



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1995

No. 186

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EWING).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 20, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable THOMAS W. EWING to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member other than the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. FORD] for 2 minutes.

BACK ON THE JOB

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. FORD] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say to the Democrats and Republicans alike that we are very happy I know in this Congress that the Federal employees are now back on the job.

We would also like to point out, Mr. Chairman, that we also know a little bit about this agreement among Democrats and the Republicans, the Presi-

dent and the Republican leadership. When we think in terms of taxing working people in this country, it is clear now that we will have that issue on the table to say that it is wrong for the Republicans to try to tax working families in this country.

And we also would look at it even closer now with this so-called crown jewel for the rich and the wealthy of this country, is that we can say to Speaker GINGRICH is that \$245 billion is just absolutely too much of a tax break for the rich and wealthy of this Nation.

I am glad to know that now that we will have the administration and Democrats and Republicans trying to come up with a plan that will in fact protect the Medicare recipients, the senior citizens of this country, children of this country, in making sure that we protect the environment.

I am just happy to know that I was a part of this side of the aisle on Saturday, when our colleagues on the other side of the aisle wanted this House to leave and come back this afternoon at 6 o'clock. I am glad that the Democrats were able to shame the Republicans to stay here over the weekend so the Federal employees could go back to work.

And I thank you very much, Republicans, for shaming you in a way, but thanking you very much for coming over with the Democrats to say let us stay in session over the weekend, that the President and the Republicans could get together. And today the Federal employees are back at work.

HAITI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, we all have some breathing space today, and it is welcome, and we are very happy for the successful efforts that took place over

the weekend while we worked here to avoid this Government shutdown, and I am pleased that that has happened.

We all now have a chance to stand up and look around a little bit about what is happening elsewhere in the world. I think it is important that we do that, because our responsibilities do in fact have a whole range.

I expected to hear some crowing from the White House about now, about the crown jewel of their foreign policy success, which is Haiti. I have not heard much, and I have been curious about the silence.

I have not heard much in the press, either, so I just checked and I found that one of the observers who was there for the last election, for the parliamentary elections in June, was there last week and reported back to me this morning on a trip that she had there. And sorry to say that things are not going very well.

I say that for three reasons. First of all, the taxpayers of this country have got almost \$3 billion invested in Haiti right now, in the Aristide government. I am sad to say that democracy is not building. It is in fact going down the drain, despite that heavy investment to try to help that nation out.

I am also sorry to say that U.S. troops are still there and subject to harm in the civil unrest that is unyielding, and we have seen unfortunately an escalation of violence. We will hope that nobody gets hurt, and particularly not our troops.

And finally, I am particularly sorry that democracy under the Aristide administration is not working, because he was truly a democratically elected President, and if the Government cannot operate that way, that means we are going to be in for a longer haul in Haiti and things are not as well as we hoped.

That, of course, affects us in Florida. We have the refugee problem, we have many Haitians in Florida, many in my

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

H13347

district, a matter of great concern. It is also sad that a friendly neighboring nation that is so close to our shore is having such a difficult time coming to grips with the development of democracy.

We will not have a full, fair election there on December 17, if the election comes off, because the legitimate opponents who would run have been intimidated. They have been threatened with being burned to death if they even registered and showed up. Most of the opposition offices are closed. There is no campaigning going on.

Fear is throughout the countryside. This is not the ingredient of a democratic election. Businesses are closed. Business is worse. The economy was bad. The economy is even worse than bad now. People just simply do not want to open their stores. They are afraid of mob violence.

The privatization effort that the Government was supposed to introduce has not worked. In fact, not only has it not worked, the Prime Minister who was its champion has resigned in protest. A new Prime Minister has come in and is going to a different policy.

So those agreements toward privatization, getting that country back on an economic footing, are not working out either. Apparently the government of President Aristide is going the wrong way on that.

The most important point is stability. Mobs are driving people into refugees, including Americans. When it gets to that state, it is time to reexamine.

PRINCIPLES FOR BUDGET BALANCING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I must say that I am very pleased today so to see that we have worked out the continuing resolution between the President and the Republican leadership in Congress, and that Federal employees are back to work. I cannot emphasize enough how pleased the Federal employees in my district are. Some of them have been calling the district office to say that.

Even more or just as important, though, is the fact that the language of this agreement essentially says not only that will we have a balanced budget, but that the priorities which I have been talking about, which President Clinton, the Democratic leadership have been talking about, which are to preserve Medicare, to make sure that Medicaid is adequately funded, to make sure that this budget provides ample funding for education and also for the environment, that those are included in the language of the continuing resolution.

So I hope that with these principles that are so important to President

Clinton, so important to Democrats and important, I believe, to the American people, that those principles will guide the negotiations over the larger budget agreement that must be reached over the next few weeks.

Let me tell you why I think that these principles are important. I have said it over and over again on the floor, but I am going to say it again today. When we talk about Medicare and Medicaid, the Republican budget essentially says that those programs are going to be cut by a significant amount of money, 270 million for Medicare, 170 million for Medicaid, in order to pay for a tax break, mostly for wealthy Americans.

What I hope is that this budget agreement will put more money back in Medicare and Medicaid, retain the entitlement status particularly for Medicaid, so that those who have low incomes and are on Medicaid now, get their health insurance through the Government, will continue to be entitled to health insurance.

What we can do is reduce those tax breaks or eliminate those tax breaks for the wealthy in order to make sure that these programs continue the way they have.

PUTTING OUR HOUSE IN ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. FUNDERBURK] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, what if an unpopular President shut the Federal Government down and no body outside the Capitol beltway, except CBS, NBC, and the New York Times cared one whit? Judging by what the people of eastern North Carolina told me, that's exactly what happened last week. So let me cut through the fog that engulfed the White House and its bagmen in the media and tell you what this fight is really about.

The shut down of the Federal Government was not about petty partisan politics. This fight was and is about our children and our future. It is about two competing visions of America. The first vision is Bill Clinton's America where an army of Federal bureaucrats tells us how to raise our families, spend our money, and run our businesses. The second is our America; and America built on the promise of individual liberty and material progress.

The new majority was sent to Congress by Americans frightened of Government and exhausted by its ravenous demands. We were sent here to bring runaway Federal spending to a standstill. We hammered out a budget plan to balance the books, chop the arms off the Federal octopus, and let the people keep their money.

Bill Clinton's opposition to the Republican budget tells America three things:

Bill Clinton did not want a balanced budget.

Bill Clinton was never serious about carrying through on his campaign pledge to cut middle-class tax rates.

Bill Clinton is an old-fashioned tax-and-spend liberal who genuinely opposes any reduction in Government spending.

We have had 800,000 Federal workers on furlough. Can the liberals continue to argue that these Federal workers and the thousands of idle programs they administer are critical to the health and safety of our country? Bill Clinton's own administration determined 67 percent of the employees at the Department of Commerce, 89 percent at Education, and 99 percent at HUD are nonessential. But Bill Clinton has done everything in his power to keep us from closing these and countless other Federal departments. So much for Bill Clinton, the new Democrat.

Americans don't miss these programs on Federal holidays and they certainly don't miss them today. For all of Bill Clinton's talk about the hazards of shutting down Washington, DC, most of these programs didn't exist prior to 1965 and America prospered for 190 years without them. By a margin of 10 to 1, my constituents in the second district of North Carolina said keep the nonessential parts of Government closed down and out of our lives.

Mr. Speaker, there was much more to this debate than furloughed Federal workers. Time is running out for our children. We are about to enter a new century on a collision course with catastrophe. If you add up all of the Federal entitlements, at their current growth rates and add the inevitable increase in the national debt, what you have in 20 years is a financial disaster of unimaginable magnitude. Entitlements plus our Federal debt will consume every last penny of Federal tax revenues. As it stands now, in 20 years our children and grandchildren will have half of their paychecks taken by Uncle Sam just to pay for entitlements alone. There will be nothing left for defense, law enforcement, foreign affairs, or agriculture, absolutely nothing.

Mr. Speaker, we are about to drive America off the cliff. For the sake of future generations we must put our house in order now. It's good to get a pledge from the President to agree to a balanced budget in 7 years. But that can't and won't take place without real reform of welfare, Medicare, education, the legal system, and workplace and environmental regulation.

We've won the balanced budget debate. Now we have to win the details and make sure that the left does not continue big Government business as usual. Our children's future depends on it.

BUDGET COMPROMISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May