

join me in spreading the message and taking a responsible role in bringing our children home.

SEPTEMBER 26, A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

(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, on this day, September 26, 1780, 220 years ago, the treason attempt of American General Benedict Arnold was discovered. General Washington reported to Congress, "Treason of the blackest dye was yesterday discovered. General Arnold, who commanded at West Point, was about to deliver up that important post into the hands of the enemy. Such an event must have given the American cause a deadly wound if not a fatal stab. Happily, the treason has been timely discovered to prevent the fatal misfortune. The providential train of circumstances which led to it affords the most convincing proof that the liberties of America are the object of Divine protection."

As a result, Congress called for a national day of prayer and thanksgiving, declaring in the resolution, "It hath pleased Almighty God, the Father of all mercies, to rescue the person of our Commander-in-Chief and the army from imminent dangers at the moment when treason was ripened for execution. It is therefore recommended to the several States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer."

On this day, 220 years ago, Congress called on the people of the United States to openly thank God for protecting America, a lesson we should still remember today.

THE MEDIA SHOULD GIVE US THE FACTS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the media, newspapers, radio and TV stations, have a huge impact on our lives. They influence how we think and act.

Protected by the constitutional right to free speech, the media have few restraints on what they can say and do. They enjoy a "public trust" not to abuse their power. But I wonder how objective Washington political writers can be, when 89 percent acknowledged in a survey that they voted for Bill Clinton and AL GORE.

What concerns me is that we all need accurate and objective information if we are to reach informed opinions about national issues.

The media needs to treat their readers, listeners and viewers with respect, respect for their intelligence to make the right decisions for themselves and for our country. News stories should give us the unvarnished facts and then let us draw our own conclusions.

AMERICANS WANT A DEBT-FREE AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, do you know what? AL GORE is a spender. He wants to spend \$1.4 trillion of our surplus on new government programs, eliminating any hope that Americans will get needed tax relief and stopping our efforts to eliminate our national debt.

Republicans have already successfully eliminated \$350 billion of public debt and have dedicated 90 percent of the next year's surplus solely to debt reduction. Republicans will eliminate another \$240 billion in debt in the next year alone.

The choice is easy: Do you want to spend \$1.4 trillion in new government spending or have a debt-free America?

Mr. GORE needs to rip up his government credit card and join the Republicans in eliminating our national debt. Americans want, need, and deserve a responsible government and a debt-free America.

□ 1015

AMERICA NEEDS NATIONAL POLICY ON ENERGY

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, this past week the administration announced that we were releasing fuel from our Strategic Reserve, and it had nothing to do with politics or the upcoming election.

And I thought, April Fools Day only came once a year.

This administration has proven that it has no energy policy, unless that means stealing secrets from Los Alamos, then they are quite inept. The administration goes after Microsoft, a domestic company with great entrepreneurs, and leaves OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum States, untouched.

We need in this country to create a national policy on energy. We need to look for alternative fuel sources and not be so reliant and so dependent on outside influences to take care of our oil. The recent announcement that we would release 30 million barrels of oil, as Tim Russert said on Meet the Press this week, will only last America 36 hours.

Mr. Speaker, we need a policy, not politics. We need help for American families, not quick sound bite solutions. We need new direction and new leadership, not the old standby rhetoric of saving America by using our most precious reserves for a political play rather than for helping American consumers.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). Pursuant to clause 8, rule

XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make a point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 332, nays 47, answered "present" 1, not voting 53, as follows:

[Roll No. 488]
YEAS—332

Abercrombie	Cunningham	Houghton
Ackerman	Davis (FL)	Hoyer
Aderholt	Davis (IL)	Hunter
Allen	Davis (VA)	Hutchinson
Andrews	Deal	Insee
Armey	DeGette	Isakson
Baca	Delahunt	Istook
Bachus	DeLauro	Jackson (IL)
Baker	DeLay	Jackson-Lee
Baldacci	DeMint	(TX)
Baldwin	Deusch	Jenkins
Ballenger	Diaz-Balart	John
Barcia	Dicks	Johnson (CT)
Barr	Dixon	Johnson, E.B.
Barrett (NE)	Doggett	Johnson, Sam
Barrett (WI)	Dooley	Jones (NC)
Bartlett	Doolittle	Kanjorski
Barton	Doyle	Kaptur
Bass	Dreier	Kasich
Becerra	Duncan	Kelly
Bentsen	Dunn	Kennedy
Bereuter	Edwards	Kildee
Berkley	Ehlers	Kind (WI)
Berman	Ehrlich	King (NY)
Berry	Eshoo	Kingston
Biggart	Etheridge	Klecza
Bilirakis	Evans	Knollenberg
Bishop	Everett	Kolbe
Blagojevich	Ewing	Kuykendall
Bliley	Farr	LaFalce
Blumenauer	Fletcher	LaHood
Boehler	Foley	Lampson
Boehner	Forbes	Lantos
Bonilla	Fowler	Largent
Bonior	Frank (MA)	Larson
Bono	Frelinghuysen	Latham
Boswell	Frost	LaTourette
Boucher	Gallegly	Leach
Boyd	Ganske	Lee
Brady (TX)	Gejdenson	Levin
Brown (FL)	Gekas	Lewis (CA)
Brown (OH)	Gephardt	Lewis (CA)
Bryant	Gilchrist	Lewis (KY)
Burr	Gilman	Linder
Buyer	Gonzalez	Lipinski
Callahan	Goode	Lofgren
Calvert	Goodlatte	Lowe
Camp	Goodling	Lucas (KY)
Canady	Gordon	Lucas (OK)
Cannon	Goss	Luther
Capps	Graham	Maloney (CT)
Cardin	Granger	Maloney (NY)
Carson	Green (TX)	Manzullo
Castle	Green (WI)	Martinez
Chabot	Greenwood	Mascara
Chambliss	Hall (TX)	Matsui
Clayton	Hansen	McCarthy (MO)
Clement	Hastings (WA)	McCarthy (NY)
Clyburn	Hayes	McGovern
Coble	Hayworth	McHugh
Combest	Herger	McInnis
Conyers	Hill (IN)	McIntyre
Cook	Hinojosa	McKeon
Cooksey	Hobson	McKinney
Cox	Hoefel	Meehan
Coyne	Hoekstra	Meek (FL)
Cramer	Holden	Meeks (NY)
Cubin	Hoolley	Menendez
Cummings	Hostettler	Metcalf

Mica	Reyes	Snyder
Miller (FL)	Reynolds	Souder
Miller, George	Riley	Spence
Minge	Rivers	Spratt
Moakley	Rodriguez	Stearns
Mollohan	Roemer	Strickland
Moore	Rogan	Stump
Moran (VA)	Rogers	Sununu
Morella	Rohrabacher	Sweeney
Murtha	Ros-Lehtinen	Tanner
Myrick	Rothman	Tauscher
Napolitano	Roukema	Tauzin
Neal	Roybal-Allard	Terry
Nethercutt	Rush	Thomas
Ney	Ryan (WI)	Thornberry
Northup	Ryun (KS)	Thune
Norwood	Salmon	Thurman
Nussle	Sanchez	Tiahrt
Obey	Sanford	Tierney
Olver	Sawyer	Toomey
Ortiz	Saxton	Towns
Ose	Scarborough	Traficant
Owens	Schakowsky	Turner
Oxley	Scott	Upton
Packard	Sensenbrenner	Velazquez
Pallone	Serrano	Walden
Pastor	Sessions	Walsh
Payne	Shadegg	Waters
Pease	Shaw	Watkins
Peterson (PA)	Shays	Watt (NC)
Petri	Sherman	Watts (OK)
Phelps	Sherwood	Waxman
Pickering	Shimkus	Weiner
Pitts	Shows	Weldon (FL)
Pombo	Shuster	Whitfield
Pomeroy	Simpson	Wicker
Porter	Sisisky	Wilson
Portman	Skeen	Wolf
Quinn	Skelton	Woolsey
Radanovich	Smith (NJ)	Wu
Rangel	Smith (TX)	Wynn
Regula	Smith (WA)	Young (FL)

NAYS—47

Baird	Hefley	Ramstad
Bilbray	Hill (MT)	Sabo
Borski	Hilleary	Schaffer
Brady (PA)	Hilliard	Slaughter
Capuano	Holt	Stark
Condit	Hulshof	Stenholm
Crane	Kucinich	Stupak
Crowley	LoBiondo	Taylor (MS)
DeFazio	Markey	Thompson (CA)
Dickey	McDermott	Thompson (MS)
English	McNulty	Udall (CO)
Filner	Moran (KS)	Udall (NM)
Gutierrez	Oberstar	Visclosky
Gutknecht	Pascrell	Wamp
Hall (OH)	Peterson (MN)	Weller
Hastings (FL)	Pickett	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Tancredo

NOT VOTING—53

Archer	Gillmor	Pelosi
Blunt	Hinchey	Price (NC)
Burton	Horn	Pryce (OH)
Campbell	Hyde	Rahall
Chenoweth-Hage	Jefferson	Royce
Clay	Jones (OH)	Sanders
Coburn	Kilpatrick	Sandlin
Collins	Klink	Smith (MI)
Costello	Lazio	Stabenow
Danner	McCollum	Talent
Dingell	McCrery	Taylor (NC)
Emerson	McIntosh	Vento
Engel	Millender-	Vitter
Fattah	McDonald	Weldon (PA)
Ford	Miller, Gary	Wexler
Fossella	Mink	Weygand
Franks (NJ)	Nadler	Wise
Gibbons	Paul	Young (AK)

□ 1038

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."
So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 488, I was unavoidably detained due to flight delays. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he 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.

Recorded votes on postponed questions may be taken in several groups.

MISSING CHILDREN TAX FAIRNESS ACT OF 2000

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5117) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the allowance of the child credit, the deduction for personal exemptions, and the earned income credit for missing children, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5117

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Missing Children Tax Fairness Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF MISSING CHILDREN WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN TAX BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 151 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to additional exemption for dependents) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) TREATMENT OF MISSING CHILDREN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Solely for the purposes referred to in subparagraph (B), a child of the taxpayer—

“(i) who is presumed by law enforcement authorities to have been kidnapped by someone who is not a member of the family of such child or the taxpayer, and

“(ii) who was (without regard to this paragraph) the dependent of the taxpayer for the taxable year in which the kidnapping occurred,

shall be treated as a dependent of the taxpayer for all taxable years ending during the period that the child is kidnapped.

“(B) PURPOSES.—Subparagraph (A) shall apply solely for purposes of determining—

“(i) the deduction under this section,

“(ii) the credit under section 24 (relating to child tax credit), and

“(iii) whether an individual is a surviving spouse or a head of a household (such terms are defined in section 2).

“(C) COMPARABLE TREATMENT FOR EARNED INCOME CREDIT.—For purposes of section 32, an individual—

“(i) who is presumed by law enforcement authorities to have been kidnapped by someone who is not a member of the family of such individual or the taxpayer, and

“(ii) who had, for the taxable year in which the kidnapping occurred, the same principal place of abode as the taxpayer for more than one-half of the portion of such year before the date of the kidnapping,

shall be treated as meeting the requirement of section 32(c)(3)(A)(ii) with respect to a taxpayer for all taxable years ending during the period that the individual is kidnapped.

“(D) TERMINATION OF TREATMENT.—Subparagraphs (A) and (C) shall cease to apply

as of the first taxable year of the taxpayer beginning after the calendar year in which there is a determination that the child is dead (or, if earlier, in which the child would have attained age 18).”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years ending after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5117, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to first thank the gentleman from Texas (Chairman ARCHER) of the Committee on Ways and Means for clearing this bill for the suspension calendar and to the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) for putting this important legislation on a fast track bringing it up today.

Mr. Speaker, imagine the horror of learning that a stranger has kidnapped your child. Then imagine the courage needed to keep alive the hope of your child's recovery and safe return. Imagine the costs, the financial costs, incurred by heartbroken parents spending every last penny searching for their abducted child.

Mr. Speaker, imagine an agency of the Federal Government that steals your hope, that tells you your child is no longer part of your household. It does not get any worse from out-of-touch Washington bureaucrats than to deny the family of a kidnapped child the dependency exemption, even though the family continues to spend thousands of dollars searching for their child and maintains the child's bedroom.

Unbelievable, but true. This is exactly what the Internal Revenue Service has been doing to families of missing and abducted children.

Beside me right here, Mr. Speaker, is a picture of a young boy who was stolen from his family in 1989 in Minnesota. His name is Jacob Wetterling, and his story has touched countless lives throughout Minnesota and our Nation. Jacob was abducted from the small community of St. Joseph, Minnesota when he was 11 years old. A masked gunman took Jacob from his bicycle while his brother and his friend watched helplessly.

His family has not heard from Jacob since that day, but we all hope and pray with them for his safe return, and