



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1995

No. 193

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. RADANOVICH].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 6, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable GEORGE P. RADANOVICH 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:

We pray, O gracious God, that with all the tasks that need to be accomplished, we will see clearly the opportunities that have been given for healing and helping, for encouraging and being made whole. With the dilemmas and perplexities that demand attention and the great needs of the Nation, we pray for a serenity of spirit that leads in the way of service to others. Remind us, O loving God, to lift our eyes to sense not only the obstacles that necessarily press from every side, but also to see the blessings that You have so graciously given and for which we are eternally thankful. 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 gentleman from Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN, come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas 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 a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2204. An act to extend and reauthorize the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1058) "An Act to reform Federal securities litigation, and for other purposes."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain twenty 1-minute speeches on each side.

THE SPENDING IS THE PROBLEM

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the President now has 10 days left to decide if he really cares about America's future. That is why I am bringing this sign back to the floor today. I used it in 1993, and it is appropriate for him again today. "It is the spending, Stupid."

I hope all of America sees through Clinton's charade. He just wants to spend more of your money, and that is why he will not sign a balanced budget with honest CBO numbers. He does not care about seniors, he does not care about education, he does not care about the future of the country. If he did, he would sign the Balanced Budget Act, which saves Medicare and actually increases spending on Medicare and education and reduces the size and scope of the Federal Government.

If the President does not sign a balanced budget plan with honest Congressional Budget Office numbers like he agreed to, we are ready to shut the Government down before we give him one more dime to spend. The President wants to spend more money. We want to save America's future. It is just that simple.

NO NEWT TAXES

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, let me quote some Republicans.

Like Abraham Lincoln, who said "malice toward none and charity for all"—an idea that today's Republicans seem to have forgotten.

And I love NEWT GINGRICH's quotes from a few years back—when he used to talk about the ethics of the Speaker of the House.

And, how about George Bush's line about reading his lips—no new taxes?

Well, I have a new version: "Read our lips. No Newt Taxes."

That is what working families are saying as the GOP raises their out-of-pocket expenses for health care and education.

The Republicans will not admit that they are raising taxes—they will even say they are cutting them.

□ 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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H 14025

Well, if you are a senior, and the GOP raises your Medicare premium—that is a new tax.

If you are working 40 hours a week, and the GOP takes away your earned income tax credit—that is a new tax.

In fact that is a Newt tax.

So, Mr. Speaker, "Read our lips. No Newt Taxes."

George Bush broke his word, and NEWT GINGRICH is breaking his. But, we Democrats will stand by our word—and stand up for working families.

"Read our lips. No Newt Taxes."

Mr. Speaker, that is our Contract With America.

INSTANT REVISIONIST HISTORY

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to my dear friend from Illinois and his instant revisionist history, because the fact remains that the current Chief Executive, aided by the former majority, the liberals who once dominated this Chamber, gave us the largest tax increase in American history. Indeed, this same President, along with the liberal minority, in fact, proposes to raise Medicare premiums for seniors coming up following the next election. That is the bottom line. That is the truth.

Mr. Speaker, the facts are clear: The American people get kind of tired of this political one-upmanship. They want us to come to grips with realistic policy alternatives to balance this budget in 7 years, using the honest numbers of the nonpartisan Budget Office.

Once again the challenge is clear: Do we play the games of politics of the past, or instant revisionist history, or do we put our shoulder to the wheel and collectively govern, both the legislative branch working with the executive branch. Once again we reach out our hand saying help us govern. Let us get a balanced budget.

LET US BE MESSENGERS OF PEACE AND GOOD WILL

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

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, the holiday season offers us an opportunity to pray for peace among men and nations. We have so much to be thankful for. So different from a decade ago, the world is a much more peaceful place. In large part our Nation, its leaders, its men and women in uniform, its people, united and proud, are responsible for this state of affairs.

As we take time to count these many blessings, we should reflect upon the efforts of the peacemakers, whether they be diplomats who have worked to overcome age-old hatreds by pushing forward a hard-fought agreement in

Dayton or our soldiers protecting innocent children in Bosnia, we should pray for their safety and continued success. We should thank and pray for our President, who has been the motivating force behind this effort to bring peace behind the world.

I urge my colleagues to wear the stickers I have sent to each office. This can be a sign that we can rise above partisan wrangling to rally in support of the peacemakers, and cheer their many triumphs in Haiti, the Mideast, Northern Ireland, and Bosnia.

Mr. Speaker, let us all be messengers of peace and good will as we approach the holidays, and pray for our American soldiers in Bosnia.

PRESIDENT SHOULD SIGN BALANCED BUDGET BILL NOW

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker it has now been 18 days since the President promised in writing to sign a balanced budget bill into law by the end of this year. The Republicans have sent a balanced budget bill to the President—it is right now sitting on this desk just waiting to be signed.

The Republican balanced budget plan is good for the economy and good for the American people. Our bill will not only stimulate the economy, providing more job opportunities for all, but protects programs older Americans depend on like Medicare and Medicaid. Our bill also increases spending over 7 years in programs like student loans and the earned income tax credit, which many young people depend on.

Mr. Speaker, the President should sign the Republican balanced budget bill. If he does not like our plan then he should provide his own, using honest CBO numbers, and bring it to the bargaining table so that negotiations can begin. How much longer will we have to wait.

NORTH AMERICAN FREE-TRADE AGREEMENT COSTING JOBS IN AMERICA

(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, since NAFTA, America has lost 250,000 jobs in 1995 alone. Lockheed laid off 15,000; Chemical Bank, 12,000; Bell South, 11,000; AT&T, 8,500; Boeing, 12,000; CNA, 6,000; Kmart, 6,000; General Motors, 5,000; Kodak, 4,000. Even Fruit of the Loom will make the Expandos, folks, in Mexico, 3,200 jobs lost. Meanwhile, Congress keeps debating and arguing over this balanced budget.

Tell me, Mr. Speaker, whether it is a 5-year deal, a 7-year deal, a 10-year deal, whatever the deal is, how can America balance the budget without jobs? Mexican workers do not pay taxes. Mexican workers do not pay taxes. What is next, a 20-year deal?

Beam me up. I yield back the balance of these job losses.

PROCTER & GAMBLE DOING SERVICE FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, in the midst of very pressing congressional business involving the budget, Bosnia, and the like, it sometimes is easy to overlook important events outside the legislative realm. But actions that affect our social fabric, that speak to our values as a society, often have the most profound impact upon our Nation.

I rise here to applaud the recent announcement that Procter & Gamble, a fine Cincinnati-based corporation that makes just about every product that you can buy, has decided to pull its advertising from certain degrading and exploitative television talk shows. In taking this principled stance involving its quite considerable ad budget, Procter & Gamble demonstrates an admirable social commitment.

Procter & Gamble is exercising choice, not censorship. It is choosing not to underwrite the moral decadence too often engaged in by these shows.

Private individuals and private businesses can address many of our social problems far more effectively than can Big Brother Government. By making values part of its bottom line and by joining with Bill Bennett and Senator JOE LIEBERMAN in taking off this TV trash, they are doing great things for our country.

CUT AMERICAN LOSSES ON NAFTA BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

(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, in light of NAFTA's second anniversary a few weeks ago, we must take a long, hard look at the empty promises that were made and NAFTA's shameful reality.

We promised American workers that NAFTA would create jobs. Corporations descended on Congress promising 200,000 new jobs. The shameful truth is 250,000 were lost.

Mexican workers heard empty promises, too. They were assured higher wages and better working conditions. I witnessed NAFTA's reality first hand at Mexican maquiladoras. Some of the businesses that came to Congress making promises have left the United States and found their way to Mexico. They exploit cheap labor and Mexican workers still suffer.

We listened to promises that NAFTA would increase exports, balance trade, and even create a trade surplus. The reality is United States exports are down while Mexican exports soar. This year alone we face a projected \$40 billion trade deficit.