



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1995

No. 26

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

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

O gracious God, to whom we address our prayers and petitions and from whom comes every good gift, we pray for the strength of mind and body and spirit so we will do the works of justice and mercy. As the prophet Isaiah has reminded us, we can grow weary and tired in our labors and yet we are comforted by the prophet's words that they who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary. We pray for Your strength, O God, that sustains in all the seasons of our lives, so we will do Your good work this day and every day. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. The gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KAPTUR 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will receive 15 1-minute speeches on each side.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(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, it is my happy privilege today to recount our Contract With America and where we are in its fulfillment. Our Contract With America states the following:

On the first day of Congress, a Republican House will: Force Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else; cut committee staffs by one-third; and cut the congressional budget. We have done this.

It goes on to state that in the first 100 days, we will vote on the following items: A balanced budget amendment—we have done this; unfunded mandates legislation—we have done this; line-item veto—we have done this; a new crime package to stop violent criminals—we are now doing this; welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence; family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and protect our children; tax cuts for families to lift Government's burden from middle-income Americans; national security restoration to protect our freedoms; Senior Citizens' Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without Government penalty; Government regulatory reform; commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits; and congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature.

This is our Contract With America, and this is why Americans feel better and better about their Government.

BASEBALL FANS LOSE

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, greed has won and America and baseball fans have lost. Baseball has become just another big faceless conglomerate and no longer the national pastime. The owners won't give. The players won't give. The White House tried its best. Now it's time for the Congress to step up to the plate and not stay in the bleachers.

Let us support the President and his call for binding arbitration. That doesn't mean taking sides between these two Goliaths. This is just a dispute about money and the heck with everyone else.

On behalf of America's fans, we should not stand for this.

And who will stand for the hot dog vendors and the ushers and the concessionaires and all of those who depend on baseball for a job?

Can we imagine even another summer without baseball? For many of us, that is a matter of national security that requires us to intervene.

OMISSIONS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

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

Ms. MOLINARI. Mr. Speaker, rock-a-bye baby in the tree tops, thanks to the President's budget, your cradle you all going to have to hock.

It appears that the White House left out an important section of their 1996 budget, the section called generational accounting detailing how much future generations must cough up in taxes to pay for his budget priorities.

□ 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

H1467

It's no wonder he forgot it. It seems, Mr. Speaker, that the budget plan submitted by the White House this week would force taxpayers born after 1993 to bear an 84-percent average lifetime tax rate.

If that is not bad enough, the real reason why this figure was not included in the President's budget is because this year, despite administration promises, this tax rate is 2-percent higher than it was last year. The tax rate rises along with the deficit.

No wonder they chose to forget it. Perhaps they were troubled by what one of their own economists said: "Levying such high net taxes on future Americans is not only unconscionable, it's also economically unfeasible."

Mr. Speaker, the President's budget will rob future generations of their hard earned money, not to mention their cradle and all.

MOST AMERICANS FAVOR A MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

(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, we hear daily updates on the Contract With America.

But my colleagues omit the fact that this contract was built by pollsters and consultants. It was designed for easy popularity, not for the American people.

Well, their consultants must have forgotten to ask about minimum wage.

Because when NBC News asked the American people, 78 percent said they favored an increase.

I guess 78 percent of America was not around when our opponents took their poll.

I think I know who they missed.

They missed the 78 percent who carry around something other than the contract in their back pocket.

They missed the 78 percent who instead carry a lunch pail to their work site, who carry their children to day care, who carry a bus token so they can get to work, who carry a Medicare card for their health care.

So the next time our Speaker waves around a piece of paper and a hole puncher, remember that until we honor the hard work of every person in our Nation with a decent, livable minimum wage, all he is waving is an exclusive contract with some of America.

CONGRESS SHOULD NOT INTERVENE IN THE BASEBALL STRIKE

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, the President sent a message to the House last evening asking Congress to pass legislation to establish a 3-person panel to arbitrate the baseball strike.

I say there is no role for Congress in the baseball strike. But I do have a

suggestion. How about we get the millionaire owners and the millionaire players to sit around a table and talk to one another so the average person can go see a baseball game?

This is ridiculous for Congress to be involved when we have all of these high-paid people who are supposed to be pretty smart and they can sit down and solve this thing. Congress should not be involved. I do not agree with the President on this.

Have them sit down at a table and solve it all so that all of the average folks out there can watch baseball this spring and this summer.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REDIRECT FOREIGN AID TO AMERICANS

(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, Congress borrows money from Japan and Germany and then Congress pays interest on that borrowed money to Japan and Germany. Then Congress takes that borrowed money and gives it back to Japan and Germany to protect them.

Now we give money, our borrowed money to Germany to protect them from an invasion from Russia. But then we give money to Russia so that Russia does not have to invade Germany.

If any of this makes sense, beam me up. The only good thing about it, evidently, is that the Russians could not overwhelm the Capitol Police.

But the bottom line is we borrow money to help everybody all over the world, but we cannot come up with money to help our own people. I have a little bill, H.R. 782. It would take \$5 billion of foreign aid and transfer it to revenue sharing for cities and counties.

I think Members should take a look at that, Democrats at least.

CURING THE CRIME EPIDEMIC

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, if there were a disease in this country that affected Americans of all races, ages, and sexes, a disease of epidemic proportions that touched the lives of each American citizen every single day, an epidemic that took over America's streets and literally held our citizens hostage in their homes—if there were a disease such as this in our country, wouldn't this Congress do everything in its power to find a cure?

Mr. Speaker, there is such a disease in this America today—the epidemic of crime—and the American people are crying out for a cure. Republicans are working hard to find a cure. Our crime bill answers the citizens' pleas by forcing criminals to pay and pay dearly for their crimes. It's time that the crimi-

nal element in this country takes responsibility and blame for spreading the disease of crime. It's time to stop punishing the victim and start punishing the criminal.

Mr. Speaker, this crime bill is the best cure for the epidemic of crime in America. I urge my colleagues in this Congress to give the American people a cure that is tough and effective. Give them a real crime bill.

□ 1010

THE NAFTA ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, incredible as it may seem, certain promoters still claim NAFTA to be a success.

Eighteen thousand United States workers have already lost their jobs to Mexico with thousands more surely to be lost as more plants relocate to that cheap wage environment.

Our trade advantage with Mexico wiped out last year, and red ink is ahead of us as far as we can see.

A 50-percent peso devaluation in Mexico will dry up our consumer market for exports down there, and the \$47 billion taxpayer backed bailout of Mexico and its Wall Street friends.

Tuesday's New York Times tells the story of Tracy Bartrom of Indiana. A former maintenance worker for Magnatek in Huntington, IN, she recalled a meeting she had in Mexico as she trained her replacement worker. Through a translator, she asked how much he was paid. He told her \$1 an hour. And for him, the job is certainly not desirable as strong fumes cause nausea and vomiting.

The true story of NAFTA needs to be told, but it will never get the coverage that the O.J. Simpson trial gets on U.S. television.

COMMON SENSE AND YOUR TAX DOLLARS

(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, last week Congressman KOLBE and I introduced the Common Sense Welfare Reform Act.

The American people are frustrated with dependency-fostering federal welfare programs. They realize that the War on Poverty has failed and are demanding real welfare reform.

Our bill turns the reins of welfare reform over to the people who pay the Federal Government's bills—the American taxpayers. We would allow each American to direct up to ten percent of their Federal taxes to charities engaged in fighting poverty instead of sending that money to Washington.