propaganda of solidarity and unselfish interest.

Stop showing the exterior walls of prisons as well-kept and elegant facades while incarcerated human beings are degraded in extreme dearth.

I denounce that the prison food is vile.

Families arrive weary and emaciated bringing bags of food to supply the needs of the prisoners, only to be turned away because authorities fail to notify them that visiting hours have been changed. That is why they don't want international inspectors. They do not want the world to know these internal matters so well known to the innocent political prisoners.

I denounce that, in the majority of cases, we leave these prisons physically ill, thus history continues to repeat itself as so many of us are imprisoned so many times. That is why the Castro government represses us, implementing laws that penalize any group of two or more people whose ideas resist and oppose the so-called revolutionary government of Castro.

I accuse the Cuban government of separating the Cuban family, who, in desperation flee Cuba for political reasons.

I accuse the so-called ''revolutionary government'' of the political and democratic ignorance our people suffer, as they deceive the unwary people of the world with their propaganda of mass and cultural opinion education. They accomplish this by creating public opinion created by the state using Nazi-style techniques copied from Bolshevik Russia where Cubans pay a high price, acting hypocritically as they pretend to go along in public in order to subsist.

We ask the addressees of these lines, soon to convene in Geneva, Switzerland, at the Human Rights Commission, to discuss Cuba, to consider the ill-treatment of the Cuban people by its own government. I know that no delegation, not even those who defend Castro, will be permitted to come to visit me so they can corroborate this raw truth.

If any justice exists in the world for Maritza Lugo and her denunciation, this government, the government of Castro, should be sanctioned for this and so many other violations that they are constantly inflicting upon the Cuban population as they deceive and laugh at the whole world.

This, Mr. Speaker, is the reality of Cuba today, from Maritza Lugo, President of the 30th of November Democratic Party, from the women's prison popularly known as Black Cloak.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, source of creation and well-spring of revelation, Your word reverberates an awareness of how our behavior affects others. Your spirit penetrates our indifference to the consequences of our actions or to the suffering of others. Once illusion sets in or the infectious sin begins in any of us the whole human system can be measured by its fever.

As Isaias says: ''The whole head is sick, the whole heart is faint.''

One continent will not contain the epidemic. One system of any organization cannot localize the dysfunction. One group will not absorb the injustice without infecting us all.

By Your Spirit, give us a clear diagnosis of the evils within us that we may be on our way to discovering a remedy to our Nation's weakness and a lasting cure for our problems both here and abroad both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CAPPS 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, March 12, 2001.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 5(a) of the James Madison Commemoration Commission Act (P.L. 106–550), I hereby appoint the following Members to the James Madison Commemoration Commission:

Mr. Rick Boucher, VA.
Mr. Jim Moran, VA.

Yours Very Truly,
RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, March 12, 2001.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 5(b) of the James Madison Commemoration Commission Act (P.L. 106–550), I hereby appoint the following individuals to the James Madison Commemoration Advisory Committee:

Dr. James Billington, VA.
The Honorable Theodore A. McKee, PA.

Yours Very Truly,
RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR TAX RELIEF

(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, this House, indeed, this Congress has a lot to celebrate and a lot to be proud of.

After decades of wasteful spending and rising Federal deficits, our fiscal house is in order. Since 1997, we have paid down $363 billion of the Federal debt, and we are on course to paying off the complete $2 trillion of the Federal public debt over the next 10 years.

This Republican Congress has set aside nearly $3 trillion for the protection of Social Security, Medicare and further debt relief. Mr. Speaker, the nonpartisan CBO estimates that we will have a $5.6 trillion surplus over the next 10 years. Our fiscal house is not only in order, it is in the best possible shape in generations, and now we are going to give Americans what they need, want and deserve, real tax relief.

No one doubts that if the surplus money stays in Washington, it will be spent on bigger, more wasteful Federal bureaucracy. We need to put America's families first. The surplus belongs to them, not the wasteful spenders in Washington. The right thing to do is return the surplus to the people who earned it, the American taxpayers.

MILITARY BERETS SHOULD BE MANUFACTURED IN UNITED STATES

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, the Army is preparing to outfit every soldier with a new black beret. Some people oppose this policy, but whether or not it is a good idea, one thing we can all agree on is that these berets should be made in the United States.

So why is the Pentagon acquiring 2.5 million berets from companies who make these berets in countries like China, Romania and Sri Lanka? This is very troubling.

The Pentagon has waived the law which requires domestic production of military uniforms. This decision is costing American companies millions