

runners without indicating an identification statement in some of its mailings.

□ 1300

Somehow the U.S. Postal Service seems to have adopted the attitude that in its new status as a quasipublic agency, it is free to be dumb, rigid, and engage in behavior which wastes the resources of a dedicated group of volunteers.

In the words of the fabled gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), "Beam me up, Madam Speaker."

GUAM'S ACTIVITIES COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS UNDER AMERICAN RULE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, this week May 1 commemorates the strike of Admiral Dewey in the harbor of the Philippines in connection with the Spanish-American War.

One of the great misunderstood events of American history has been the Spanish-American War, in which most people assumed that most of the activity occurred in the Caribbean, when in fact immediately after the declaration of war, the first strike took place in the Philippines; and the repercussions of the Spanish-American War were actually felt more in the Pacific part of the world than in the Caribbean.

In commemoration of the 1898 Spanish-American War and Guam's role in that, I would like to inform my colleagues about the various activities my office will be hosting in conjunction with various organizations on Guam and in the continental United States. From exhibits to conferences to commemoration ceremonies, the centennial anniversary of the Spanish-American War promises to be an exciting and educational year not only for Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines, but also for those who wish to learn about America's political, economic, and social campaigns in the Caribbean and Pacific areas at the turn of the century and their repercussions today.

I would like to invite my colleagues to view our upcoming exhibit at the Cannon Rotunda commencing May 18 and ending May 30. In conjunction with the Guam Museum, the Nieves Flores Public Library, the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities, the Government of Guam, the University of Guam and dedicated individuals, my office will sponsor this event for the main purpose of educating congressional members and staff, as well as Capitol Hill visitors, on the importance of Guam's struggle, which continues today, to attain full membership into the American family.

Each of the 8 panels will illustrate the courageous story of the Chamorros, the indigenous people of Guam, from Guam's pre-European contact days to Spanish rule to the historical and strategic role Guam plays today in the United States and the Asian theatre.

On Guam, from June 18 to 20, my office and the University of Guam will be cosponsoring an academic conference tracing Guam's journey from Spanish to American governance. Participants from the United States, Guam, and Spain will present papers analyzing elements of the Spanish-American War and the eventual colonial steps taken by the United States to acquire its first possessions in the Pacific. This discussion promises to increase our awareness of just how important the Asian-Pacific region played then and, of course, its vital role today in international relations.

I am also involved in helping plan Guam's commemorative activities with the Smithsonian Institution later on this year.

I would also like to highlight Arizona State University's December conference entitled "1848/1898 at 1998: Transhistoric Thresholds." This week-long conference will involve academic presentations, film viewings, and forums designed to elicit debate and discussion about the effects of the Spanish-American War not only on Guam, Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines, but on the overall American political agenda today.

I emphasize to my colleagues the valuable insight into Asian-Pacific-American affairs which can be obtained from the various events which I have outlined. Whether through print or visual mediums, these activities contain vital information which address issues currently being discussed in Congress today.

For example, the Guam Centennial Cannon Rotunda exhibit in May and the Guam conference in June will not only clarify the Spanish legacy and the American role in Guam today, they will also assist us in understanding Guam's political struggle for self-determination.

The centennial commemorations in 1998, whether they be sponsored by my office or other organizations, certainly deserve a great deal of attention from us. The American family in the Pacific reduced geographically in recent years. However, we must keep in mind that the American role in the Asian-Pacific region has not diminished. And Guam today place a very vital strategic role in the area, an important attribute not overlooked by American leaders at the turn of the century when they chose to acquire Guam.

Again, I invite my colleagues to take advantage of this historic year and participate in the various centennial events with me. Increasing our awareness of the Spanish-American War legacy will only improve our understanding of political, economic, and cultural relations today in the Pacific.

SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOL INITIATIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 3 minutes.

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, nothing is more heartbreaking than when a young person turns to drugs. Although the use of drugs by American youth began to level off in 1997, drug-use rates are almost twice as high as they were in 1992.

Research indicates that young people who avoid illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco before the age of 18 are likely to avoid chemical dependency problems during the remainder of their lives. This is why it is so important that we all pull together to discourage the distribution, sale, and use of illegal drugs by our Nation's youth.

The real desire is to stop juvenile drug use before it starts by teaching children about the dangers of drugs and demonstrating strong values and giving them opportunities. That is why I am such a strong believer and supporter in the Department of Education's safe and drug-free school initiative.

Through this program, funds are made available to individual school districts to meet their special needs in educating and protecting their students. These funds can pay for additional school security personnel and equipment or increased antidrug education. These funds can also be used to provide supervised after-school activities. The need for these programs is highlighted by the fact that half of all youth crimes are committed during the unsupervised hours between school and dinner time.

Positive parental involvement reduces the likelihood of drug use among children. Parents make the biggest difference in children's attitudes and values—bigger than schools, bigger than community groups, bigger than the government.

As we all know, most families need two incomes in today's economy. There is no substitute for a strong, involved family in a life of a child. But we can all work together to fill the gap for our working families as we work to protect our children from the dangers of illicit drugs. Our future depends on it.

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 7 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. NETHERCUTT) at 2 o'clock p.m.

PRAYER

Reverend Richard Lothian III, Community Baptist Church of Somerset, Somerset, New Jersey, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, known by many names, we thank You for this day and for the lives that You have placed in our care. We come before You with full hearts, mindful that we carry the hope and trust of a Nation. We rejoice in the blessings of mind and spirit which You have freely given us. We understand that these gifts were given for a purpose, that we might know and do Your will on earth through love and service.

As we face the tasks before us, help us to feel Your presence in even the smallest of things, Your voice in every voice, Your hand in every act, Your love in every kindness.

Dear God, we ask that You will be with us in our deliberations and decisions this day. Help us to lead without manipulation, to listen without defensiveness, to challenge without anger, and to change without fear.

And may we serve with wisdom and strength those who trust and rest in our care, even as we trust and rest in Yours.

In Jesus name I pray. 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 gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALLENGER 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.

REVEREND TERRY LOTHIAN III

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I am very privileged today in introducing Reverend Terry Lothian who offered the opening prayer of the House this afternoon. He is a graduate of the Eastern Baptist College and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, was the chaplain at the Somerset County Jail for many years, and for more than 12 years has been Pastor of the Community Baptist Church of Somerset.

Many times here in Washington I welcomed constituent groups, from

school groups to families to senior citizens, and am very happy to be able to welcome Reverend Lothian and his wife Carolyn and others from Community Baptist Church here in Washington, D.C. He has played such a key role in so many peoples' lives, and I am very happy that he was able to be a part of the proceedings of our House this afternoon and certainly wish him well.

CHECK THIS OUT

(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, foreign aid for Russia, billions for Japan and Germany, missiles for China, citizenship for illegal immigrants, free condoms for school kids, free needles for drug addicts. Now if that is not enough to roast the pork barrel, check this out:

Uncle Sam is now paying the taxes of foreign citizens who work for the International Monetary Fund. Let me say it again. Uncle Sam, with our tax dollars, is paying the taxes for foreign workers. To boot, to make it worse, the White House wants another \$18 billion for this slush fund of international welfare, and the experts agree.

Beam me up, my colleagues. I suggest that Congress hire a crew of procurologists to go in and counsel these so-called experts.

I yield back what intelligent life there is left in D.C.

THE BLOATED FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY IS ALIVE AND WELL UNDER THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION

(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, it was just 2 short years ago that the Clinton administration proclaimed that the era of big government was over. My, oh my, how quickly things have changed, Mr. Speaker.

Now judging from his most recent budget proposal, the era of abusive bloated Federal bureaucracy is alive and well under the Clinton administration. What other possible explanation could there be for \$128 billion in new taxes in his 1999 budget proposal?

In all fairness to the President, however, he has the right, as he has in the past, to propose all of the tax increases that he desires. Certainly it is his prerogative as the top elected official of this country.

However, Mr. Speaker, I think most people will see through this big government, big tax increase proposal for exactly what it is: a thinly disguised effort by the administration to once again stick its greedy hands into the pockets of every working man and woman in America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of any money we all may have left.

THE CONTINUING CAMPAIGN TO DESTROY JUDGE KENNETH STARR

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, a White House official was quoted in the New York Times last month referring to our continuing campaign to destroy Ken Starr.

Now let us do it again. "Our continuing campaign to destroy Ken Starr."

I sincerely appreciate my fair-minded friends on the other side of the aisle if they would defend the White House, which openly acknowledges their strategy to destroy Judge Starr, the special counsel named by a 3-judge panel and the Attorney General to investigate allegations of serious wrongdoing by the President.

Am I to conclude that the Democrat party thinks it is okay to smear the independent counsel? Am I to conclude that the Democrat party does not care that the White House was in possession of 900 FBI files of Republicans, in gross violation of the law and the civil rights of American citizens? Am I to conclude that the Democrat party does not care if the integrity of our judicial system is violated and that obstruction of justice and lying under oath is okay if it is done by a Democrat? Am I to conclude that the President is in fact above the law because the Dow Jones is doing great?

LEWIS AND CLARK INTERPRETIVE CENTER HAS OPENED ITS DOORS IN GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today is the day that dreams of hundreds of Montanans has come true. With their hard work and determination, the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls has opened its doors to the public. It has taken more than a dozen years, but the work of dedicated community volunteers has paid off.

Mr. Speaker, these Montanans had a vision. They envisioned a place where all Americans could come to learn more about the heroic journey of Lewis and Clark. The reality today is 5,500 square feet of exhibits which tell the story of an exciting adventure from 1804 to 1806 of the journey which opened up the American West.

I want to extend my personal congratulations to the community of Great Falls and a special salute to the 125 volunteers who have signed up to help with the day-to-day work of greeting tourists and providing interpretive talks to visitors, and I want to invite everyone in the Chamber and all those looking in across the Nation to come to Montana and visit us this summer. It is a place where dreams still can come true.