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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 4, 1999.

I hereby designate the Honorable STEVEN C. LATOURETTE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Ronald F. Christian, Director, Lutheran Social Services of Virginia, Fairfax, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, in this moment of quiet we are acknowledging Your presence in our lives and in our world.

Through the words of Your prophets we are challenged in our deeds, for surely shalom is our greatest need, justice must be our supreme passion, service to our neighbor in need is everyone's responsibility, and gratitude for Your many gifts Your only request.

So we pray, may our actions be molded by Your great love for all people. May our lives be modeled after those heroes and saints who so lived their lives personal that sacrifice was not too great a price to pay. May we commit our actions to the great principles of malice toward none and equality for all. And, may we always be more ready to give mercy than receive it, demonstrate compassion than to be shown it, and offer honor to another than to seek it for ourselves.

Bless, we pray, our day and our deeds. 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 Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS 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.

A \$6.5 BILLION HOLE IN THE GROUND

(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, do you know that the American taxpayers have spent to date \$6.5 billion over the last 15 years?

You may think this money was spent on new schools for our children, a better military or a down payment to save Social Security. Nope. Sorry.

You may hope the money was spent to give tax cuts to hard working men and women of this country or it was spent on needy families to ensure people move from government reliance and to work with self respect. Sorry again.

Mr. Speaker, this money was used for nothing more than to dig a hole in the ground, \$6.5 billion dollars, and according to the GAO, the Department of Energy has spent more than \$6.5 billion to dig a hole large enough to bury the nuclear industry's high level radioactive garbage. Even more perplexing is that

they are over 12 years behind schedule trying to fit a square peg in a round hole.

Americans know that when you find yourself in a hole, the first rule is to put the shovel down and stop digging.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 45 and let this money be spent on programs that actually benefit this country.

THE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TAX CREDIT ACT

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the education of our children ranks as a top concern of the American people and as a top priority of the Congress, we need to look at the innovative proposals that empower parents to give their children the best possible education. Rather than creating new Federal programs run by new Federal bureaucrats, we need to put responsibility and resources in the hands of our Nation's parents.

Today the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN) and I are introducing the Children's Education Tax Credit Act. It provides American families with over \$150 billion in help in meeting the unique educational needs of their children.

Our proposal would create a \$1,000 tax credit for elementary and secondary education expenses, including textbooks, tutoring, tuition, and other resources children need to excel in schools.

Too often today parents must make tough choices within the family budget and little extra that can be spent on children's education must instead go to pay the bills. With this tax credit, parents will have the means and the freedom to provide the unique support their children need to learn at their very best.

□ 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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