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No. 22

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m.

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

Let us pray using words of Psalm 46.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the Earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Come behold the works of the Lord, how He has wrought desolations in the Earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the Earth; He breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.

Be still, and know that I am God. I am exalted among the nations. I am exalted in the Earth.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. 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 Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG 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, an-

nounced that the Senate had passed a Concurrent Resolution of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 6. Concurrent resolution authorizing flags located in the Capitol complex to be flown at half-staff in memory of R. Scott Bates, Legislative Clerk of the United States Senate.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 1928a-1928d of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly during the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 1928a-1928d of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Delaware (Mr. ROTH) as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly during the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276h-276k, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group during the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-83, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) to serve as a member of the National Council on the Arts.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the National Commission on Terrorism:

Richard Kevin Betts, of New Jersey; and

Maurice Sonnenberg, of New York.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276h-276k of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) as the Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group during the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-292, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, appoints The Most Reverend Theodore E. McCarrick, Archbishop of Newark, New Jersey, to the Commission on International Religious Freedom.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, in consultation with the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, appoints the following individuals to the Trade Deficit Review Commission:

Dimitri B. Papadimitriou, of New York;

C. Richard D'Amato, of Maryland; and

Lester C. Thurow, of Massachusetts.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of Manuel H. Johnson, of Virginia, to serve as a member of the International Financial Institution Advisory Commission.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 276i of title 22, United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, appoints the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group during the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

□ 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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The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on Online Child Protection:

Arthur Derosier, Jr., of Montana—Representative of academia with expertise in the field of technology;

Albert F. Gainer III, of Tennessee—Representative of a business providing Internet filtering or blocking services or software;

Donna Rice Hughes, of Virginia—Representative of a business making content available over the Internet;

C. Bradley Keirens, of Colorado—Representative of a business providing Internet access services; and

Karen L. Talbert, of Texas—Representative of a business providing labeling or ratings services.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the National Commission on Terrorism:

Wayne A. Downing, of Colorado;

Fred Ikle, of Maryland; and

John F. Lewis, of New York.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 93-415, as amended by Public Law 102-586, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of William Keith Oubre, of Mississippi, to serve as member of the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, vice Robert H. Maxwell, of Mississippi.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-83, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) as a member of the National Council on the Arts.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-244, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Web-Based Education Commission: Patti S. Abraham, of Mississippi; and George Bailey, of Montana.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276d-276g of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group during the First Session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the International Financial Institution Advisory Commission: Charles W. Calomiris, of New York; and Edwin J. Feulner, Jr., of Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-255, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering and Technology Development: Judy L. Johnson, of Mississippi; and Elaine M. Mendoza, of Texas.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 104-293, as amended by Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission to Assess the Organization of the Federal Government to Combat the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction: M.D.B. Carlisle, of Washington, D.C.; and Henry D. Sokolski, of Virginia.

NORTH KOREA'S LAUNCH OF TAEPO DONG MISSILE A WAKE-UP CALL

(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, last year I and many of my colleagues expressed our concerns over the growing missile threat to the United States.

Chief among those concerns was the administration's lack of resolve to deploy a National Missile Defense system.

Surprisingly, though, the North Korean launch of a Taepo Dong missile in August of last year was a wake-up call for this administration and for America as well, because portions of this missile landed off the coast of Alaska.

Mr. Speaker, the threat is here and it must be countered. I applaud the dedication of \$6.6 billion in the administration's budget and the commitment to deploy viable National Missile Defense.

I am proud to be a part of this effort and, based on my own experience in the Gulf War with these terror weapons, I will fight to ensure that no American citizen will ever be confronted with a Taepo Dong missile or any other terror missile.

Mr. Speaker, with all the uncertainties in our world, for our children, for our grandchildren, we must strengthen our national security and protect our precious country.

I encourage all Members to help protect America. Let us pass H.R. 4, because a national missile defense is something we cannot live without.

IT IS TIME FOR AN ACROSS THE BOARD INCOME TAX CUT

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, on January 6, I introduced a bill to cut Federal income taxes by 10 percent across the board.

Taxes are at an all time high. When State and local taxes are added to the Federal tax bite, the average American family ends up paying more in taxes than it spends on housing, food and clothing combined.

I believe that is outrageous. With the Federal Government expected to run a surplus of \$4.4 trillion over the next 15 years, there is no excuse for taxing the American people at a higher level than what was needed to win World War II.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to cut taxes for every American. A 10 percent across the board tax cut is the fairest and simplest way to provide the American people with the tax relief that they deserve. Instead of picking winners and losers, this proposal benefits every American who earns a paycheck.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this common sense tax relief plan.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington DC, February 4, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on February 4, 1999 at 12:30 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits the Economic Report of the President.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHLL.

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-2)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Joint Economic Committee and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to report that the American economy today is healthy and strong. Our Nation is enjoying the longest peacetime economic expansion in its history, with almost 18 million new jobs since 1993, wages rising at twice the rate of inflation, the highest home ownership ever, the smallest welfare rolls in 30 years, and unemployment and inflation at their lowest levels in three decades.

This expansion, unlike recent previous ones, is both wide and deep. All income groups, from the richest to the poorest, have seen their incomes rise since 1993. The typical family income is