We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.

Give thanks to Him, and bless His name.

For the Lord is good.

His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

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. FROST. 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 Chair's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. FROST. 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. Evidently a quorum is not present.

Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this vote will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCNULTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCNULTY 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 with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2280. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in rates of compensation paid for service-connected disabilities, to enhance the compensation, memorial affairs, and housing programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve retirement authorities applicable to judges of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 296. An act to provide for continuation of the Federal research investment in a fiscally sustainable way, and for other purposes.

S. 1402. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance programs providing education benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on each side.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, today the White House is holding a party celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, this is no time to celebrate. We now know that the Legal Services Corporation massively misrepresented its caseload to Congress. In fact, according to a recent study, LSC misreported a full one-third of its cases to Congress. That kind of waste and mismanagement are hardly causes for celebration.

LSC was inflating numbers. LSC was giving Congress misleading information. LSC was wasting taxpayer money. And worst of all, it was neglecting the very people it claims to help.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot reward poor performance and misleading information. No birthday celebration can paper over the fact that the Legal Services Corporation is not helping as many people as it claims.

Now that the false cases have been exposed, it is clear that LSC does not deserve the funding it has been getting. In fact, Mr. Speaker, perhaps they should make their case before the false claims court.

Mr. Speaker, given LSC's habit of inflating numbers by a third, I would not be surprised if that birthday cake at the White House today has 33 candles on it.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE FRANK M. JOHNSON

(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, on July 23 the Nation lost a great American when Judge Frank M. Johnson died at his home in Montgomery, Alabama.

Judge Johnson was truly an American hero, a man of decency and courage, and whose dedication to the principles of the Constitution ensured that all Americans might enjoy the rights and privileges accorded to the citizens of this Nation by that great document.

His most celebrated decisions came in the early years of the civil rights movement in this country. After Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus, Judge Johnson ruled that the regulation that required her to stand in order that a white passenger might sit was in violation of the 14th Amendment.

Following the savage beating of civil rights marchers, who included our own colleague the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) by Alabama state troopers as they attempted to march from Selma to Montgomery, Judge Johnson moved that those marchers should be allowed to express their grievances through a peaceful demonstration.

In his ruling, he said that those marchers were doing nothing more than exercising their Constitutional right to assemble peaceably to seek redress of grievances.

He struck down laws that prohibited African-Americans from serving on juries, signed the order to force the integration of the University of Alabama, took part in the case that led to the one man, one vote ruling by the Supreme Court and had a hand in scores of other cases that led to desegregation of public facilities throughout the South.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this great man did indeed yield true justice. The country has lost a great man.

LANCE ARMSTRONG, AN INCREDIBLE COMEBACK

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have got a new hero named Lance Armstrong as a professional cycler.

In October of 1996, he was diagnosed with cancer, threatening not only his career but his life. Last Sunday afternoon, he conquered both. Lance, who grew up in Plano, Texas, in our district, won the Tour de France by 7 minutes, 37 seconds.

Armstrong's triumph over the France landscape is a testament to the strength of human mind, body, and spirit when put to the test and a testament to faith in God that miracles do happen.

The fact that an American won the race for the first time in 9 years is reason enough for national celebration. But Armstrong's victory over cancer gives a very real, very special hope to those who are struggling with cancer.

Today we say bravo and congratulations, Lance, for a victory that will go down as one of the most incredible comebacks in history.

America is in your debt. God bless you.

AMERICA MUST NOT TOLERATE MURDERERS

(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, the Yosemite murderer confessed to four

brutal killings. Cary Stayner said he beheaded one victim. Cary Stayner then said he had killed the mother and her 15-year-old daughter. Cary Stayner then said he killed their 16-year-old friend as well. Then Cary Stayner apologized. My colleagues, Cary Stayner said, ''I'm sorry.''

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. I say it is time for a jury to tell Cary Stayner, Goodnight, sweet Prince. It is time to meet the devil.

An America that tolerates murderers like Cary Stayner is an America that will have more murderers like Cary Stayner.

I yield back the record number of victims laid to rest in cemeteries all over America.

THREE CORNERSTONES OF REPUBLICAN BUDGET PROPOSAL

(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, the Republican budget proposal contains three important provisions, some of which our friends on the other side appear to be ignoring.

First, it contains a Social Security and Medicare lockbox requirement which locks away 100 percent, every dime of the money collected from FICA taxes and requires that it all goes towards Social Security, Medicare.

Secondly, it provides for substantial debt reduction. Debt held by the public would be reduced by over $2 trillion over the next 10 years.

And third, it provides for tax relief they are debating.

Social Security and Medicare, debt reduction, and tax relief. Those are the three cornerstones of our budget proposal. It seems that Social Security and Medicare and debt reduction are being forgotten in all of the debate about tax relief.

But to ignore our plan to strengthen Social Security and Medicare, to ignore the $2 trillion in debt reduction that our plan calls for simply does not do it justice.

Our plan is fair, balanced, and responsible. It protects seniors, begins paying down the national debt, and gives taxpayers a break.

MASSIVE REPUBLICAN TAX BREAK IS OUTRAGEOUS AND EXCESSIVE

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, the massive House Republican tax break is outrageous and excessive, threatening opportunities to strengthen Social Security, Medicare, and education.

Just listen to Republican analyst Kevin Phillips in comments made today: ''We can fairly call the House legislation the most outrageous tax package of the last 50 years. It is worse than the 1981 excesses. You have to go back to 1948, when the Republican 80th Congress sent a kindred bill to President Harry Truman. Harry Truman vetoed it, calling the Republicans 'bloodsuckers with offices in Wall Street.' Not only did he win reelection, but the Democrats recaptured Congress.''

House Republicans have also proved that they are more concerned about big tax cuts for the wealthy than providing relief for America's school districts by failing to take a prime opportunity to include a real school construction initiative.

The tunnel vision by Republicans on a big tax break for the rich senselessly blocks commonsense tax incentives that would provide crucial aid to America's schools.

Republican priorities put wealthy Americans over the needs of our children. Mr. Speaker, we must put our children before the wealthy in this country.

AMERICANS SHOULD HOLD ON TO MORE OF THEIR HARD-EARNED MONEY

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it is very interesting to come to the well of this Chamber; and we can always depend on something. It is as predictable as the swallows returning to San Juan Capistrano and the buzzards going back to Hinckley, Ohio. We always hear from my liberal friends every excuse in the book as to why the American people should not keep more of their hard-earned money.

I appreciate my good friend from New York and his lesson in revisionist history. It is always interesting to hear the rationale of those doomed to defeat because they fail to recognize that, if given a choice, we believe Americans should hold on to more of their hard-earned money instead of sending it to Washington bureaucrats to waste.

While we are on the subject and talking about children, I am curious as to why my liberal friends think that those working Americans who earn $40,000 a year are somehow rich. Because it turns out those who make $40,000 a year pay nearly four times as much in taxes as those who earn $20,000 a year.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I point this out: It is real simple what we want to do with the surplus, the overcharge. We want to take $2 of that surplus and put it away, lock it away for Social Security and Medicare. And then with the other dollar that remains, we want to give it back to the American people because it is their money and in that way we will secure America's future and the majority in this Chamber.

DO NOT VOTE TO CONDEMN UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT IT IS

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, it troubles me that sometimes in this Chamber we stand and say things that we ought not to say. We criticize people that we have no right to criticize.

We recently voted to condemn a scientific study and an organization, an organization that has done as much as any organization in this country to fight child abuse.

I wonder how many of us read the study before we were willing to vote to say that the methodology was flawed. I wonder how many of us were technically competent to make that decision.

I believe that we ought to observe the Ten Commandments. One of those Commandments says, you ought not to bear false witness against your neighbor.

When we say things about an organization or about an individual scientist that are untrue or unsubstantiated, in my judgment, we have violated that Commandment.

We ought to have the decency not to vote to condemn something until we know what it is we are voting to condemn.

GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT KEEP TAXPAYERS' HARD-EARNED MONEY

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are proposing a tax cut. In fact, we passed it in the House of Representatives here just last week. Democrats criticized it, and now they say they want to target a tax cut. But there is a big difference. Republicans are targeting all taxpayers. If they pay taxes, they get a tax cut. To liberal Democrats that is not fair. To their way of thinking only if the government decides whether they are worthy of some social engineering should they get a tax cut. And if they are carrying most of the tax burden, they are the last persons the liberal Democrats here in the House want to give a tax cut to. For most taxpayers, when a liberal wants to give a targeted tax cut, well, this is a euphemism for ''you are not getting one.''

Let me say again what the Republican approach to tax cuts is, if one is a taxpayer, one gets to keep some of one's hard-earned money. It is not the Government's money. It belongs to the people who had labored and worked hard to earn it in the first place

Yes, it is a question of fairness and it sends an important signal to the American people that hard work will be rewarded.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET BETTER AT DEBT REDUCTION THAN DEMOCRAT PROPOSALS

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