is what waving the American flag is all about.

Instead of this Republican President and Republican leadership bestowing tax cuts on the wealthiest Americans, imagine if we helped those who needed help the most, and imagine, instead of the President and the Republican leadership bestowing tax cuts on the largest corporations in the world in this country, imagine instead if they appealed to the best in America.

Imagine.

RECESS

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

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

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Dr. Lloyd J. Ogilvie, Chaplain, United States Senate, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, whom to know is to love and whom to love is to serve, we ask for a fresh empowering of Your Spirit today. Renew in us the excitement of being partners with You in bringing Your best for America. We are here by Your divine appointment. Therefore we need not fear. You will supply exactly what we need each hour of this day. Replenish our enthusiasm. May we do old duties with new delight. Revive our expectation. You have plans for us and power to accomplish them. Regenerate our hope.

Make us hopeful people who expect great strength from You and attempt great strategies for You. Fill this Chamber with Your presence and each Representative with Your power. Replenish their inner wells with Your peace that passes understanding. We claim Your promise through Isaiah, ''Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God, I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'' Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CASTLE 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6:30 p.m. today.

RICHARD B. RUSSELL NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3216) to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to exclude certain basic allowances for housing of an individual who is a member of the uniformed services from the determination of eligibility for free and reduced price meals of a child of the individual.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3216

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN MILITARY BASIC ALLOWANCES FOR HOUSING FOR DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS.

Section 9(b)(3) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''For the two-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this sentence, the amount of a basic allowance provided under section 403 of title 37, United States Code, on behalf of an individual who is a member of the uniformed services for housing that is acquired or constructed under the authority of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, or any other related provision of law, shall not be considered to be income for purposes of determining the eligibility of a child of the individual for free or reduced price lunches under this Act.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3216.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, to address the decline in the condition of military family housing, the Department of Defense initiated a housing program which would allow commercial contractors to replace traditional base housing with newly built or renovated privately managed base housing, so-called privatized housing.

Yet as this program is being implemented, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) brought to my attention a serious and unintended consequence of the program, children of junior enlisted personnel living in privatized housing were being denied free or reduced price meals at lunchtime. Due to DOD accounting changes, servicemembers receiving a housing allowance under the privatized housing program were being treated differently from those who were assigned traditional housing and not paid an allowance. This is because the income-based National School Lunch Program considered the housing allowance, but not the actual house income. For this reason, servicemembers living in traditional base housing at no cost were presumed to have less income than servicemembers of the same rank who received a housing allowance, but used those funds to pay a private contractor for rent and utilities.

Unfortunately, this distinction caused military families in privatized housing to exceed the income-based eligibility requirements for the school lunch program, and it resulted in the loss of the free or reduced price meals for their children. DOD intended the privatization housing program to provide quality housing at no out-of-pocket expense for servicemembers and their families. Unfortunately, these families are now finding that they will have to pay approximately $75 per child per month to replace the benefit that they received previously under the school lunch program.

This problem is further compounded by the fact that numerous State and Federal education, nutrition and technology programs are contingent on the number of children eligible for the school lunch program. As a result, entire school districts could be affected.

To adjust these problems, my legislation, H.R. 3216, amends the school lunch program to exclude the housing allowance of servicemembers in privatized housing for the determination of eligibility for free and reduced price meals. Although this only affects families at about 15 military installations currently, that number is expected to increase to about 70 installations, encompassing 70,000 housing units, including 450 units at the Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Delaware.

Our uniformed services are being asked to make tremendous personal sacrifices to ensure the defense of our Nation. I believe we should do all we