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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord of all the earth, the sea and sky, in today's world, when we take to flight, it is not just in fanciful imagination or escape, nor always in mystic prayer. Physically we fly in the sky over this resourceful Nation and survey the many blessings You shower upon Your people.

We marvel at Your Creation and Your infinity beyond.

By placing ourselves in the hands of an experienced flight crew and of sophisticated aircraft, we form an uncertain community of trust and sheer abandon. We become accountable to one another for tentative security. We share a common destination and seek freedom from turbulence along the way.

Together we hope for peace in the end.

Lord, help the frequent fliers of Congress understand the parable of their flight. Lift them with the wings of inspiration and accountability to take us beyond our confinement to new heights of progress and integrity while caring for the most needy and the most frightened traveling with us. Our hope is placed in their leadership and Your power to hold us in this moment of suspension now 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.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. 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 Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. 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 8, rule XX, 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 New York (Mr. BISHOP) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BISHOP of New York 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 entertain up to 10 one-minutes on each side.

THE AMERICAN VETERAN

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the American veteran has fought in these conflicts: French and Indian war, War for Independence, the First Barbary War, the War of 1812, the Second Barbary War, War for Texas Independence, the War Between the States, the Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine-American War, the Boxer Rebellion, First World War, Russian Revolution, Spanish Civil War, the Great World War II, the Cold War, Korean War, Vietnam War, Tehran hostage rescue, Grenada, Beirut, Panama, the Gulf War, Somalia, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, and the Iraq War.

These are wars that were fought in, fought by and fought for Americans. This land of the free is consecrated by the blood of the fallen. In many of these wars the liberty of the Nation's people was at stake. Across the massive seas of time the American veteran shall be remembered and praised, for they fought in lands they had never seen, and they fought for peoples they did not know.

These, like my dad, represent the finest the Nation has ever produced. We honor them and we thank them on Veterans Day.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this so-called Deficit Reduction Act is an intellectually dishonest, cruel hoax. The Republican leadership claims they are reducing the deficit, but in reality they are actually hurting the poorest and most vulnerable in this country:

Health care for poor people, slashed by $9.5 billion; food for poor people, decreased by over $840 million; student loans for college students, a $14.3 billion cut.

Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita reopened the eyes of Americans to the staggering poverty that still exists in this country, yet the Republican leadership wants to slash over $50 billion from programs that will help our most vulnerable citizens across America. If that were not bad enough, there is a tax cut worth at least $70 billion on its way. Combined with this upcoming tax cut, the so-called Deficit Reduction Act will actually increase the deficit by $20 billion.

We are a much better country than this bill puts forth. If this bill passes