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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m.

The Reverend Dr. Warren Blakeman, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Monroe, Louisiana, offered the following prayer:

Creator God, You have given us the precious gift of life. Between our birth and our death, we make many choices. Those who gather here make choices that affect billions beyond our shores, millions across this land, thousands in our districts and communities, and individuals within families.

We are awed when we think that these responsibilities placed upon us affect not only this time and these peoples, but also generations to come. So, humbly, we ask for Your guidance. In our choices, may truth always be combined with love, love with courage, and courage with justice and mercy. Again, we ask for Your guidance. 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 Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT 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 without amendment a concurrent reso-

lution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 326. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol on September 23, 1998, for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1397. An act to establish a commission to assist in commemoration of the centennial of powered flight and the achievements of the Wright brothers.

THE HEAVY HAND OF BIG GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, first, it was the IRS. Now, if we can believe it, it is the United States Army Corps of Engineers: You are guilty until you prove yourself innocent.

When my constituent, Pamela Ham, thought the worst was over after surviving a deadly tornado on Lake Thurman last May, the Corps reared its ugly head. Even though 4 months passed since this tornado, the Corps, as managers of this lake and the surrounding lands, still had not cleaned up the public property between the lake and Mrs. Ham's house, so Mrs. Ham cleaned the property herself, with her hands.

The Corps did not like this. They retaliated, Mr. Speaker, by revoking Mrs. Ham's dock permit. They didn't even ask for an explanation; they just lowered the boom, the big, heavy hand of big government, on my constituent.

I am tired of the Corps of Engineers bullying my constituents along the Savannah River, and I am putting them on alert. Stay tuned.

CONGRESS DOES NOT NEED FAST TRACK

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. America has a \$60 million trade deficit with Japan, \$50 billion with China, a \$24 billion deficit with Canada, \$20 plus billion with Mexico. The bleeding goes on and on, good-paying jobs lost by the thousands every week, every month.

After all this, Congress wants more fast track trade programs. Unbelievable. Congress does not need fast track; Congress needs a swift kick. What is next, our sons and daughters applying for a job in Mexico? Beam me up. Free trade, my ascot. This is a free ride for people overseas being paid for by American workers who are being retrained. Think about it.

URGING MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THE 90-10 PLAN TO PRESERVE SOCIAL SECURITY AND PROVIDE A TAX CUT

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, today Americans spend more money on taxes than on food, clothing, and shelter combined. That is an average tax burden of 38 percent. This Congress has introduced a plan to provide hard-working Americans some well-deserved relief. The 90-10 plan would set aside 90 percent of the 10-year, \$1.6 trillion budget surplus to preserve Social Security, and would use the remaining 10 percent, or \$80 billion, to cut taxes for middle-income Americans.

Under the plan, the marriage penalty and death taxes will be reduced, and tax relief will be available for education, child care, and military personnel who sell their homes. The 90/10 plan

□ 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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offers Americans what they have been asking for, tax relief now and saving Social Security for the future. I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting the 90-10 plan.

WHAT ARE THE CHILDREN IN AMERICA LEARNING TODAY ABOUT TRUTH?

(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, there is a famous story told of George Washington when he was but a young boy. Every schoolchild in America is taught this story. It is the story of how, even as a young boy, Washington was a person of honor. When he was asked by his father if he had cut down his father's favorite cherry tree, he responded, I cannot tell a lie, father. I did chop down the cherry tree.

How forthright. You cannot get any more honest than that. Yet, with the rationalization being promoted by many in the media today, Washington could have responded like this and gotten away with it: "Well, father, I did not technically cut down the cherry tree, only the hatchet made contact with the tree. I did not touch the tree. I stand by my story and what I believe the meaning of the word 'cut' is."

How things have changed in America. What are the children in America learning today?

REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS HAVE DIFFERENT VISIONS FOR WORKING AMERICANS

(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, most Democrats think they are thinking, but in reality, they are merely reorganizing and rearranging their own prejudices.

For example, when it comes to working Americans, Republicans and Democrats have major differences in their visions. Democrats believe it is fair for the government to take up to one-half of a family's income to pay for big government. Republicans do not.

Democrats believe it is fair that average Americans have to work until mid-May just to pay their taxes. Republicans do not.

Democrats believe they are doing us a favor by giving us tax breaks. Republicans believe that a tax break is not giving us anything, it is merely allowing us to keep what is already ours.

Democrats believe America is undertaxed. Republicans believe America is overtaxed. The fact is, Democrats talk as if it is their money. Republicans believe that the money belongs to those people who earned it, not the politicians, not the Federal Government or Washington bureaucrats.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that thinking Democrats stop favoring bureaucracy and start giving workers a tax break.

LET'S MAKE A DEAL

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the White House today is sending signals that it would like to broker some type of deal in order to avoid a full inquiry via the impeachment process. But Mr. Speaker, Congress cannot shirk from its duty. We are obliged to have a full and open debate on the merits of whether or not we should go forward with a formal inquiry on impeachment.

Let us not be unduly influenced by watching poll numbers. As the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HENRY HYDE) has said, "Poll-taking is an art, not a science." The Framers of the Constitution knew this would not be an easy or pleasant task, but they did make provisions for such a possibility. We must remember, this is a Nation of laws, not daily opinion polls. Whether or not perjury was committed will be determined in due course, not by opinion polls, but as prescribed under the Constitution.

SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY, CUT TAXES

(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, the Federal Government should honor the institution of marriage, not penalize it by imposing higher taxes on married couples. I urge my colleagues to support the 90-10 proposal of the gentleman from Texas (Chairman ARCHER). The bill sets aside 90 percent of the budget surplus to save Social Security, and returns the additional 10 percent to hard-working taxpayers.

The centerpiece of the tax cut of the gentleman from Texas (Chairman ARCHER) injects some fairness into the tax code, and strengthens families by providing some much-needed relief from the marriage penalty. It mirrors a provision that I introduced in a 1997 tax cut initiative. The marriage penalty is unfair, and no one should have to pay it.

Mr. Speaker, with 77 million baby boomers nearing retirement age and taxes at an all-time high, we must reject the calls for new spending emanating from the other side. We have an historic opportunity to secure the future of Social Security and provide the American people with the additional tax relief they deserve. Let us seize it now.

NO AMERICAN IS ABOVE THE LAW

(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, I would commend to my colleagues and

the citizens of this Nation the lead article in today's edition of *The Hill* entitled "Clinton asks Dole for help on Hill."

The reason I do this, Mr. Speaker, is apparently there is a misconception being propagated by some here in Washington. Some here in Washington have confused their occupancy of a certain office with the institution itself. Let us reaffirm at this time, in this place, that the offices we hold are a reflection of public trust, and our presence in those offices does not reflect the institution one way or the other.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, let us reaffirm at this place, in this time, that no American is above the law, no matter what office they may hold.

IMPLOING FEMA TO BEGIN PREPARATIONS TO RESPOND TO HURRICANE GEORGES

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, my community of south Florida is tensely gripping for a possible strike to the region from the dangerous Hurricane Georges, which has already caused great devastation in the neighboring islands of the Caribbean, including my native homeland of Cuba, which is bracing for the worst.

Those of us from south Florida still remember the nightmare of Hurricane Andrew that only 5 years ago fiercely destroyed our way of life, and from which many areas in south Florida are yet to fully recover.

I implore the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, to begin preparations to assure a swift response to this natural disaster in the event that it does make landfall in south Florida. FEMA's assistance is critical to both protect our citizens during this hurricane or fierce storm, and to help the residents of the region in the aftermath of the natural phenomenon in an expeditious manner without much red tape.

My colleagues from south Florida and I are ready to provide FEMA with any assistance on preparations to confront Hurricane Georges.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRAT LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democrat leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, September 22, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 3162 of Public Law 104-201, I hereby appoint the following individual to the Commission on Maintaining United States Nuclear Weapons Expertise: