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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Gracious and loving God, hear our prayers. We come to You in faith hoping that You would receive our concerns, spoken and unspoken, personal and professional. From the depth of Your infinite mercy, listen to us, and bless all that troubles us.

Then enable us to listen for Your response. In a time when so much noise and messaging is coming from every direction, words of counsel and criticism, voices of guile and guidance, give us reason to pause and listen for Your word as You speak into our lives.

Give us ears to hear and spirits willing not just to hear but to put Your counsel into practice, that this House would be built on the foundation You have established.

And in our dealings with one another, in our interactions with the people who depend on our integrity and faithfulness, may we be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.

With humility, patience, and forbearance, may we reveal Your righteousness this day.

For it is in Your saving name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GROTHMAN 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 five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

200 DAYS OF DELIVERING FOR THE PEOPLE

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the child tax credit's checks arriving to families in my district and across the country.

It has been 200 days of this Congress and 200 days of House Democrats delivering for the people.

Last week, thanks to the American Rescue Plan, child tax credit monthly payments began arriving to roughly 39 million households and covering almost 90 percent of children nationwide.

In my district the child tax credit will benefit almost 95 percent of our children.

In Texas, the families of nearly six million children got their checks totaling $1.5 billion in aid.

Unfortunately, about 46,600 children in the Houston area still have not received a check.

The good news is this: Nonfilers can still apply on the IRS portal. Caregivers just need their Social Security number or their ITIN number. And it is very important to remember that these benefits will not affect SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, or any other public assistance program.

Madam Speaker, I am hopeful and sincerely believe that we can build back better, and our children's future can be assured.

ACTIONS AND RESULTS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, actions and results speak louder than words.

In the months since President Biden first called for unity and bipartisan cooperation, the President's and Speaker's reckless tax-and-spend policies have hurt middle-class families and small businesses. These are the very people they profess to want to help the most.

For the third straight month, the cost of living in America has continued to increase, the highest rate of inflation we have witnessed since 2008.

Compared to last year, gas prices are up 45 percent. Food prices have increased 2½ percent. The price of an automobile is up 45 percent for a used car. Americans know they are paying more for what they need to live every day while their paychecks have decreased by almost 2 percent.

Americans are spending more and getting less. This inflation is a hidden tax and a pay cut on every American family. And the effects of these are felt hardest by our senior citizens and people living on fixed incomes.

The cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security this year was barely 1 percent, but rising consumer prices have outpaced that increase by more than four times.

HONORING LOIS CARSON

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

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