

public; the music, a gift to everyone who gathered at East Park. The Central Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra is a beneficiary of grants from the Worcester Cultural Commission and the Massachusetts Cultural Council which receives funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The NEA is not the exclusive funding source for arts in America. The lion's share of their funding comes from private individuals and corporations, and eliminating the NEA will not eliminate the arts; but it will curb average Americans' abilities to access them, to learn and grow from them and to enrich their children with them.

If the NEA is eliminated, the arts will become a private enterprise, the exclusive domain of the wealthy and well connected. The work of the American theater troops, musicians, painters, writers, and photographers belong to every American, not just those who can afford season tickets, private passes, and A-list invitations. As the arts preserve, reinvent and create our national heritage, they serve each of us. Their creations should be available for all of us to see, hear, feel and experience. The NEA helps make this happen.

The growth of museums, dance and opera companies, symphony orchestras and presenting groups is the direct result of NEA resources. Without the NEA, States like Massachusetts will become a tale of two cities. Larger cities like Boston will always find the resources to preserve the cultural centers. It is medium-sized and small cities, it is rural communities like those in my district that will suffer without Federal arts funding.

One glorious example of the NEA's handiwork is the Worcester Art Museum. Because of a \$15,000 NEA grant, the Worcester Art Museum was able to open the landmark exhibition entitled *Grant Wood: An American master revealed*. Over 57,000 men, women, and children throughout the area marveled at this exhibition. Free tours were given to over 3,800 students and a family day with hands-on art activities drew close to 2,000 people. Worcester Art Museum is expecting tens of thousands more people from Massachusetts and throughout New England to attend exhibitions planned for this coming year, and each of them is being made possible through NEA funding.

The NEA has done much to fund and recognize the educational value of the arts. Arts in the classroom have been proven to increase student attendance, bolster self-esteem, broaden vocabulary and boost overall academic progress. By teaching about the arts in our schools we not only enrich our students' cultural education, we actually help them learn. I have long been committed to reining in wasteful Government spending; but to target the NEA as the source of that waste demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of the Federal budget. Sadly, as this Congress seeks to eliminate the

modest Federal funding for museums, symphony orchestras, and theater groups across this Nation in the name of deficit reduction, it has succeeded in pouring billions and billions of dollars more into B-2 bombers that even the Pentagon says it does not need and does not want. It is absurd.

The former Governor of New York, Mario Cuomo, spoke eloquently about the current state of our society. He said that it is simply a tragedy that so many of our Nation's children will hear the sounds of gunfire before they hear the sounds of a symphony.

It is not simply a matter of resources, Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of priorities. Each taxpayer contributes less than 70 cents per year to the NEA, and I think that is a small price to pay to protect our heritage and preserve our culture. If anything, the NEA actually helps balance the budget. The NEA's investment in the Nation's arts acts as a catalyst for over \$3.4 billion in Federal tax revenue. It stimulates local economies and urban renewal. In my district, cities, and towns from Worcester to Fall River have witnessed the benefits of increased tourism and economic growth as a result of the NEA.

What message will we be sending to the Nation if the National Endowment for the Arts is eliminated? To cut the NEA is to reduce our national commitment to cultural activity. It is to decrease national visibility for cultural education, and it may prompt the States and local governments to cut the funding for the arts as well.

The arts bring people together, heal communities, and provide us with a common language. Supporting the arts is central both to our understanding of past civilizations and to constructing a shared vision for the future.

In conclusion, if we care that historical monuments will continue to be treasured and experienced by all, if we care that traveling exhibitions will make it beyond our Nation's largest cities, if we care that our children will be able to open the doors to America's culture and history, if we believe that music, drama and visual works, these flowers of our national experience must be made available to all, then we must support the National Endowment for the Arts.

GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE CELEBRATION 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, during the month of June, gay and lesbian people throughout this country celebrated our presence in this country. That is a tradition that has now gone on for more than 20 years, but this year there was one difference. As Herb and I prepared to go to New

York to participate in the New York celebration, I carried with me a statement from the President of the United States in which he welcomed the gay and lesbian pride celebrations and reaffirmed his commitment, the President's commitment, to fighting anti-gay and lesbian prejudice.

Bill Clinton is the first President in our history to confront this prejudice. Unfortunately, by the norms of American political discourse, you generally today get criticized by people when they are unhappy and ignored when you have done something that they should be applauding.

President Clinton is entitled to a good deal of praise for his willingness to confront one of the enduring prejudices that has blighted our ability as a nation to fully realize our constitutional ideals. I believe Mr. Speaker, given the historic nature of this proclamation which I was pleased to get a copy of from Richard Socarides, a very able aid at the White House who worked on these issues, I think it is appropriate that the President's statement on Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration 1997 be shared here in this Chamber. So I will now, with unanimous consent, proceed to read the President's celebration:

Warm greetings to all those participating in the 1997 Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration.

Throughout America's history, we have overcome tremendous challenges by drawing strength from our great diversity. We must never believe that our diversity is a weakness. The talents, contributions and goodwill of people from so many different backgrounds have enriched our national life and have enabled us to fulfill our common hopes and dreams. As we stand at the dawn of a new century, we must all rededicate ourselves to reaching the vital goals of acceptance and inclusion. America's continued success will depend on our ability to understand, appreciate, and care for one another.

We're not there yet, and that is why our efforts to end discrimination against lesbians and gays are so important. Like each of you, I remain dedicated to ending discrimination and preserving the civil rights of every citizen in our society. We have begun to wage an all-out campaign against hate crimes in America, crimes that are often viciously directed at gay men and lesbians. I have also endorsed and fought for civil rights legislation that would protect gay and lesbian Americans from discrimination. The Employment Nondiscrimination Act now being considered in Congress would put an end to discrimination against gay men and lesbians in the workplace, discrimination that is currently legal in 39 States. These efforts reflect our belief in the right of every American to be judged on his or her merits and ability, and to be allowed to contribute to society without facing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. And they reflect our ongoing fight against bigotry and intolerance in our country and in our hearts.

My Administration's record of inclusiveness is a strong one, but it is a record to build on. I am proud of the many openly gay men and lesbians who serve with distinction in my Administration, and their impact will

continue to be significant in the years ahead. I pledge to you that I will continue striving to foster compassion and understanding, working not simply to tolerate our differences, but to celebrate them.

Best wishes for a memorable celebration. Bill Clinton.

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the President on his willingness to speak out. It is consonant with the many actions he has taken in a number of areas to ban discrimination and to fight for the right of all Americans, as he said, to be judged on their individual merits, without being held back by some irrational prejudice.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock 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. GOODLING) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Enable us, O gracious God, to translate our noble words and affirmations into acts and deeds of value and worth. Encourage us to transpose our postures of goodness and charity into food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, and peace and security for the troubled. Inspire us to convert our creeds of faith into works of justice and into accomplishments that heal the soul and comfort every person. Bless us, O God, as we seek to be Your people and do those deeds that honor You and serve people in their need. In Your name we pray. 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. WICKER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WICKER 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communica-

tion from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 30, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on Monday, June 30, 1997 at 10:45 a.m.:

that the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 173;

that the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 649.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, House of Representatives.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF HON. ROBERT L. LIVINGSTON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Betty S. Barnes, staff assistant for the Hon. ROBERT L. LIVINGSTON, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 25, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House that I have been served with a subpoena issued by the District Court for the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana.

After consultation with the General Counsel, I have determined that compliance is consistent with the privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

BETTY S. BARNES.

THE LIBERALS AND TAX CUTS

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the last time taxes were cut in the 1980's several things happened. Many people like to call it the Reagan boom. It followed the tough times people faced in the 1970's.

During the Reagan boom, 18 million jobs were created; 18 million jobs were created. Manufacturing production increased by almost 50 percent. These are good-paying manufacturing jobs, Mr. Speaker. Incomes went up across the board. Taken together, we can say that prosperity went up.

Yes, the deficit also went up, but the dirty little secret that one never ever hears the liberals talk about is that spending went up, and spending increases are what caused the deficit to increase.

What about revenues? Why do we not ask the liberals if revenues increased or decreased? They increased.

Why do we not ask them to tell us if tax cuts resulted in revenues going up or going down? They went up.

Why do we not ask them to explain to us how the tax cuts caused the deficit? They did not. Why do we not learn from experience, Mr. Speaker?

CRAFTING A BALANCED BUDGET RESOLUTION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, now that we have returned from the Independence Day district work period, negotiators between the House and the Senate will get down to business hammering out a final version of the balanced budget resolution. Democrats have argued in favor of tax cuts primarily for the middle class while Republicans seem intent on large tax breaks for their wealthy friends. A recent Treasury Department report indicated that in the last year of the Republican budget proposal, affluent Americans would be the primary beneficiaries of the tax cuts. Over half of the tax cuts would benefit those making nearly a quarter of a million dollars and more. President Clinton's and other Democratic proposals seek to give more back to the middle class. Our tax proposals provide more money for education expenses and for working families.

Mr. Speaker, the budget negotiators must move to lighten the burden on low- and middle-income families if they are to gain the President's approval and not break the promises that were made to working families as part of this budget deal.

SUPPORT H.R. 1917, HARDROCK MINING PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

(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, mining is one of the most important and needed industries in the United States. However, the Bureau of Land Management's decision to enforce a final rule on reclamation bonding of hardrock mineral operations is having a negative impact on large and small miners alike as well as their suppliers, contractors and the economy.

Mr. Speaker, the good news is that I have introduced legislation that will transfer the authority of the Bureau of Land Management to require bonds or other financial guarantees for the reclamation of mineral operations to State governments. Once again the current Federal rule is a mandate of action on the States and does not give them the option of solving local problems at local levels. My bill will allow States to work in cooperation with miners, contractors and suppliers to develop a strategy that will protect our public lands while supporting an industry that every American is dependent upon. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1917, the Hardrock Mining Protection Act of 1997. We must protect the