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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. HEFLEY].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 5, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable JOEL HEFLEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Of all the blessings we wish from Your hand, of all the favors we seek from Your bounty, we pray for peace in our hearts and in our world. You have created us, O God, in Your image, and when we seek to live in that image we honor other people and wish them serenity and security for by so doing we honor ourselves and are at peace in our hearts. On this day we pray for that peace that passes all understanding, that peace that gives our souls new confidence and confers respect for every person. In Your name, we pray. 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 gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs.

MORELLA] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MORELLA 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1624. An act to reauthorize the Hate Crime Statistics Act, and for other purposes.

REPRESENTING AMERICA'S VALUES, NOT WASHINGTON VALUES

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the 1996 Medicare trustees report is expected to be released later today. Early reports are showing that the trust fund is headed toward bankruptcy much quicker than what we had expected.

Last year Republicans had the courage to seriously address Medicare's impending bankruptcy. We produced and passed an honest and reasonable plan that would increase benefits for senior citizens, fight fraud and abuse, and extend long-term solvency to this very vital program.

Our plan last year to address Medicare solvency problems increased per beneficiary spending from \$4,800 in 1995

to \$7,100 in the year 2002. The President's response, with the help of his liberal allies last year, was to divide our country by launching a scare campaign aimed at seniors.

The President should stop misleading and scaring seniors and come to the table with a serious plan that addresses Medicare's serious solvency problem. What should scare our parents is that President Clinton is doing nothing to help solve the impending bankruptcy of Medicare.

RADICAL CHANGES IN MEDICARE NOT NECESSARY TO KEEP FUND SOLVENT

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker, my colleague from Ohio, is once again trying to use the Medicare trustees report which comes out today as justification for the large cuts in Medicare that will be used by the Republican leadership to finance tax breaks for the wealthy.

This trustees report is out again, it comes out every year, and what it says to us is that we need to do something, we need to make some changes in the Medicare Program, but the Democrats have already proposed that. We have already voted on the President's budget, which most Republicans oppose, which would basically make some cuts in Medicare but preserve the program.

The problem is that the Republican proposal is to change radically Medicare, to make it so you do not have a choice of doctor, to increase out-of-pocket costs with overcharges and also essentially forcing senior citizens into managed care, into HMO's.

We do not need the radical changes in Medicare that the Republicans are proposing. We only need to make some minor adjustments to make sure that

□ 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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