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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

### PRAYER

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

In this brief moment of quiet, O gracious God, direct our hearts and minds to those themes that are at the center of our stewardship. We pray that we will be worthy of the high calling to public service by serving people with honesty and courage and by committing ourselves to the virtues of justice and peace and reconciliation. May our eyes not only be focused on what must be done in the coming hour or the day, but may our vision also grasp the great responsibilities to which we have been called. May we ever heed the words of Your prophet Amos: "Let justice flow down like waters and righteousness like an everflowing stream." 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 Michigan [Mr. KILDEE] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. KILDEE 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.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was commu-

nicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair announces that there will be 10 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 kept our promise; commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits—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; and congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature.

Mr. Speaker, this is also a contract with our Founders for our future.

This is our Contract With America.

### INFANT FORMULA AND THE WIC PROGRAM

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, in the debate about child nutrition in the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities we witnessed the triumph of ideology over practical public policy and the best interests of our children.

The Republicans, who espouse a free-market economy, recently rejected my amendment to require States to use competitive bidding when purchasing infant formula for the WIC Program.

Only one Republican had the courage to vote for my amendment.

The only winners from this action are the big three infant formula companies. The losers are pregnant women and infants, many of whom will suffer from malnutrition or anemia, and the taxpayers who will get less efficient use of their tax dollars.

Some would say that the States will continue to use competitive bidding. I would point out that fewer than half the States used competitive bidding prior to passage of the 1989 Federal law that required them to do so. When this amendment was adopted we found that it saved over \$1 billion a year and enabled us to serve 1½ million more pregnant women and infants a month. The committee voted to drop this requirement.

Weakening cost containment measures will mean a less efficient, less effective program that gives taxpayers less return for their dollars but helps the three infant formula companies improve their balance sheets.

Mr. Speaker, this program was designed to help poor women and children, not a few

□ 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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major corporations. Let us not take food out of the mouths of babies.

#### IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 956

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today we are going to address H.R. 956, common sense product liability reform. In the last 40 years we have passed one product liability reform bill. What has it done? It was passed for single-engine aircraft. And in the Fourth District of Kansas it has created 7,000 jobs, thanks to the vision of Russ Meyers who heads up Cessna Aircraft.

In 1977, we were building over 13,000 aircraft in the single-engine aircraft business. And Cessna was building over half of those. By 1986 they had to quit building aircraft because of lawsuits. By 1994 they were down to 600 single-engine aircraft and many of them were built overseas.

Product liability reform works and the choice is clear. If you protect trial lawyers who are getting rich from lawsuits—they get over 50 cents of every dollar in the cost of a lawsuit—or you created jobs. It is lawsuits or lunch buckets. I support more lunch buckets and less lawsuits. Let us pass H.R. 956.

#### REPUBLICANS AND TERM LIMITS

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, in a move that demonstrates the gulf between the rhetoric about the Contract With America and the reality of what it means for Americans, the majority ducked a vote on term limits.

And they did it for a simple reason. They know they are not serious about it.

For all of their talk about citizen legislators, their term limit bill is really about one thing—protecting their power. So I say to the Republicans: Stop hustling the American people. If what you really want is term limits and not limitless headlines, send us a real bill.

If letting the American people decide every 2 years who should represent them doesn't sit too well with Mr. GINGRICH and Mr. ARMEY and Mr. MCCOLLUM—three term limit supporters who have now been citizen legislators for a total of 44 years—then I say give us a real term limits bill.

Make it retroactive.

If you want the headlines, then clean out your desks and head for home the day we pass the bill. When the citizen legislators who have been here for decades show me they are that serious about term limits, then I am with you.

#### TORT REFORM

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a confession. There was a time in my life when I was a member of both the American Bar Association and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. But I resigned from both organizations some years ago when I came to realize that the interests of the legal elite do not always coincide with the public interest. I am happy to say that redemption is possible, and I am here to urge courage in the fight for legal reforms.

Now, I can also tell my colleagues that not all trial lawyers are bad, at least most of them are not. They serve a necessary function in our society and no one here is arguing to put them out of business. Granted there are some lawyers who are convinced that their lifestyle depends upon defending every excess of the tort system, no matter how senseless, no matter how much it adds to the cost of everyday goods and services. But we are on the side of the ordinary people of this country, the consumers.

Maybe our response to the lawyers who do not like these reforms is: If you do not like it, sue us.

#### IT'S THE TRADE DEFICIT, CONGRESS

(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 value of the dollar is so low, the dollar could walk underneath a closed door with a top hat on. And it is not really all that cerebral. The problem in America is a trade deficit and Congress has the blinders on.

For the last 15 years we have had trillions of dollars floating around overseas. The supply is so great, the dollar is not in demand, and the dollar is dropping. It is the trade deficit, Congress. Not budget deficits. We cannot separate the two.

And to tell my colleagues the truth, we have a trade program that is so misdirected, if we threw it at the ground it would probably miss.

We will not balance the budget, Congress, with minimum wage jobs and highly skilled American workers in unemployment lines. Think about that. I think the whole country is saying, "Beam me up."

Congress, get at that trade deficit and we will solve the budget deficits in America.

#### PRODUCT LIABILITY'S CHILLING EFFECT ON MEDICAL RESEARCH

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

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention an article from Sunday's Washington Post entitled "America, the Plaintiff."

The story starts out like this. Suppose for a moment that a small drug company miraculously discovers a vaccine that can prevent cancer. Suppose that the drug is cheap, easy to administer and has a single, albeit serious, drawback: One in 10,000 people who take the drug may experience acute vision loss. Should the company bring the product to market, figuring that a relative handful of people may go blind, so that millions of lives can be saved?

This is a question that pharmaceutical manufacturers ask every day. Each day they must weigh their hopes to save human lives against the threat of being punished over an FDA-approved product. How many times will we miss the opportunity to have a cure for cancer, or AIDs, or even the common cold, because a manufacturer knows that one product liability suit will jeopardize the future use of the product and possibly the company.

I hope you will keep this story in mind when you consider your vote today in our lifesaving bipartisan amendment to encourage manufacturers to market FDA-approved products.

#### REPUBLICANS TAKE APPLES AND MILK AWAY FROM CHILDREN

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

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, when the Republicans announced that they were going to close down the school lunch program and fold it into a block grant program, I went to my favorite expert in my district, my wife, who is a schoolteacher, to ask her what she thought.

She said, I think we should have welfare reform and I understand why people are upset with the Food Stamp Program, but this is the food that these kids eat every day. It is not like they take this food out onto the street and sell it. There is no black market for school lunch programs. Why do the Republicans want to take apples and milk away from 6-year-olds in the United States?

Why could I not answer that question for my wife? In the Halls of Congress I am still waiting for the answer. Why do the Republicans want to take milk and apples away from 6-year-olds in the United States of America?

#### THE FACTS ON REPUBLICANS AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS

(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, I will depart from my prepared text directly