGEL, New York; Mr. MILLER, California; Mr. GEJDENSON, Connecticut; and Mr. FILNER, California.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

### WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT TAX CUT FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES?

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, when I go back to Cincinnati every weekend, I get a chance to talk to a lot of working folks. It's amazing how many of them

ask me this question: "Whatever happened to that middle-class tax cut my family was supposed to get this year? Didn't President Clinton promise us some relief?"

In fact, during his campaign, Mr. Clinton did indeed promise tax relief. Let me quote from his book, "Putting People First": "Middle-class taxpayers will have a choice between a children's tax credit or a significant reduction in their income tax rate."

So, whatever happened to that middle-class tax break? Well, somehow, our President forgot all about it, and instead, gave the American people something else; the largest tax increase in peacetime history including a hike in gasoline taxes. The only choice we got was between higher gas prices and not driving at all. Then, when the new Republican Congress did enact a \$500 per child tax credit for working families, President Clinton killed it with his veto pen, calling it a tax cut for the rich. Mr. President, let's work together to give the American people tax relief.

### TIME FOR A RAISE

(Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, America's workers need a raise.

It has been almost 7 years since Congress raised the minimum wage.

Nearly all the benefits of that bipartisan effort have been eroded by inflation, reducing the value of the minimum wage to its lowest level since the early 60's.

Those who will benefit from a minimum wage increase are the 7 million working adults earning less than the President's proposed wage increase of \$5.15 an hour, and the 40 percent of minimum wage workers who are the sole breadwinners of their family.

The additional \$1,800 a year these workers will earn can pay for several

□ 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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