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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYER

Rev. Harold Bradley, assistant to the president, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

O loving and gracious God, we offer our thanks to You for Your gifts that brighten our days and give meaning to our lives. We pray for sound minds so that we can contemplate and appreciate the marvels of Your creation, and we pray for good hearts that allow us to do those good works that honor You and serve people whatever their need. May Your spirit, O God, that is with us whatever our circumstance, protect, sustain, and bless us so we will live as You would have us live and be faithful in deeds of justice and mercy. May Your grace be with us this day and every day, 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. The gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. DICKEY] will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DICKEY 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 announces there will be 1-minutes on each side.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. HOKE. 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 kept our promise; unfunded mandates legislation—we kept our promise; line-item veto—we kept our promise; a new crime package to stop violent criminals—we kept our promise; national security restoration to protect our freedoms—we kept our promise; Government regulatory reform—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 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.

THIS IS NOT LIVING UNDER THE SAME LAWS AS EVERYONE ELSE

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, with the ink barely dry on the one bill that we passed making Members live under the same laws as everyone else, the Speaker yesterday continued to promote a bill creating a special rule that

would make those who bring ethics charges against him or any Member pay his lawyer's fees and the Ethics Committee's costs when no disciplinary action results.

The Speaker claims this rule would not intimidate citizens interested in cleaning up Government. I disagree. It would definitely tend to intimidate. No citizen, and certainly no Member of this House, should be intimidated when the issue is ethics in Government and putting that in first place.

As a former justice of the Texas Supreme Court, as a chair of its ethics task force, I know some with valid ethics complaints would be discouraged, would think twice before blowing the whistle on anyone under the threat of having to pay a Member's lawyer fees with that hanging over their head.

Many will not blow the whistle at all, making the American people the real loser.

Mr. Speaker, this is not living under the same laws as everyone else. It is just plain wrong.

WE CANNOT MORTGAGE OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURES

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the balanced budget amendment is the most important piece of legislation passed by Congress in a long, long time.

By passing this amendment we proved that we are serious about balancing the Federal budget, finally.

We proved we are willing to do what millions of Americans do every day, live within their means. We said to the children of America: You will not have to pay off our debts. We will not mortgage your future. However, we cannot act alone.

If the children of America are to grow up without the burden of our

□ 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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must be approved by the other body. How can anyone look into the eyes of a child and say, "I don't care about your future, as long as I can keep things the way they are."

Mr. Speaker, I ask those opposed to a balanced budget amendment to remember who will pay the price if this budget is not balanced.

The time for rhetoric has passed. Now is a time for action.

SHORTCHANGING KIDS

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, speaking of children, in a press conference yesterday, Republicans asserted that their proposal to end the school lunch program by block-granting it would not shortchange kids, because Congress could always pass a supplemental if we ran into trouble. That is absolutely preposterous.

Anybody who has watched Congress the last 2 years knows that supplementals are virtually a thing of the past. Right now the Congress has bottled up at least two major supplementals, and you can expect to see more of that.

Make no mistake about it, under this plan States will be left holding a very empty lunch bag. This plan is vicious, this plan is mean. It ought to be stopped.

THE NEED FOR REGULATION REFORM

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, Federal regulations are strangling the life out of businesses in this country. This year alone, \$600 billion in taxpayer funds will be spent on regulations. This year alone, the Clinton administration is pursuing 4,300 new regulations. The American people do not want their tax dollars to pay for antiquated and often conflicting regulations for businesses. They want a smaller, more efficient Government, one which will work for them and not against them.

If businesses are to continue creating jobs, the current bureaucratic maze of redtape and regulation must be brought under control. Companies are being bled dry by overbearing regulations and they are forced to cut jobs in order to pay for them, and because many of the regulations clash with each other, they are faced with a dilemma. Do they break one law to follow another? This is an impossible choice that hard-working Americans should not have to make.

Mr. Speaker, we must bring reason into the regulation process. It is just plain common sense. We need regulation reform and we need it today.

FOREIGN AID: SUICIDE FOR 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, the No. 1 terrorist nation in the world is Iran, and Iran's No. 1 hated enemy is America, and Iran has been trying to build a nuclear weapon for years.

Now, America's newest friend is Russia, and America gives Russia \$12 billion. And that buys an awful lot of vodka for old Boris, you know. But evidently Russia is going to take some of that \$12 billion and build four nuclear reactors in Iran, but Russia says, "It's for peaceful purposes." Peaceful? Tell me, is a nuclear attack on Jerusalem a peaceful purpose?

Ladies and gentlemen of Congress, if Iran can kill 240 Marines with a car bomb, what will they do with a nuclear bomb?

Beam me up. I think if we are going to cut the budget, let us cut that \$12 billion. This is not foreign aid. This is foreign suicide for America and America's friends.

GETTING GOVERNMENT OFF THE BACK OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, did you know that a farmer cannot drain a pond on his property without first getting Government permission, even if he created it?

Did you know that if flooding creates pools of water on someone's property as the result of a clogged drainage system, the owner may not clear the clog to drain the new wetland without Government permission?

Welcome to Bill Clinton's America.

It is a place where redtape and red ink have Americans seeing red.

But we are changing that, Mr. Speaker. Today we complete consideration of the Regulatory Transition Act, which will impose a commonsense moratorium on Federal regulations. This bill will allow us time to enact reforms to put an end to the type of horror stories that we have been hearing today and which have become all too commonplace.

We are keeping our promise to get the Government off the back of the American people.

REAL DOUBTS ABOUT THE CONTRACT

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, we have all seen the pictures of the happy faces, kids getting their only good meal of the day. It might be in an inner city in

Harlem, it might be in rural Appalachia, it might be in the suburbs of a town that experiences high unemployment.

But those pictures will be no more.

Who would have ever believed that the Contract for America meant eliminating the School Lunch Program? The balanced budget amendment sounds good, but when Americans learn it means eliminating school lunches, making student loans very expensive, crippling Medicare, they are going to scratch their heads in wonder.

The priorities of the Gingrichite contract are out of whack. We cut school lunches, but increase spending for some new-fangled plane, the F-22, made in Georgia.

The American people are beginning to learn that this contract is not about cutting out waste. It is about cutting the very programs that made America move forward from the New Deal to this day, and when they learn about it, they are going to have real doubts about the Gingrichite contract.

PASS THE REGULATORY TRANSITION ACT

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

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, get a load of this story in the L.A. Times of last year.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is planning to issue regulations to require manufacturers of industrial five-gallon plastic buckets to redesign their products. Concerned that infants could climb inside them and drown, the CPSC studied the issue for five years and recently issued a 101-page report. In the report, the CPSC staff notes that one of their suggestions to the industry—making buckets so that they deliberately leak—is being objected to by bucket makers. According to the report, "Industry representatives claim that they can envision no use for a bucket that leaks."

I have heard of a cup that is half empty. I have heard of a cup that is half full. But only the Government would require a bucket that leaks.

It looks to me, Mr. Speaker, like buckets are not the only thing leaking over at the CPSC.

Welcome to Bill Clinton's America.

It is this type of story that has Americans so angry and demanding change. And that is what we will give them when we pass the Regulatory Transition Act, which will give the business community and individuals a much-needed break from costly regulation.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, Republican priorities are out of whack. The Republican Contract on America slashes