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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:

We remember, O gracious God, those who need a special measure of Your grace and protection. We recall the needs of those who do not benefit from the support and love of family and must find their own way through the uncertainties of life. We pray for those whose lives are disrupted and torn apart by the conflicts in our world even as we support all those who work for reconciliation and peace. We remember those whose days are filled with struggles for the basic essentials of life and for those who have little hope. Fill their lives, O God, with the fullness of Your spirit that they may be blessed by Your presence and receive new hope by Your Word. This is our earnest prayer. 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 gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CLAYTON 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 that consistent with clause 9 of rule XIV, statements and rulings of the Chair appearing in the RECORD will be a substantially verbatim account of those words as spoken during the proceedings of the House, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections.

Without objection, the permanent RECORD of January 18 at pages 301 and 303 will reflect this policy.

There was no objection.

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states: On the first day of Congress, a Republican House will: force Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else, cut one-third of committee staff, and cut the congressional budget.

We have done that.

In the next 84 days, we will vote on the following 10 items:

No. 1, a balanced budget amendment and line-item veto;

No. 2, a new crime bill to stop violent criminals;

No. 3, welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence;

No. 4, family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and protect our children;

No. 5, tax cuts for families to lift Government's burden from middle income Americans;

No. 6, national security restoration to protect our freedoms;

No. 7, senior citizens' equity act to allow our seniors to work without Government penalty;

No. 8, Government regulation and unfunded mandate reforms;

No. 9, commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits; and

No. 10, congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature.

This is our Contract With America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). The Chair announces that today we will have 10 1-minutes per side. Any further 1-minutes will be at the conclusion of business today.

GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT

(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, if you are arrested for mass murder and the FBI has videotapes of your mass murder and the FBI has 100 nuns as eyewitnesses and the FBI has the Mormon Tabernacle Choir as eyewitnesses and the FBI has the Waltons and Mr. Rogers as eyewitnesses and they said you killed 100 people, you are innocent until proven guilty. But if you and your grandma and your grandpa go to court on a tax difference of \$5,000, they have to prove they are innocent because they are guilty under the laws of this country. Unbelievable.

H.R. 390 that the Republicans helped last year will change that. If it is good enough for the Son of Sam, it is good enough for mom and dad. And let me say this, JOHN, more Americans support H.R. 390 than any other bill before the Congress.

I am asking for your help to cosponsor H.R. 390. If it is good enough for the Son of Sam, it is good enough for grandma and grandpa. Think about it.

□ 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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A HISTORIC JUNCTION

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, this Nation is at a historic junction. Either we can follow the same course we have followed for the last 40 years, a course of tax and spend, a course of rocketing deficits, or we can steer this flagship America into a new direction, a direction of fiscal responsibility, lower taxation and limited Government.

But in order to avoid the rocks of higher taxation and the shoals of bigger deficits, we must have a balanced budget amendment with a provision that requires a three-fifths super majority of both the House and the Senate to raise taxes. A balanced budget amendment without a tax limitation is like a ship without a rudder, at the mercy of the prevailing winds which may blow.

The three-fifths provision is the rudder that will steer America back in the right direction. For the sake of our children, for the sake of our grandchildren and this Nation, let us set a new course. Let us pass the balanced budget amendment with the three-fifths tax provision. Let us make the magic number 290 instead of 214 to raise taxes in the future.

THE WORKPLACE SAFETY AMENDMENT

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, throughout yesterday's debate, the sponsors of the unfunded mandates legislation told us one thing but in the bill they said something different. They told us that the bill continues to protect workplace safety, yet they do not say that in the bill. They told us in the bill it continues to protect the environment, the air we breathe and the water we drink. Yet they do not say that in the bill. Protection against child labor, insurance against workplace firetraps, and security from hazardous equipment on the job are very serious matters. Yet does it mean what it says? Why do they not say it.

We need to say that in the bill. Clean air and safe drinking water are precious to the lives of American citizens. The sponsors of the bill have a duty to explain in clear, unambiguous, and concise language where in the bill do they provide for the vital protection of the health and welfare of American workers.

I intend to sponsor an amendment which in express language will ensure minimum Federal workplace safety standards, will not be abandoned and will be precise.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment. If they mean what they say, say it in the bill and support the amendment.

THE ONCE MIGHTY PARTY

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, the once mighty party that helped found the Nation now embarrasses itself on station after station. This party of Jefferson, born of ideas, lofty and grand, have been reduced to whining about a book and a man. This party that helped through the Great Depression now fumes and fusses in session after session.

This great party that brought us victory in wars today fights about a book which is not in the stores.

While the American people look to us for inspiration, the party whines on and on about an imaginary publication. The party that for a long this Congress led now acts as if it has gone completely brain dead.

It is sad, Mr. Speaker, but it is easy to see why this once great party is now in the minority.

WITHDRAWAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 38

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 38.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 5, A BILL TO OPPOSE UNFUNDED MANDATES

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose H.R. 5, the legislation regarding unfunded mandates. I believe this is necessary for us to defeat this legislation because it gives benefits to all Americans.

These Federal mandates give benefits to all Americans. Included in these Federal mandates is the Clean Water Act, which is important for us as far as the food we eat, the water we drink, and to millions of Americans whose livelihood depends on working on the waterways in America.

In addition, the Safe Water Act protects the water we drink from the tap. And in addition to that, the Clean Air Act protects the health of every American who lives in the cities. But as we know, pollution knows no geographic bounds. So it is very important for us to have national minimum standards. This is very important for every American, at least every American who eats food, drinks water, and breathes air. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 5.

□ 1010

SUPPORT TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUNDS

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, David Broder of the Washington Post recently wrote a column in which he quoted a lifelong Democrat shipyard worker who switched to be a Republican. Here is what that shipyard worker said.

He said, "Except for roads, everything government has done in the last 20 years has degraded our society," except for roads.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, building infrastructure for America's future is something that Government can do. It is something that Government should do. As we tighten our Government belt, we should be very careful not to weaken our rightful commitment to building assets for the future.

Our population continues to grow. People travel more. Highway travel has more than tripled since the interstate was proposed. Air travel has more than doubled in just the last 12 years. Spending highway aviation and trust fund dollars to build America is absolutely essential to the future of our country. Support the transportation trust funds.

MEMO PUTS SPEAKER'S INTERESTS ABOVE NATIONAL INTERESTS

(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, in a memo to the White House last night, a senior Republican linked our right to raise important and valid questions about the Speaker's book deal to passage of vital legislation. The memo actually seems to put the personal interests of the Speaker above our national interest. It shows that Republicans would rather do the Speaker's bidding than the people's business.

We seem to have crossed a very troubling line. The Speaker's book deal is no longer merely a personal ethical issue. It is now threatening the vital interests of this country. What is more important for America, the North American economy, or a \$4.5 million check for the Speaker?

After the election, many pundits told President Clinton he should take a page out of Harry Truman's book and call us the do-nothing Congress. At the rate it is going, he is going to call this Republican group the Keystone Cops Congress.

KEEP THE SUPER MAJORITY PROVISION IN THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(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, it has been interesting to hear the arguments by the keepers of the old order with