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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Thomas Pappalas, Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Reading, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Almighty God and Creator, guide, I pray, all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us all from the evils of injustice, prejudice, hatred, terrorism, conflict and war. Father, bless this Nation and this Nation's people and unite us in the making and sharing of weapons of peace, helping us to combat ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression. Bless our President, William Jefferson Clinton, our national leaders, and most especially the men and women gathered this day. Heavenly Father, guide them and fill them with Your Holy Spirit. Help them to be wise, just and compassionate in the fulfilling of their responsibilities. And, Lord, bless us all, forgive us our sins, and have mercy on our souls. Dear Lord, we give thanks and glory to You, forever and ever, to the ages of ages. 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 Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GUTKNECHT 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.

WELCOMING FATHER TOM PAPPALAS

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

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you and Reverend Ford for allowing my constituent, Father Tom Pappalas, the pastor of Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Reading, Pennsylvania, to offer the opening prayer this morning.

My predecessor, who served in this body with honor and distinction for 24 years, Gus Yatron, is one of Father Tom's parishioners.

Father Tom is truly a spiritual leader in Berks County. He has twice served as president of the Berks County Clergy Association. Father Tom was born in Chicago, Illinois and served in the United States Navy from 1969 to 1971. He graduated from Hellenic College in 1978 and Holy Cross School of Theology in 1981. He and his wife Ann are the proud parents of three children, and I thank Father Tom for his spiritual guidance this morning.

REMEMBERING THE 211TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. GINGRICH. I wanted to share with my colleagues that this is the 211th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States. I think all of us should pause and reflect on that.

Over 200 years ago, a relatively small group of the Founding Fathers, led by George Washington, whose portrait hangs here, by Jefferson, Adams, Madison, Hamilton, Franklin, 55 people met in Philadelphia. They drafted a docu-

ment which has lasted longer than any other Constitution in the modern world.

They created a framework of self-government with balanced rules, and they determined once and for all that the age of kings was over; that all men and women are under the law. None is above it and none is below it, and all deserve the protection of a free judiciary within the rule of law which is established through a pattern of free speech and free elections.

I just thought today was a good day for all of us to remember that we are the heirs to a great tradition, and it is our job to safeguard that tradition to give our children the constitutional liberties we have known.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair announces there will be 15 1-minute periods per side.

DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE WILL FUND NO CANDIDATE WHO INITIATES PERSONAL ATTACKS ON OPPONENTS

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, this morning I am joining with my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHN LINDER), the chairman of the Republican Campaign Committee. I serve as chairman of the Democratic Campaign Committee. We are announcing a policy of the two committees.

The level of public discourse in this country right now cannot continue at the depth that it has fallen to. While we cannot control what goes on outside this Chamber, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and our Republican counterpart will not fund

□ 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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any Democratic candidate who initiates an attack on the personal private life of an opponent in the coming election. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee will fire any employee who initiates an attack on the personal private life of an opponent in this election.

REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE WILL FUND NO CANDIDATE WHO INITIATES PERSONAL ATTACKS ON OPPONENTS

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my colleague from Texas (Mr. FROST) in saying that the despicable act yesterday against the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HENRY HYDE), one of the most decent men who has ever served in this body, has brought this entire discussion of public discourse to a new low.

Private lives, unrelated to policy or unrelated to public involvement in politics, is simply off limits, and the Republican Campaign Committee will not fund any candidate in America who engages in bringing personal aspects, unrelated to policy, of any opponent's life out in the open.

We both have agreed that responding is acceptable, but initiating a personal attack on anybody running for office is simply off limits. We are going to soon have no one of any stature willing to put themselves through this wringer, and it is sad for America.

SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY; SAVE THE SURPLUS

(Ms. KILPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the most successful program this country has ever seen: our Social Security fund. Started in 1934 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, this has become the most successful program. It now stands to be threatened.

Over all these many years, the Social Security Trust Fund has had a surplus that has been used by our general fund to fund very vital services in our country. For the first time, September 30th, in a long time, in a decade, we will see a surplus in our budget. The Social Security Trust Fund is at risk.

The surplus is really the surplus that is needed for the Social Security Trust Fund, to make sure that it is available into the 21st century. Let us save the surplus, which is the surplus that must be used to secure the Social Security fund. Save the Social Security Trust Fund, save the surplus. Hold it and make our future promising.

TRIBUTE TO TIM FERNERIS

(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, in these troubled times, many good things by good people are still being done. As a Cardinals' fan and an Illinoisan, I salute the exploits of Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa. They have raced up the hill of baseball history with honor and dignity. They are to be commended.

My hometown hero, Tim Farnieris, retrieved Big Mac's 62nd home run. Giving up a \$1 million bonanza, he returned the ball to McGwire. For Tim and his older brother Tino, the game is a moment in their lives that they will never forget. Tim's mother Rita says she believes her son could one day be a millionaire, but not without earning it. I agree with her 100 percent, and want her to know that he is well on his way by earning our respect and admiration by simply doing the right thing. Thank you, Tim.

CONGRESS SHOULD HONOR SOCIAL SECURITY COMMITMENTS ALREADY MADE BEFORE MAKING NEW PROMISES

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, all year Democrats have been trying to save Social Security, and all year Republicans have been trying to raid it.

The proof is in our budgets. The Republican-passed budget did not include any provision to protect the surplus for Social Security. The Democratic budget provided a rock-solid guarantee. True to form, today Republicans are offering \$200 billion in tax cuts paid for out of the budget surplus.

Now, I support most of these tax cuts, but the money Republicans are using to pay for them belongs to our Nation's seniors and working families. They put it there. The surplus would not even exist if it were not for the Social Security Trust Fund.

The conservative action would be not to spend what we do not have in the bank. We should take care of the commitment and the contract we already made with our seniors in Social Security before we pay for new promises using their money.

It is easy to go out and tell seniors you are on their side. That vote will prove who really is and who really is not. And, believe me, the voters are watching.

GOVERNMENT SHOULD HELP FARMERS, NOT HELP DESTROY THEM

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

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak this morning on a problem that is devastating to rural America, to Iowa: Our livestock producers

are suffering from extremely low prices.

And I would like to inform the Congress as to what the response from this administration has been. It is a typical liberal Democrat response. Secretary Glickman gets together with the President and decides the answer is to raise taxes on farmers.

All we have to do is look at the budget and there are \$573 million of new taxes on livestock farmers in the President's budget. This is the kind of response this administration has to a farm crisis, is to raise taxes on farmers? When will this Congress wake up and find out that we have got to help these people, not bring the normal answer from the liberal Democrats and tax and tax more.

The well is dry. Our farmers are broke. Let us try to help them, not destroy them.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE NOT ON TRIAL

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, first there was the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DAN BURTON), then the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PAUL MCHALE), now our great chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HENRY HYDE).

Let us tell it like it is. The same White House that destroyed Billy Dale, the same White House that called Monica Lewinsky a liar, the same White House that abandoned Lonnie Guinier is on the attack.

It is time to ask, Congress: How many files of American citizens were illegally transferred from the FBI to the White House and who ordered it? Are you on the list? Are you on the list? Am I on that list?

Enough is enough. The gentleman from Indiana, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, and the gentleman from Illinois are not on trial. It is time for the House of Representatives to tell the White House that their "spin to win" could provoke "the move to remove."

In America, the people govern. And America is a Nation of laws. I yield back the balance of my time in the soap opera in Washington, D.C.

CONGRESS WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED

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

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, a former Clinton adviser, George Stephanopolous, was right. Mr. Stephanopolous predicted a whisper campaign waged by the White House against Members of Congress who would eventually be forced to consider the independent counsel's allegations