

known the Prime Minister have suffered a great loss. The Prime Minister and his family are in our thoughts and prayers today and will be in the future.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m. today.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Sovereign Lord, You settled our foundation in faith and raised up this Nation throughout its history. Today we recall our early days in America's history.

The day after Congress approved the Bill of Rights, it called upon President Washington to "recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God."

President George Washington responded with these words: "Lord, it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly implore His protection and favor."

Lord, may Congress and this Nation be guided by Washington's exhortation both in these days and forever.

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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

CUBAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD FREE DR. BISCET

(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, the Cuban Government thinks that our top diplomat to their nation, James Cason, is a fourth-rate bureaucrat whose mission is to deceive and subvert.

Well, I think he will be the first to admit that if promoting the human rights of all Cubans is subversive, then that is exactly what his mission is. And let me be among the first to say, Mr. Cason is no fourth-rate bureaucrat. No fourth-rate bureaucrat would so openly share the story of Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet.

Dr. Biscet is a physician who has courageously stood for human rights and today sits in a tiny prison cell imprisoned for peaceful protest in April of 2003.

Despite Cuban propaganda, Dr. Biscet is sick and has been denied food and medical attention by his captors. The Cuban Government should allow Dr. Biscet medical care, and it should unconditionally and immediately release him.

Dr. Biscet, we stand with you. And if we had more fourth-rate bureaucrats like James Cason, our world would be a much better place.

DEATH OF MILTON DAVIS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened earlier to learn of the passing of Mr. Milton Davis, the former chairman and president of Shorebank.

Shorebank is one of the most innovative, creative community financing operations in the Nation.

Milton Davis was a pioneer in community banking. I simply want to extend condolences to his family, and I trust that his legacy will continue to live as neighborhoods and communities reap the benefits of the lending policies and practices that he developed.

CARTER WALLACE TRIBUTE

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Carter Wallace, a Brookstone High School student from Columbus, Georgia, who has been named one of the top two youth volunteers in the State.

On Tuesday, Carter accepted the Prudential Spirit of Community Award for his inspiring work on behalf of low-income families in western Georgia.

Carter is the founder of Habi-TOT for Humanity, a nonprofit foundation that purchases and assembles playgrounds for children who move into Habitat for Humanity homes. Carter motivated friends from his Boy Scout troop and Brookstone High School to lend a hand in building the playhouses.

He said he was moved to start this project because many of these children had never had a back yard to play in, and he wanted to make their first one special. Carter's creativity and dedication to low-income children is inspiring.

He organized fundraising bake sales and wrote to nearly a hundred community members soliciting support. His efforts paid off. In the first year and a half, Habi-TOT for Humanity bought, assembled, and delivered 36 playhouses to needy families.

Carter is a role model for us all. He set a fine example of community service for young people across this Nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in commending Carter Wallace for this award.

OPPOSING BUDGET CUTS TO EDUCATION

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to the President's budget proposal to turn his back on low-income and ethnic minority students, particularly Latino and African Americans, and in particular first-generation students who have never had a chance to go to college.

And I say that because in the President's budget proposal he wants to eliminate completely the GEAR UP Program, the Upward Bound Program, and the Talent Search Program. As a result, 1.3 million students, 70 percent who are minorities, will lose a chance to go to college.

California was awarded about 15 percent of the funding for the GEAR UP program. In fact, in my school district in East L.A., El Sereno Middle School and Belvedere Middle School are the recipients of the GEAR UP program, middle school meaning 7th and 8th grade students who are learning about the opportunities to go to college.

How dare the President turn his back on our youth, on those who want to succeed and go on to college. We need to ensure that this President has to keep the compassion that he says that he has for all people of color.

And I would ask my colleagues and urge them to reject these proposals that will put back our community by many, many decades. Let us restore funding in higher education for all of our students.

PROTECTING THE FIRST AMENDMENT, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, in 1786, Thomas Jefferson said: "Our liberty cannot be guarded but by the freedom of the press, nor that be limited without danger of losing it."