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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. Fox of Pennsylvania].

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
November 9, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable JON D. Ford 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:

For grace and peace, for faith and hope, for good friends and family and colleagues, for all these good gifts and for all the wonderful blessings of life, we offer this prayer of thanksgiving and praise. Remind us, O gracious God, that whatever else we fought in our busy lives, we do not forget to offer thanks and praise—thanks to You for the miracles of life, and praise for the people about us who sustain us and help us along life's way. May we live each day full of appreciation for Your grace, O God, and for the opportunities to express that appreciation in deeds of justice and mercy. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Fox of Pennsylvania). 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. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Chair'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. HEFLEY. 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. Evidently a quorum is not present.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this question are postponed until later today.

The point of no quorum is considered as withdrawn.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DELAURO 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 Members for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### NO UNITED STATES GROUND TROOPS TO BOSNIA

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned about the Clinton administration's continued declarations about its intent to send United States ground troops to Bosnia for so-called peacekeeping operations. The Clinton administration has been completely inept at convincing Congress or the American people that we have a compelling interest in Bosnia.

Mr. Speaker, the President has an obligation to build a public consensus before committing American forces to these kinds of hazardous missions. And, to term U.S. ground troops in Bosnia hazardous is an understatement. It would be a virtual death sentence for many Americans. I have yet to talk to a single soul who is in support of this kind of deployment.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, Clinton made the promise he would send the troops, with no idea of what they will be doing, how long they will stay, or what the measure of success would be. Last week, we passed a resolution saying come to us before you do that. The next day, the President said, We do not care what they pass down there, we are going to do it anyway.

Last night a conference produced a binding resolution which will come to the floor of this House hopefully next week. We will get an opportunity to debate this issue fully and to consider it.

Mr. Speaker, when one of our young service men or women comes home from Bosnia in a body bag, how do I tell the parents he died serving his country?

### RAIDING OF PENSION PLANS

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

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a provision that was included in budget reconciliation. This provision would allow

□ 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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corporations to remove excess funds from overfunded pension plans for any reason. There is only one way to describe this provision and that is the raiding of pension plans.

This issue has received much attention across the Nation and the general consensus is this is a bad idea. In the September 25, 1995 edition of the Chicago Tribune there was an article entitled "Keep Paws Off Pension Fund Assets." Let me read you a quote from this article:

Well-heeled financial backers of the majority in Congress—perhaps sensing that the good days won't last much longer for them, either—are busy grabbing for everything they can get as fast as they can get it. Under cover of the high profile debates about budget deficits, welfare reform and Medicare, they are stuffing their cheeks with smaller morsels that don't get media attention. The latest is a proposed raid on corporate pension funds, which represent the storehouse of retirement savings for millions of American workers.

This article is right on target. We cannot allow corporations to siphon off excess pension assets. These pension assets are prudently invested and they should remain in the market. The corporate pension reversion provision does not belong in budget reconciliation. The Senate took a vote to remove it from their budget legislation. We should follow their lead. We cannot allow pension funds to be used as tax free corporate checking accounts.

#### TIME FOR PRESIDENT TO SIGN A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, the President gives new meaning to the term AWOL—absent without leadership. We are in the process of doing something that the Democrat majority could never accomplish—balancing the Federal budget. Republicans are keeping their promise to move forward with a certified and honest balanced budget.

What has the Clinton administration done? Everything and nothing at the same time. The President has said he can support a plan that balances the budget in 5, 7, 9, or 10 years. But yet he has not produced any real plans to go along with his statements.

So now the Republican majority is going to present him with a real plan to balance the budget in 7 years. We have shown true leadership by doing the right thing for our children's future.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for the President to stop the gimmicks and excuses. It's time for him to keep his promises and sign a balanced budget.

#### REPUBLICANS' NEW YEAR'S CARD TO AMERICA

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, our Republican friends began shouting

"Happy New Year" a little early last night. "Happy New Year" to everybody in this country who relies on Medicare, because come January there will be a New Year's card from our Republican friends. It is called an increase in Medicare premiums that every person who relies on Medicare will have to pay.

Mr. Speaker, if Americans are sitting out there saying, "It does not make any difference to me. I am not on Medicare," they need to think again and look at the reports from this week. Economists in Washington and business representatives warn that millions of working people and their employers could end up paying more for health care and that many people who work for small businesses could lose their insurance altogether as a result of this harsh, backward Republican cut of Medicare.

Indeed, one independent study reports that employers would require their employees to absorb much of the increased costs in the form of reduced wages, truncated or denied pay increases, or less generous health coverage.

Half a million people will lose their insurance coverage altogether. That is the result of the Republican New Year's present to America: A cut in Medicare, a hike in premiums.

#### A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, for months the minority has engaged in a vicious smear campaign designed to scare the American people into believing that the Republican majority is working against their interests.

I am here today to tell the American people that the sky is not falling. In fact, we are finally beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. A light emanating from the bright future that awaits our children because the Republican majority is requiring the Federal Government to live within its means.

It's simply immoral to spend money we don't have and expect the next generation to pick up the bill. Our plan to balance the budget ensures that our children will have a future that is free of debt and full of opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, we can't continue to perpetuate the policies of spend now and worry later. It's time to place America's families and America's future above the politics of the past. It's time to do the right thing and balance the budget.

#### VOTERS REJECT GINGRICH REVOLUTION

(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, some people just do not get it. On Tuesday

night, as voters all over this country were rejecting the extreme agenda of the Gingrich revolution, House Republicans were working behind closed doors to raise the Medicare premiums.

Mr. Speaker, this is no smear; this is reality. The Medicare part B premiums were scheduled to drop to a 25-percent rate, but Tuesday night Republicans voted to raise those premiums to 31.5 percent. That means that instead of \$42 a month, seniors will pay \$53 a month beginning on January 1.

The Gingrich revolution means that seniors are going to pay more for Medicare. Do not believe them when they say they are protecting the future for our kids, because they are going to cut the opportunity for youngsters to be able to go to college. They are cutting student loans and providing working, middle-class families with more taxes. They are going to increase their taxes and, frankly, it is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the American people rejected the extremism of the Gingrich revolution. What we need to do is to make sure the folks in the other body reject this Medicare increase.

#### SNOOPING, CHEATING, AND COVERUPS HAVE TO STOP NOW

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, today's Wall Street Journal contains a shocking story about further abuse of government power. The Journal reports that the head of President Clinton's Department of Energy, Hazel O'Leary has hired a private investigating firm to poke into reporters who write about her. She's then had the private eyes create an enemies list of unfavorable reporters who report on her extravagant travel and the like. And she's billed this private investigation to the taxpayers at a cost of some \$43,000, the paper reports.

All this comes on top of Mrs. O'Leary's incredible travel junketing, also undertaken at great taxpayer expense. Mr. Speaker, if the Journal story is accurate the Secretary of Energy should not remain in office 1 more day, 1 more hour, not even 1 more minute. President Clinton should dismiss her immediately.

This administration all too often makes excuses for officials who have gone bad. But the snooping and the cheating and the coverups have to stop. We cannot tolerate this sort of abuse of government power any longer.

#### TUESDAY'S MESSAGE FROM VOTERS: SLOW DOWN

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, voters across the Nation sent a message to the Republican majority in Congress: Slow down.