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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

### PRAYER

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

Enable us, O Almighty God, to take the heavenly vision of harmony and peace and mercy and truth and translate that vision into the work that we do with our hearts and minds and hands. Encourage to take our ideas and ideals, our hopes and dreams, our faith and our convictions into the realm of daily action and personal responsibility. May we so heed Your word of truth and Your message of justice that Your will may be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. In Your name, we pray. 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. Will the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. GANSKE] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Mr. GANSKE 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 announce there will be 5 1-minutes on each side.

### REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(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, 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 doing this now; 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.

### APPOINT AN INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, today marks the third full week since the naming of the House Ethics Committee. As of now the committee has not

discussed any of the very important issues before them involving our Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there is a cloud hovering over the Capitol, a very dark cloud that will not go away until many questions are answered. As each day passes, this cloud grows larger and darker with new questions of ethics violations.

It should not take 100 days for the Ethics Committee to act. In fact it should not take them long at all to decide that an independent counsel is the only way these questions involving our Speaker can be answered.

If there is nothing to hide, let the independent counsel begin immediately. Only an independent counsel can remove this dark cloud over this great House of Representatives.

### FOR THE CHILDREN

(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, why are Republicans working to change the way Government works? Why are we working so hard to pass a balanced budget amendment, to enact real anticrime measures, to reform our welfare state? The answer is: for America's children.

We want to get this country in the best possible shape for future generations.

Our democracy must remain strong. We must clean our streets of crime, get our fiscal house in order, and provide every American the greatest opportunity to pursue happiness.

To do these things, we must change direction. We cannot continue to spend and tax our way to financial ruin. We cannot continue a welfare state that destroys opportunity and ruins generations of Americans. We cannot allow

□ 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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lawlessness to rule our streets and thugs to terrorize our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, these are the reasons I support the Contract With America. It represents real change that most Americans can support.

I urge the defenders of the status quo to reflect on one thing: Can our children afford to continue on the path you advocate? For most people, the answer is clearly no.

#### SOLVING THREE PROBLEMS AT ONE TIME

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, during the course of the last several months, as we have been in the House there have been three issues that have been discussed in some manner, one of them being capital gains breaks for the rich, one of them being adjusting the minimum wage, trying to adjust the wage by which we increase the payments to those who are the working poor, as well as welfare reform.

I come today offering a solution to all of it. Let us give capital gains reductions, let us target it so we give minimum wage to the working poor, while at the same time as we move persons off of welfare give them an opportunity to work at a job that pays a decent wage.

We can solve all three problems if we can work together. Let us remove all the partisanship, let us not look at these issues as being disjointed, let us hook them up together, capital gains, minimum wage increase while at the same time changing welfare. We can solve the problem for everybody.

Win, win, win.

#### SAFE STREETS FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard the saying, "If you can't do the time, don't do the crime."

Unfortunately, the sad fact is that if you commit a violent felony there is only a 3- to 4-percent chance you will do any jail time. Looking at that another way, 96 to 97 percent of the time a violent criminal never sees the inside of a jail.

No wonder Americans have said that they have had enough and want their streets back.

When people are afraid to step outside their doors at night something is wrong. When people are afraid to sit on their porch, something is wrong. When fear of crime prevents many Americans in our inner-city areas from taking a night job or going to night school, it hurts all of us.

Even the wealthy who live in guarded, gated communities feel an immediate need to do something about violent crime. But for middle class and

poorer Americans, who bear the brunt of violent crime, this is a life-and-death issue that affects them every day.

If nothing else, we owe the working men and women of our country, the ones who pay the bills, safe streets.

#### REINING IN THE IRS

(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, the IRS is loading up. Individual dossiers now on every taxpayer, not just your credit history and your wife's background, your speeding tickets, how about news stories, how about informant's tips and how about rumors, ladies and gentleman.

□ 0910

Now, if that is not enough to pirate your software, check this out: It is not even confidential. Last year they slapped on the wrist 300 agents for snooping through tax returns. Unbelievable, ladies and gentleman.

And the Congress of the United States has allowed this to happen. I say it is time for Congress to act. What makes it even worse, when the IRS comes to the door with their Gestapo file and looks you in the eye, you are guilty and have to prove yourself innocent.

Do yourself a favor, do your constituents a service, and cosponsor H.R. 390 and let us put the IRS where they should be. They work for the American people.

#### APPROVAL RATING FOR CONGRESS HAS DOUBLED

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

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, there is a new-found respect for Congress in the country. Republicans have only been in charge for 1 month, and the approval rating for Congress has already doubled.

The reason is obvious. Under Republican leadership we are working hard to keep our promises to bring big change to America.

Nowhere is that more apparent than in the crime package we are now debating. We are making tremendous progress in ensuring that the criminal justice system will be more concerned with the rights of victims and society than the rights of criminals.

And who will benefit most from our rough crime package? The middle and lower income classes, who live with violent crime every day. They know what we need to do: catch, convict, and confine violent criminals.

That is what our crime package is all about. And that is why we will continue working hard to see that it is enacted.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A LIVABLE WAGE

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

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of livable wage for all Americans by the year 2000. Congressmen CLYBURN and HILLIARD and I have introduced a bill, H.R. 768, that moves the debate from a minimum wage to a livable wage. Many Americans who work in retail establishments such as McDonald's already earn more than \$5 per hour. The current minimum wage of \$4.25 per hour amounts to approximately \$9,000 a year. No individual or family can live at a decent level on this income. Contrary to popular belief, two-thirds of minimum wage workers are adults and not teenagers.

The minimum wage has not been raised since April 1, 1991, nearly 4 years ago. For the richest country in the world, this is a national disgrace. All of us know that the cost of goods and services have risen over this time period. By supporting a liveable wage, we send a clear signal to the Nation of our support for the working poor.

Let us vote for a livable wage and index future increases so that all American families can keep up with the rising cost of living. My constituents in Mississippi deserve it. Your constituents deserve it. We must demand it.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, the San Diego Chargers were picked in their division, but then the season started; our Bolts pursued a vision. Often they would fall behind. They bested the toughest teams in the AFC. In the playoffs they beat Pittsburgh and Miami.

Then on Super Bowl Sunday, the 49ers won. I picked the Chargers. The gentlewoman from California, I had a 19 point advantage on her. I thought I had an advantage. Well, us males have thought that for thousands of years, and I guess we will never learn, because here I am to pay off my Super Bowl bet to the gentlewoman from California, the most prized possession that I could possibly own, El Indio chips and Mexican food, salsa and homemade guacamole, fresh from San Diego.

The 49ers are champs, and they will have our respect. But all the NFL will seek the trophy they protect. Should the San Francisco team return next year, I will still bet on my Chargers.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I am happy to yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentleman for the great,