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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. GILLMOR].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 30, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable PAUL E. GILLMOR 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:

Your word, O God, commends us to seek justice and mercy and in this our petition we ask that our words will be translated into actions that promote justice and the blessed gifts of mercy. Increase our understanding how we may be good stewards of righteousness so that all people are treated fairly and enjoy the liberties and freedoms that we cherish. May we use our abilities and resources so we are good custodians of the riches of the land so that in all things, we are faithful to Your word and walk in Your way. 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. Will the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KNOLLENBERG]

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG 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 without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2519. An act to facilitate contributions to charitable organizations by codifying certain exemptions from the Federal securities laws, and for other purposes; and

H.R. 2525. An act to modify the operation of the antitrust laws, and of State laws similar to the antitrust laws, with respect to charitable gift annuities.

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

H.R. 2539. An act to abolish the Interstate Commerce Commission, to amend subtitle IV of title 49, United States Code, to reform economic regulation of transportation, and for other purposes.

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. 1341. An act to provide for the transfer of certain lands to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the city of Scottsdale, Arizona, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 956) "An Act to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation, and for other purposes", disagreed to by the House and agrees to the conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and

appoints Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. GORTON, Mr. LOTT, Mr. STEVENS, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INUYE, Mr. FORD, Mr. EXON, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

LEAD, FOLLOW, OR GET OUT OF THE WAY

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Americans are asking Congress and the President to balance the budget. Allow me to share excerpts of a letter to the President sent to me by one of my constituents, Carol Ault, of Ellicott City, MD.

The Democrats have spent 40 years getting this country in the financial mess it is in. The Republicans have started cleaning up the mess. And one of the first steps is to produce a balanced budget as soon as possible.

And Mr. President, your statement on TV recently that your job is to "take care of the American people" is totally wrong. We do not want you and the U.S. government to take care of us. We want you to leave us alone to pursue our own economic interests. You do not know what is best for us. We know what is best for us. You do not know how best to spend our tax money. We know best how to spend our tax money.

I am not sure if the following statement originated with Iococca, but I heard him say it: "Either lead, follow, or get out of the way."

Sir, you are not leading.

IS IT ANY WONDER THAT SPEAKER GINGRICH REFUSES TO ACT PROMPTLY ON MEANINGFUL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM?

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, new revelations about the intrigues at

□ 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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GOPAC have just been brought to light in documents filed in Federal court here in Washington. While now-Speaker GINGRICH chaired GOPAC, apparently the go in GOPAC meant go beyond the law. GOPAC was little more than a slush fund to subvert the Federal election law.

Quoting from those documents:

GOPAC routinely and continuously provided what was described as Newt support, expenditures for projects especially for Newt. GOPAC paid political consultants to help Newt think. Helping Newt was described as probably the single highest priority we've got in dollars. The expenditures total for Newt's support a quarter of a million dollars, not one dime of which was reported in accordance with Federal law.

Is it any wonder that Speaker GINGRICH refuses to act promptly on meaningful reform of our campaign finance laws when he would not even comply with the laws that we have on the books today? The GOPAC scandal is not going to go away. It is a serious violation of our laws. The Ethics Committee cannot duck it and this House cannot dodge it.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT A BALANCED BUDGET NOW

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on November 20, 1995 President Clinton signed the following statement in a continuing resolution: "The President and the Congress shall enact legislation in the first session of the 104th Congress to achieve a balanced budget not later than fiscal year 2002." Yet, just a couple of days ago when asked whether the White House would prefer to put off the larger budget debate until next year's elections, the White House press secretary, Mike McCurry, responded in saying, "Debate next year during the national election, campaign when we should, as Americans have that kind of debate."

They are trying to avoid balancing the budget this year, but we know what the American public want. They proved it in 1992 when Mr. Clinton told them that he could balance the budget in 35 years. They proved it in 1994 when they elected a Republican Congress. They proved it in 1995 when the people and the Congress wanted a balanced budget again. Now, against the will of the American public and against the will of the American people, the President is trying to avoid balancing the budget.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we know what the American people want. It is a balanced budget. Let us give it to them now.

WE MUST REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF TAX BREAKS TO THE WEALTHY IF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID ARE TO SURVIVE

(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, it is crucial in the budget negotiations that are now taking place that the amount of the tax breaks for wealthy Americans be reduced in order to provide sufficient funds for Medicare and Medicaid. Otherwise, seniors and low-income Americans will not have quality health care, or in many cases will not have any health care at all.

As we see from this scale that we have shown before, the amount of tax breaks almost equals the amount of Medicare cuts for seniors. If we do not reduce this, there is no way we are going to have sufficient funding for both Medicare and Medicaid.

The Treasury Department recently came out with some statistics that showed conclusively that the Republican tax cut is heavily weighted toward the rich. They estimated that the richest 1 percent would rake in almost twice as much, or 17 percent of the tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, the message has to go to these budget negotiators that they have to reduce these tax breaks for wealthy Americans if Medicare is going to survive, if Medicaid is going to survive, and if we are going to continue to provide quality health care under those two Federal programs.

DEMOCRATS AND FEARMONGERING

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if, since the gentleman who just spoke is concerned about the cuts that the Republican plan is going to make in Medicare, if he would prefer then that we have a freeze. Would that satisfy the gentleman since, if he is concerned that we are cutting all of these programs, perhaps he would feel better about having a freeze in the programs? Would that work?

Of course it would not work, and the reason it would not work is that we are not cutting anything. In fact, if you see these numbers, you can see that the budget for 1995, the Federal budget, is \$1.5 trillion. It goes up to \$1.85 trillion in 2002.

What is unfortunate is that the minority wants to obscure the truth and obscure the facts and confuse the public about what is really happening, because by resorting to demagoguery and fearmongering and scare tactics, they believe that they can maintain a kind of tenuous political edge in the most disingenuous and exploitive way.

CONGRESS MUST VOTE ON SENDING TROOPS TO BOSNIA

(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, when our Founders drafted the Constitution,

the hottest debate centered around the power to declare war. Legislative history, legislative debate, legislative intent is absolutely clear. The Founders painstakingly articulated what they felt ensured, that in America no one person, no one person could place America at war or place Americans in harm's way.

Now after all of the political rhetoric, after all of the opinions by the military experts, after all of the analysis, after all of the newspaper writings and all the speeches, the fact remains that one person, one man, has decided to place troops in harm's way.

I believe that the Congress of the United States, who has abdicated the power in America where the people govern and turned it over to the White House, must vote on this issue. In America, no one man is deigned by the Constitution to have that power to place troops in harm's way. I think it is time to literally take our Government back.

NO MORE EXCUSES

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, for years politicians in Washington have paid lip service to the idea of balancing the budget. But when it came time to get the job done, special interests and weak backbones have always carried the day.

The new Republican majority made a commitment to end business as usual in Washington. We promised the American people that we would balance the budget so they could have more jobs, lower interest rates, and more take-home pay.

We have kept our word. After months of hard work and several tough votes, we put America's families and America's children above the politics of the past and passed the first balanced budget in 26 years.

Mr. Speaker, we have provided President Clinton with the opportunity to do the right thing. I sincerely hope that he seizes the day. The American people cannot afford to have the same old excuses and Washington gimmicks kill the Balanced Budget Act of 1995.

ELISA IZQUIERDO

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, last week, when we were all giving thanks, 6-year-old Elisa Izquierdo was beaten to death. Her death has been added to the brutal slaying of Debra Evans as the latest ploy for attacking assistance to the needy. This type of outrageous opportunism that takes tragedies and twists them for political gain is shameful and immoral.

Many have claimed that the welfare system is to blame for these deaths. Instead of getting to the heart of the