

House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray using the words of President George Washington's prayer for his country.

"Almighty God: We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplications, we beseech Thee." 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 Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HAYWORTH 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.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states the following:

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

We kept our promise.

It continues that in the first 100 days, we will vote on the following items: A balanced budget amendment—we have kept our promise; unfunded mandates legislation—we have kept our promise; line-item veto—we have kept our promise; a new crime package to stop violent criminals—we have kept our promise; national security restoration to protect our freedoms—we have kept our promise.

Now we are working on: Government regulatory reform; welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence; family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and protect our children; tax cuts for middle-income families; Senior Citizens' Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without government penalty; commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits; and congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature.

This is our Contract With America.

NOT EVERYONE IS CELEBRATING THE CONTRACT ON AMERICA

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, as Republicans plan yet another celebratory press conference to congratulate themselves for doing the jobs they are paid to do, many Americans are not celebrating.

Children are not celebrating the fact that Republicans will pay for their so-called reform by eliminating all Federal nutrition programs, including the School Lunch Program.

Senior citizens are not celebrating the fact that Republicans will balance the budget by putting Social Security and Medicare on the chopping block.

Police officers are not celebrating the fact that the Republicans' idea of crime control means taking cops off the street and putting guns on the street.

And, finally, working families are not celebrating the fact that the Republicans' idea for cutting waste, means cutting crucial student loan programs that have helped to educate generations of middle class kids.

Once the rhetorical fireworks are over and the smoke has cleared, we will be able to clearly see who stands behind the Republican contract—the very special interest lobbyists they once vowed to drive from this town. The first 50 days of the 104th Congress have given the special interests plenty to celebrate.

HALFWAY POINT OF CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(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, today marks the half-way point of the Contract With America. This Congress has passed more major legislation in 50 days than most other Congresses would

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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The balanced budget amendment, the line-item veto, and unfunded mandates reform are all geared toward making the Federal Government a servant of the American people and not a millstone around their necks.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are committed to bringing real change to Washington, the type the American people voted for last November. We have kept our promise for the first 50 days and we will keep it for the next 50 days.

TALK ABOUT PORK

(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, every American who cares about pork—and believes my colleagues' claims that we have a new Congress that is putting America on a pork-free diet—should pay close attention to the debate about defense spending today.

You will learn that my friends on the other side of the aisle have not stopped the pork from sizzling, they have simply put a new name on the menu. You see, the bill we are considering adds more than \$600 million to our deficit.

Why? Largely because my Republican colleagues have tacked on close to a billion dollars in spending that the Secretary of Defense does not even want.

But of course, my friends, that billion is not pork.

You see, in the Republican restaurant, investment in job training, or building new schools—now that is pork. So today, my colleagues will work to eliminate \$300 million to train our kids for better jobs and help them learn in decent schools.

Think about those priorities the next time you hear one of my colleagues talk about pork. Remember, it is not the size of the spending. It is where it is spent that makes them squeal.

PASS THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, 50 days ago, Congress started a revolution to change business as usual. We made a pledge with the American people to make Government smaller, less expensive, and less intrusive. We have worked hard to deliver on this promise.

Congress has become more accountable than ever before, has started to re-

ment. These businesses must hire additional lawyers to fill out the paperwork, which in turn denies the employer from hiring additional workers to produce the company's product or service.

The Government is a regulatory mess. Let us continue the bipartisan spirit this Congress has formed and pass the Paperwork Reduction Act to help the small businesses of America.

THE FIRST 50 DAYS OF THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, the 50th day of the mean-spirited, reactionary, insensitive, indifferent, right wing, extremist, antipoor, antichildren, Constitution bashing, bordering on racist, contract on America is now before us.

If we read the fine print we will find out what the Republicans want to give the American people: Orphanages for poor children, no lunch for poor children, abolish prenatal care for women, deny our communities of police officers, allow Government agents to break into our homes without a search warrant.

By dishonestly claiming to balance the budget, destroy the Social Security and Medicare programs, the elephants have been very busy in the first 50 days.

God help you if you are poor, a minority, or the Constitution. The elephants are going to stomp all over you in the next 50 days.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS VERSUS OSHA

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, a contractor in Kansas City was laying pipe for the Army Corps of Engineers when brackish, green water seeped into the cut. The corps tested the water and told the contractor that there was no health risk—get on with the job.

Three months later, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration fined the contractor for failing to protect his employees.

As the employer commented, "You had one Government agency [telling us] the material was not hazardous and that we were to proceed, and another agency citing us for exposing workers to an alleged hazardous material."

FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD IS SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF CONGRESS, NOT THE WHITE HOUSE

(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 Constitution says only Congress can draw money from the Treasury. It also says only Congress can coin money, regulate the value thereof and regulate the value of foreign money. Only Congress, the Constitution says, can regulate commerce with foreign nations.

The question I ask, Congress, is under what authority did Robert Rubin sign an agreement to bail out Mexico? To me it is unbelievable.

Now, the Washington Times reported that our bailout is going to bail out the Mexican banks and Mexican companies. Ladies and gentlemen, we are bailing out Mexican banks, we are putting our banks on the line here and our taxpayers in the fire.

I disagree with this. I think the Federal Reserve Board is subject to the jurisdiction of Congress, not the White House. It is time for a constitutional court case to determine that.

I plan to challenge the bailout in court.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHILDREN ARE BORN DISADVANTAGED

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

Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, children who have an inheritance of property or money are born with an advantage. Studies have shown that children with parents who have a college education are born with an advantage. Both have an advantage over those who have no inheritance or college-educated parents.

For numerous reasons, African-Americans fall into the latter category most frequently. Mr. Speaker, these advantages are good because families have earned these advantages. We all want our children to have these advantages in our competitive society. The question is, Mr. Speaker, do we want to help those less fortunate?

Mr. Speaker, we must remember that, like a chain, our Nation is as strong as our weakest link.