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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

As we sense the conditions of our days and the time when we can achieve our ambitions and goals, make us acutely aware, O God, of the limitations that are so much a part of our lives. May we always sense Your presence giving us purpose and meaning for our existence and allowing us a spiritual objective and a devout awareness of the opportunities before us. Make us conscious of the limits of time so that we use our days in ways that honor You, O God, and may we be good stewards of the riches and the heritage of the land. Bless our work and bless our lives, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

Mr. McNULTY. 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. McNULTY. 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. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize five 1-minutes on each side.

AMERICANS WANT THE TRUTH

(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, recent news reports have all Americans asking, did the Secretary of the Interior,

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JOHN WARNER, *Chairman*.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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Bruce Babbitt, enact government policy in return for a political contribution? When first pressed for the answer, Secretary Babbitt denied that any political pressure was applied to influence his decisionmaking. Now, however, after some "vision in the night," he sings a different tune and freely admits that the DNC chairman, Harold Ickes, demanded an immediate decision regarding an Indian casino application, and that a political contribution would be made to the DNC for this decision.

Well, what is it going to be, Mr. Secretary? Did you or did you not make government policy in exchange for a \$286,000 donation to the DNC? You cannot have it both ways.

These are just some of the serious questions to which the American people deserve answers. Notwithstanding any other mitigating factors, an independent counsel and investigation into this scandal is clearly justified.

On behalf of all Americans, I demand the truth.

FREE LORETTA SANCHEZ

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership this morning will bring up a resolution that allows the House to adjourn this weekend and not return until the end of January, and the purpose of that basically is to avoid addressing the issue of LORETTA SANCHEZ' election and the ongoing investigation.

This House should not adjourn until it ends this witch-hunt of Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ' election. The Republican leadership has not been able to prove that there was any illegality involved in this election. Congresswoman SANCHEZ won her California election fair and square. The Republicans are simply wasting a lot of money, over \$500,000 in taxpayer dollars, to try to prove a case that they have not been able to prove.

It is all because Republicans are trying to harass and intimidate Hispanic voters because they voted in overwhelming numbers for Democratic candidates in the last congressional election. Let us free LORETTA SANCHEZ and put an end to this witch-hunt. It is not proper for this House to adjourn until this investigation is concluded and stopped.

NO DELAY FOR IRS REFORM

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, Americans are fond of saying that we live in the freest country in the world, and most of us believe it. That is why Congress should not delay one moment in reforming the IRS. I do not mean cosmetic changes that leave the IRS free to continue their bullying tactics, free from accountability and checks and

balances that are required by the U.S. Constitution; I mean changing the way the IRS does business. That means a change in attitude, a change in their ability to turn someone's life completely upside down before he has even had his day in court, and a total change in the IRS' ability to initiate politically motivated audits.

When the IRS has too much power, our freedom is threatened. If America is to remain the freest country on the Earth, the power of the IRS must be brought under control. Our freedom is at stake.

SAY "NO" TO FAST TRACK

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the President and the Vice President are saying, if only they could get a secret vote on fast track it would pass by a 3-to-1 margin. It is only the power of big labor that is holding Democrats back.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Fast track is still in play only because of the extraordinary pressure from the President and the Vice President, the promises of projects, fundraisers and fantasies, the arm-twisting of the Republican leaders and the lobby of the dozens of corporate CEO's who jetted into town this week in their private jets with their pockets stuffed with cash. A vote on fast track is a referendum on a failed U.S. trade policy, a policy that exports our jobs, drives down wages and destroys the environment.

The President says it is about a bridge to the 21st century. I have seen that bridge from the colonias in Mexico at the American border, a bridge across sewage and toxic waste canals, from pallet shacks to state-of-the-art, U.S.-owned manufacturing plants where people are paid 80 cents an hour. That is a bridge the American worker should not be forced to cross. Say "no" to fast track.

KEEP CUTTING TAXES

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, President Clinton told voters that if they supported a tax cut, they were selfish. He really said that. Here it is, in black and white. The President really said this.

Unfortunately, this is a common view among liberals, so while this view may sound shocking, the only thing that is really surprising is that the President would actually come out and say out loud what liberals and many folks who believe like he believes actually think. It is their attitude that they are actually doing us a favor by letting us keep more of our own money.

I find the idea that people should be scolded for thinking that they are the best judge of how to spend their own money is the perfect example of the arrogance that is so characteristic of very many elitist liberals. But at least we now know what the President really thinks. Let us continue to cut taxes and let hard-working Americans keep more of what they earn.

A SCHOOL WITHOUT PRAYER IS A SCHOOL WITHOUT GOD

(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, students in Alabama are skipping school protesting the fact that they are not allowed to pray. Think about it. Even though America has guns, rape, drugs, even heroin and murder in our schools, students are not allowed to pray. Unbelievable. A school without prayer is a school without God and a nation that denies prayer is a nation that denies God; and a nation that denies God is a nation that just may welcome the devil.

Members of Congress, the Constitution may separate church and State, but the Founders never intended to separate God and the American people.

I yield back any common sense and logic we have left.

BLURTING OUT THE TRUTH TELLS ALL

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, every once in a while a politician will commit a major blunder by doing something that is known as blurting out the truth. This occurs when the politician accidentally tells us how he really feels about an issue, and it can become very controversial if that is how people suspected all along that he really thinks. We had a wonderful example of that earlier this week.

President Clinton was campaigning in Alexandria, VA on behalf of a fellow Democrat and he told a crowd of Democrat supporters what he really thinks about those who want to keep more of what they earn. We heard that right. They are selfish. We heard that the President of the United States thinks that it is selfish to think that government takes too much of our money.

Yes, here is the vision of the liberal elite. It is morally wrong to think that people are a better judge of how to spend their own money than are the politicians. The liberal elite want to spend our money, and how dare us to think that we should be able to spend our money the way we wish.

Mr. President, thank you for blurting out the truth.