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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. EWING].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 22, 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.

PRAYER

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

With all the tasks that need to be done and with the noise and clamor of the world about us, we bow our heads in this, our prayer, giving thanks for all the blessings we have received. O gracious God, from whom comes every good gift, we lift our voices in gratitude for those whose lives have made clearer to us the meaning of faith and hope and love. The gift of faith has empowered us to hear Your good word and to trust in Your grace; the gift of hope allows us to see beyond any present trouble and catch the vision of lives made whole and a world at peace; Your gift of love brings us to a fuller understanding of our humanity and makes each day come alive. For all these gifts, O God, we offer this prayer of thanksgiving and praise. 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.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker'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. GUTKNECHT. 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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida [Mr. DEUTSCH] will lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DEUTSCH 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 Chair will entertain 10 1-minutes on each side.

TAKE A STAND FOR SMALL BUSINESS

(Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, in 1992 we heard time and again that candidate Clinton was committed to supporting small businessmen and women in this country. Now, he has the chance to make good on his campaign promise. And his response? He vetoed the small-business tax incentives in the Balanced Budget Act.

President Clinton says he supports jobs creation and economic expansion. But he continues to oppose small-business incentives in the current budget negotiations and continues to call them tax breaks for millionaires.

The goal behind these small-business tax incentives is twofold: enable small business men and women to keep more of their income and give them an incentive to reinvest the extra funds in small business. In turn, small firms will create new jobs, contribute to the economy, and provide additional tax revenues. And the cycle continues.

If the President wants to take a stand for the country, take a stand for small business.

NOTICE

LOBBYING DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1995

A special joint notice from the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House concerning implementation of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-65) appears in this issue of the Record following both the proceedings of the Senate and the House. See pages S19290-91 and H15634-35.

□ 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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LET US ACT LIKE ADULTS

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

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, when the Republican freshmen came to Congress, they promised us that they would run Congress like a business.

Well, let us talk about what is going on right now. We have a disagreement, let us say, between the CEO and the board of directors of a publicly traded corporation, and then, as that disagreement is going on, the board of directors says, "Let us fire all of the employees and pay them, yes, fire all the employees and pay them." Think what would happen to the value of that company the next day.

You know something, that is exactly what my Republican colleagues are doing. They have decided to furlough the employees and pay them.

I hope in the next nine 1-minutes someone tries to explain that inexplicable thing. It does not make sense to anyone out there in America. It just absolutely does not. That is what you are doing.

What is going on reminds me of when my 5-year-old acts like my 2-year-old. I mean, adults really can have disagreements, but they really should act like adults, and what I would recommend to everyone out there, the children of America, is to call their parents in Congress and tell them to act like adults over the next couple of days.

BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, this is an e-mail I received: I am a Federal Government worker who will probably be furloughed Monday. I think this is a small price to pay if you really do balance the budget. As far as I am concerned the budget should be balanced this year rather than in 7 years. Do not cave in to Clinton and the Democrats. Just remember, the last time we were furloughed in November nobody noticed except Federal employees, the press and Democratic politicians. Most Federal workers are Democrats. The longer the Government is closed, the more pressure will be brought by furloughed workers and their unions on the Democrats in Congress, their representatives, to end the stalemate and override Clinton's veto. If you show backbone and refuse to cave, Clinton and the Democrats will give you everything you want. If you show fear—of polls and otherwise—and cave in to their demands, you will lose the respect of the people who elected you. Hold firm for the good of the country.

NO TAX BREAKS UNTIL BUDGET IS BALANCED

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, to my last friend who just spoke, e-mail reply, e-mail reply: Here is what the balanced budget does, here is what the majority party is not telling you as they try to balance the budget in 7 years. They do not tell you that for the first 3 years the deficit actually goes up by \$53 billion; it goes up by \$53 billion for the first 3 years because they are giving a \$253 billion tax break to the wealthiest 1 percent of this country, and corporations would no longer have to pay tax with the repeal of the alternative minimum corporate tax.

Tax breaks up front, higher deficits for the first 3 years; that should be the e-mail reply to that Government worker who is facing a shutdown because there is no balanced budget. There is not even a budget for 1996.

So, to achieve their balanced budget, what do the Republican Party propose besides higher deficits and tax breaks? \$270 billion in cuts in Medicare, \$182 billion cuts in Medicaid, huge cuts in student loans, and that is what they call a balanced budget.

Democrats say no tax breaks until the budget is balanced.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND TO ALL A BALANCED BUDGET

(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, I can not think of a better Christmas gift that we could give our country this year than a balanced budget. You see, a balanced budget means that our children and grandchildren will have a future filled with the American dream instead of the American debt. What better present could we give to the American people than a stronger economy, more jobs, lower interest rates on home mortgages, car loans, and student loans.

Mr. Speaker, all this could happen if the President will cut out the gimmicks and excuses and get serious about signing a balanced budget. It is time for the administration to stop the politics as usual.

Our country depends on it. The people deserve it. Merry Christmas to all and to all a balanced budget.

THERE IS A DOUBLE STANDARD 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, to smooth over the Randy Weaver case, the FBI will now take courses on behavioral sciences.

The record now is clear, the FBI shot and killed Randy Weaver's son; the FBI then shot and killed Randy Weaver's pregnant wife. And after all that, they

have now been cited for illegal acts, but they will not be prosecuted.

Unbelievable, Mr. Speaker, illegal acts. On the streets of America those kinds of illegal acts are known as murder.

Mr. Speaker, the FBI does not need teachers and the FBI does not need to go to school. The FBI should be hauling and trucking their assets to a grand jury, and they should be meeting some prosecutors. There is a double standard here in America, and I think the Randy Weaver case is one that Congress should not let slip by.

PUT GOD AND COUNTRY FIRST

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, in the face of this impasse and in the spirit of the season, I believe we should forget this Democrat versus Republican stuff, legislators versus Executive Branch, liberals versus conservatives, and unite under the common bond of being Americans.

We are reminded of a similar impasse in our history at the constitutional convention when the sage elder statesman, Ben Franklin, stood with these words: "In the beginning of our war with Britain, we prayed daily for guidance. Our prayers were heard and answered. Have we now forgotten this powerful ally? The longer I live, this I know to be true, God governs the affairs of men, for if a sparrow cannot fall without His notice, is it probable that a nation can rise without His aid?"

The psalmist tells us in chapter 118, verse 8, "Put your trust in God, not confidence in men." We have these same words above the Speaker's chair and right over the American flag. I believe that we, as a Congress, should come together as Democrats and Republicans and leaders to do what is best for the American country, put God and country first, not partisan politics.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, there are 10 reasons why the Republican shutdown is a bad tactic.

First, a bad Republican reconciliation bill does not get better with the shutdown of government and intimidation.

Second, Republicans cannot say budget numbers count but people numbers do not count.

Third, 250,000 Federal workers that are not working and 500,000 that are working want to be paid, and they want to work and they are going to tell the world about it.

Fourth, a bad Republican reconciliation bill which fails on its merits does not benefit from yet more attention.