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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

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

With all the wonderful traditions that have blessed our lives, we pray, gracious God, that we will be more appreciative of the families who have nurtured us along the way and given us the very gift of life. For mothers and fathers, for grandparents and relatives, and for all those people who fostered our growth and looked to our care, we offer words of thanksgiving and gratitude. We recognize that as we give value to our family heritage and honor our own history, we strengthen our own lives and gain the power to share these same gifts with those who follow us. In Your holy name, we pray. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. MCINTYRE] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCINTYRE 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minutes on each side.

GOVERNMENT CANNOT BUILD PROSPERITY; ONLY FREE INDIVIDUALS CAN

(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, I often wonder if the other side has forgotten what motivated people from every corner of the globe to come to our shores throughout history. Indeed, the forefathers of the very same people who reflexively attack the idea of tax cuts as tax cuts for the rich came to America to escape government oppression, to escape the idea that government has a higher claim to the fruits of your labor than you and your family do.

America as a land of opportunity was not built into a rich and prosperous Nation by this way of thinking. In fact, America is a land of opportunity for reasons which are exactly the opposite of this way of thinking.

Government cannot build prosperity. Only free individuals can.

Americans became rich because free individuals had dreams, took risks, and worked hard to realize those dreams.

The other side might wish to remember that their rhetoric has absolutely nothing to do with making America more free, nothing to do with telling children to dream great dreams, and nothing to do with making a nation prosperous. It is very sad to see.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR PROVISION OF THE REVENUE RECONCILIATION ACT WOULD REDUCE AMERICAN WORKERS

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, our country is going through a major transition in employment relations. The

temporary help industry is exploding. Workers can no longer count on working for the same employer for their entire lives. Now is the time for Federal policy to promote a high-wage/high-skill economy which values workers and encourages employers to invest in the skills and long-term productivity of working people.

But the independent contractor provision in the Revenue Reconciliation Act would reclassify and misclassify American working people as independent contractors without wage and benefit guarantees, without unemployment or worker's compensation, without prevailing wage, minimum wage, without protections or equal employment protections. It would reduce American workers.

The last time we had a system like the independent contractor provision, we had an America that was filled with company stores. We are not going back to that era.

We have to value American workers, invest in them, and give them an opportunity to support their families with decent wages and to have decent benefits.

CUT TAXES FOR WORKING FAMILIES

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important debates that will occur during this Congress is whether this Congress will send more money back to the people who work for a living and earn that money. As one might expect, we are hearing both sides in this debate talking about tax cuts.

But let's look at the record. Republicans have controlled Congress for the last two Congresses. In each of those Congresses we have passed tax cuts for working men and women in this country.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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