

would rein in the Girl Scouts from being quite so active politically. It is just an outrage." Or commenting about how dangerous it is to American society to have the YMCA involved in the debate about child care.

□ 1315

But while we are off on this tangent, people are being distracted from the fundamental inaction in the House of Representatives on real, central, political reform here in the House; namely, getting to the activities of real lobbyists and their inappropriate ways of trying to influence decisions here through a whole range of extracurricular activities, whether it is gifts or meals or junkets or what have you.

Mr. Speaker, why haven't we taken up that legislation which most Members of the House arrived in January saying ought to be central to our reform agenda around here? Why are we not doing that, rather than messing around with this very, very trivializing and, I think, insulting diversion about wanting to make sure that the Girl Scouts do not have too much say in the political life of this country.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLINGER). There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RIGGS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

We pray, gracious God, for a clear vision of ourselves and of the world in which we live and work and have our being. Enable us to see ourselves as we truly are—created in Your image and marked by opportunities to be the people You would have us be—and also aware that we often miss the mark and lose the vision. We know, O God, that if we do not see the heavenly vision and miss the direction for our lives, our steps will wander and we will lose our way. Open our eyes, gracious God, so we see the path to freedom and opportunity and of service to others. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announced to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. LINDER. 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 pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT 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 SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2076. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2076) "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes", requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. GREGG, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. KERREY to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1267. An act to amend the Congressional Award Act to revise and extend authorities for the Congressional Award Board.

The message also announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 641) "An Act to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act of 1990, and for other purposes", requests a conference with the House on

the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. FRIST, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. DODD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 652) "An Act to provide for a pro-competitive, deregulatory national policy framework designed to accelerate rapidly private sector deployment of advanced telecommunications and information technologies and services to all Americans by opening all telecommunications markets to competition, and for other purposes", agrees to a conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BURNS, Mr. GORTON, Mr. LOTT, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. FORD, Mr. EXON, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEE IN LIEU OF CONFEE ON S. 395, ALASKA POWER ADMINISTRATION ASSET SALE AND TERMINATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair appoints, without objection, Mr. OBERSTAR as a conferee for consideration of House amendment No. 4 for the conference on the bill S. 395 to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation from the House of the gentleman from California, Mr. Mineta.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will notify the Senate of the change in conferees.

ACT NOW TO PRESERVE MEDICARE

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is a lot like a 1965 model car. It is comfortable transportation, but it may not always be reliable. The 1965 model lacks the efficiency of the newer cars and is expensive to maintain.

The Medicare Preservation Act would allow folks to have the health care equivalent of a new car with air-conditioning, better gas mileage, or other options of their choice. The technology has improved and the new safety features are important. Of course, those who prefer the classic car are welcome to keep it.

I urge the American people and particularly our senior citizens to be informed consumers. Do not be hastily swayed by the advertising of AARP and other groups which depend on Government spending and bureaucracy for their livelihoods.

When individuals in my district in Georgia understand the facts of the Medicare crisis they soon realize that the Medicare Preservation Act is the best solution. They know we must act

now to save Medicare for today's retirees and preserve it for the next generation.

SPECIAL INTERESTS WINNING IN REPUBLICAN MEDICARE PROPOSAL

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last week, we learned the extent to which the special interests are winning out over the public interests when it comes to the Republican Medicare proposal. Two groups came to Washington to protest the GOP plan to cut \$270 billion from Medicare; one group got a \$3 billion deal, the other got arrested.

Here is a photo, of 67-year-old Roberta Saxton as she is handcuffed by Capitol Police. Her crime? She came to the people's House to ask questions about plans to change her health care plan.

While Roberta was being arrested, the American Medical Association was treated to a different reception. They did not get handcuffed, they got handed a \$3 billion deal in a private meeting with Speaker GINGRICH. As the New York Times editorialized this weekend in a piece entitled "Bribes for the Doctors"—the Speaker's concessions made an already bad Medicare bill substantially worse. This bill was never designed to give the elderly high quality health care. It is less likely to do so now.

MEDICARE PRESERVATION ACT WILL PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND STRENGTHEN MEDICARE

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Party has boldly led the 104th Congress in the effort to save Medicare. However, these efforts are being challenged by Washington-based special interest groups who are receiving tax dollars.

The AFL-CIO has received \$1.3 million in Federal grants but has spent \$1.4 million attacking Medicare. The AARP has received \$24 million and the National Council of Senior Citizens received \$71 million. The American taxpayers should not be forced to fund lobbyists who intentionally mislead our elderly.

The Medicare Preservation Act will preserve Medicare for future generations, protect the program so that Medicare will stay as the beneficiaries know it to be, and strengthen it to provide coverage options, that empower citizens to choose the health plan that fits their needs.

Instead of helping save Medicare, these special interest groups are trying to hold back the progress that must be made.

IN MEMORY OF MEREDITH MILLER

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, we pause here today for just a moment to remember Meredith Miller.

Meredith Miller was murdered a year ago today as she was returning from studying to her residence in Virginia.

Meredith Miller was one of those wonderful kinds of persons. She was a very bright student, a wonderful giver. She gave of herself to many wonderful causes, and she was preparing to lead a really spectacular life.

Her murder was unusually brutal. It was a terrible loss of a wonderful life and a terrible loss to her mother and father and her brother and her kin and family and friends who reside in my congressional district.

We all loved Meredith Miller. She was the kind of person we want our daughters to be. She was the kind of American we want our fellow citizens to be.

Justice was done. The murderers were captured. The murderers were tried and sentenced, and they are now serving time in jail. But nothing can return to Meredith Miller her life or to her family their wonderful daughter and sister.

All murder is useless, but Meredith Miller's murder was useless, tragic, and a horrible crime.

Let us pause and remember Meredith Miller.

MEREDITH MILLER WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED

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

Mr. BUNN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, before we start today's business, I would like all of my colleagues to help me remember a young woman dedicated to change. This young woman's story is one that all of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, should keep close to their hearts. Her name is Meredith Miller.

Meredith Miller was a student at the George Washington University. Exactly 1 year ago today, she was returning from a study session when she became the victim of a murder. Meredith was an honor student at Princeton University and was attending graduate school here working toward her Masters Degree. She was pursuing her dream, to make a positive change in this world, but her dream was taken from her.

A member of my staff was a friend of hers and has told me that she was an inspiration to all the people she touched. We can all learn something from the tragic events that took Mary away from her family and friends; do not take anything in this life for granted, live each day to its fullest, and give

thanks to the Lord for all that He has given you.

We, as Members of Congress and leaders of this Nation, must work to keep our streets safe and bring criminals to justice. If the dreams of the next generation of leaders, of which Mary was certainly one, are to be fulfilled we must lay that foundation today. We are charged with the duty of ensuring that the hopes and dreams of our Nation's future leaders, such as Mary, can someday be reached.

Meredith, your friends and family want you to know that you may be gone but you will never be forgotten.

THE MILLION MAN MARCH

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I attended the Million Man March. I thought it was the right thing to do.

Many of my constituents were there. They happened to be black. They also happened to be Americans, and I try to honestly be a Congressman for all people.

The Million Man March was a success. The message was powerful. The themes were responsible: self-responsibility, self-actualization, economic independence, morality, love, parenthood. Those are good messages for all America.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, there is a reality here. The Pope and Billy Graham are great human beings, but the Pope and Billy Graham and all of the religious leaders of the world will not solve the race problem in America. It is going to, in fact, require the help of all people. Congress should join in and commend that march. It was good for the country.

JOIN US IN SAVING MEDICARE

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, it would have been simple for the new Republican majority to ignore Medicare's impending bankruptcy, hide the problem, create a quick fix, and let a Congress 2 or 4 years down the road worry about our seniors. But that is not what the American people elected us to do. The people spoke clearly when they elected the new majority. They expect more from us because they realize those previously in control refused to accept the responsibility of leadership.

The people expect us to do what is right, and we will preserve and protect and strengthen Medicare for the next generation, not just for the next election. We will not play politics with this issue.

I urge all Members of this House to stop the scare tactics and join with us to save Medicare.