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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Thomas Kuhn, Church of the Incarnation, Centerville, OH, offered the following prayer:

Father, as we look around us, we see signs of the love that You have for this great Nation of ours. But as we look at the many blessings we have, we know that You are also calling on us to share those blessings with others.

You made us the most powerful Nation on earth so that we could be a kind and gentle people, ready to help and protect those who are unable to protect themselves.

You made us strong so that we could guarantee that all people enjoy the rights and freedoms that You gave them. May we work that no one is enslaved to prejudice and hatred.

You gave us this great power so that we might prosper and grow. May we share our blessings with those who are homeless and poor and hungry and be always ready to help those who need us the most.

You gave us great strength so that we may never tire in the search for peace in the world. In a world where there seems to be a never ending source of conflict between nations, may we have the strength to persevere in the search for that peace.

Watch over and strengthen this House of Representatives that they may always work for the common good of our Nation and the world. 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. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. 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 Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. 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 will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 102. Joint resolution expressing the sense of the Congress on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2646. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses, to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2646) "An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses, to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. ROTH, Mr. MACK, Mr. COATS, Mr. GORTON, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. BINGAMAN, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4355(a) of title 10, United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the United States Military Academy:

The Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), from the Committee on Armed Services, and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), from the Committee on Appropriations.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4355(a) of title 10, United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), At Large, to the Board of Visitors of the United States Military Academy.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 6968(a) of title 10, United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy:

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), from the Committee on Armed Services, and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), from the Committee on Appropriations.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 6968(a) of title 10,

□ 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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United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy:

The Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), from the Committee on Appropriations, and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), At Large.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 9355(a) of title 10, United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the United States Air Force Academy:

The Senator from Idaho (Mr. KEMPTHORNE), from the Committee on Armed Services, and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), from the Committee on Appropriations.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 9355(a) of title 10, United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the United States Air Force Academy:

The Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS), from the Committee on Appropriations, and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND), At Large.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULSHOF). The Chair will recognize 5 one-minutes on each side.

A RIGHT TO KNOW

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, it was Theodore Roosevelt who said in his third State of the Union address:

No man is above the law and no man is below it; nor do we ask any man's permission when we require him to obey it. Obedience to the law is demanded as a right, not asked as a favor.

President Clinton should have kept that quote in mind before he invoked executive privilege. When Janet Reno appointed Ken Starr to investigate the various scandals that have beset the administration, he promised to follow the rule of law. He has done so despite the best efforts of the President's attack dogs to discredit him.

The American people have a right to know the truth about the actions of the President and all the President's men. They have a right to know that the rule of law is still being followed in the White House.

No man is above the law, no matter how often the President invokes executive privilege.

CONCERNING REMARKS OF SPEAKER GINGRICH IN MONDAY SPEECH

(Mr. GEPHARDT asked and was given permission to address the House

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, ideally we are able to put aside our partisan interests and consider the people's business, if not with a blank slate, at least with an open mind. The Speaker of the House has an even greater duty. He not only represents his district and his party but he represents the integrity of the House of Representatives for all Members.

This Monday the Speaker delivered a speech in which he accused unnamed presidential advisers of being unpatriotic, accused Members of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight for voting for a cover-up, urged the President and unnamed members of our party to quit undermining the law in the United States, and declared that in the last 2½ years we have lived through the most systematic, deliberate obstruction of justice, cover-up and effort to avoid the truth we have ever seen in American history. These remarks, which demean the office which he is privileged to hold, were repeated in the well of the House.

The Speaker noted in the same speech that America is a Nation under the rule of law and that no person is above the law. I fully agree with his comments. But speeches are empty sentiments unless they are practiced through our public behavior. There is more to the rule of law than after-dinner rhetoric. The rule of law requires impartial and competent investigations. It assumes the Speaker will not prejudge the results of these investigations. It requires, if not charity towards all, at least an absence of malice.

The Speaker's remarks have shown that he falls far short of this standard. I have sent him a letter and asked him here today to recuse himself from all further actions connected with this investigation. We must restore a sense of fairness to this process and integrity to this House.

RECOGNIZING FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF COL- LINSVILLE, ILLINOIS, ON ITS 175TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an event that will occur in my hometown of Collinsville, Illinois. On May 3 of this year, the First United Presbyterian Church of Collinsville will celebrate its 175th birthday. It is the oldest church in continuous existence in Madison County. Informal worship services began in 1818, the year Illinois became the 21st State.

To honor this celebration, the church is having at least one special program a month from February through July. Each month a different group within the church will lead services. The first

program in February was a reenactment of a Society Meeting in the style which was held in the 1800s. Many members of the congregation dressed for the occasion in period pieces, including the pastor and members of the choir.

Besides a special service on May 3, the actual date of the organization of the congregation, there will be programs to honor the church-related Glenwood Cemetery, established in 1822, on May 16 and 17. These celebrations are geared so that members of the congregation will have the opportunity to share with the community and rejoice in the blessings that God has given them.

SHAME IN THE MAKING

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, and now I mean Speaker GINGRICH, you have begun personal attacks on the President. Mr. Speaker, you have told your Republican cash cow GOPAC that the President is obstructing justice. By stating your attacks on the President in a partisan manner, before a partisan group, you have shown that you cannot lead the House in a fair and impartial manner in any review of any inquiry. In fact, it appears that you have already reviewed the alleged facts and you have prejudged and you have made yourself judge and jury.

Mr. Speaker, let us stick to the facts, not by GOPAC but just the facts. But instead, Mr. Speaker, even a Roll Call editorial calls your actions "Shame In The Making." Let us not bring shame to this House. You have a responsibility to lead, not mislead. You should be a statesman without prejudging any inquiry.

Instead you have become a lightning rod of partisanship. Just over a year ago, we had to reprimand you and fine you over \$300,000 for bringing shame and disrespect to this House. Do we have to go down that shameful road again? Do not bring shame and disrespect to this House, Mr. Speaker, by your personal attacks.

AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHY FOREIGN FUND- RAISING INVESTIGATION IS BEING BLOCKED

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the House investigation on the use of illegal foreign money in the last election by the DNC, over 90 people involved with the fund-raising have either taken the fifth amendment or fled the country to avoid testifying. This fact alone points to extensive illegal activity.

The only way the American people are going to get to the truth is if we