

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 56 minutes a.m.) the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. EVERETT] at 12 noon.

PRAYER

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

We are grateful, O loving God, for all the memories that have sustained and nourished our lives throughout our times. Specially we are indebted to those people whose attention has given us support and joy and assurance. We are appreciative of our families where tradition and heritage have motivated our endeavors and whose devotion is more than we could ask or expect. It is our prayer, O God, that we will gather together these remembrances that have been gifts to us and use them in our daily lives, now and evermore. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. KNOLLENBERG] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG 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 SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1854. An act making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendments to the bill (H.R. 1854) "An act making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. MACK, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. HATFIELD, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. MIKULSKI, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills and a joint resolution of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 638. An act to authorize appropriations for United States insular areas, and for other purposes;

S. 1023. An act to authorize an increased Federal share of the costs of certain transportation projects in the District of Columbia for fiscal years 1995 and 1996, and for other purposes; and

S.J. Res. 27. Joint resolution to grant the consent of the Congress to certain additional powers conferred upon the Bi-State Development Agency by the States of Missouri and Illinois.

KEEPING OUR PROMISES

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority in Congress is committed to keeping our promises for the American people. We pledge to reduce the size and scope of the Federal Government, balance the Federal budget, and lower taxes on working families. We also passed a budget resolution that eliminates the deficit by the year 2002. It also provides a \$245 billion tax relief segment to families, seniors businesses.

Currently we are in the process of implementing this plan. We are passing appropriations bills that cut wasteful spending, eliminate unnecessary programs and downsize bloated bureaucracies.

The President has also expressed his desire to eliminate the deficit. Strangely enough, however, he has submitted two budget proposals that produce \$200 billion in deficits as far as the eye can see. He helped kill the balanced budget amendment and he vetoed a \$16.4 billion rescission bill. Now he says he is threatening to veto our appropriations bills because they cut too much spending.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the American people understand the difference. I think they will see that the Republicans are right in downsizing the Government to increase their take-home pay.

LOBBY REFORM

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, in Texas we believe in giving credit where credit is due. Today I, as a Democrat, rise to salute and applaud the Republican majority leader, BOB DOLE, for allowing gift and lobbying reform measures to come before the U.S. Senate this week.

I believe that this is a great development for the American people, who will recall that in the waning hours of the last session a Democratic initiative for lobby reform was killed by Republicans to the cheers of lobbyists outside.

Senator DOLE has at least reluctantly agreed to the Democratic demands for a vote on measures severing the ties that bind lobbyists to legislators in this Congress.

Strangely, the Washington Times reports that the same thing is not happening here in the House of Representatives. Rather, they report that the House Republican leadership's agenda calls for no action on gift and lobby reform this year.

Students of Congress know that if we delay until next year, we will not get the reform we need.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican leadership to follow Senator DOLE's lead and reluctantly agree to Democratic demands that we address gift reform and lobby reform now and stop intimidating those who demand that we address them.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members not to make references to actions in the other body.

FAIRY TALES

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to spend some time with my grandchildren this past weekend, and like any good grandfather I read them fairy tales before bedtime. It made me think about the problems we have here in Washington. Some people have a hard time separating facts from fairy tales. It is simply a matter of fact that Medicare will go bankrupt in 7 years. It is a fact documented in a report put out by the Medicare Trustees, three of whom are members of the Mr. Clinton's administration. Anyone who tells you differently, well that is a fairy tale. The Republicans have made a decision to fix Medicare. We will strengthen Medicare so that it may survive well into the next century. That is a fact. We must act to save the system now. That is also a fact. Anyone who would tell you that Medicare is doing just fine, and that the Republicans are trying to fix a system that isn't broken, well, that is someone who has been reading way too much of Alice in Wonderland lately.

PARENTS DAY

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

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was Parents Day for the first time ever. A lot of us probably missed it. That is because by now we have a day for nearly every purpose under the sun. But this one, Parents Day, stands for something important: the importance of parents, our parents, in our own lives and in the life of our country.

I think one way that Congress can distinguish this occasion and make it a special day is this week or next to pass H.R. 2030, a bill called parental choice in television. This bill gives parents a very simple power, the power to stop their children from watching TV shows that they think are too violent or too vulgar. Nationwide 72 percent of the people, when polled recently, said there is too much violence on TV.

An even larger number said they think that this violence shows up again as violence on the streets and violence in the schools.

Our bills will give parents a device to block violence and sex from coming into their homes by TV. When parents have this device built into their own TV sets, I think the networks are going to take note. I think they are going to be a lot more careful about the violence and vulgarity that they script into today's programs. All sorts of groups that care about children, from the PTA, to the elementary school principals, from psychiatrists to pediatricians have endorsed our bill. I urge the Committee on Rules to do the same and allow us the opportunity to offer it as an amendment to the telecommunications bill when it comes up in the House.

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

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

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, this Thursday at 3 in the afternoon at The Mall in front of the Lincoln Memorial, we will dedicate the Korean Memorial that honors those veterans who fought and were called to active duty during the Korean war. This, Mr. Speaker, is a very attractive memorial that will attract thousands and thousands of Americans to come and look at that war memorial that is dedicated to the Korean veterans and to those who went to Korea.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say about 30 Members of the House participated in the Korean war. I was one of them. So it is a pleasure to announce that this memorial will be dedicated this Thursday.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AT THE EXPENSE OF WORKERS

(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, Business Week Reports that corporate profits are at a 50-year high. They say that executives who average over \$1 million a year in pay and bonuses have caused this great profit by in fact cutting the wages of American workers and many times replacing full-time American workers with temporary hires.

You see, to many corporations, I believe, the best American workers is an American worker that also happens to

qualify for food stamps. Now, experts are saying this is the greatest economic recovery in our history. If that is so, I say right on the floor, these economic experts have been inhaling for a long time.

THE V CHIP

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the Committee on Rules would make in order the Spratt-Markey-Moran-Burton amendment dealing with the V chip, which is the ability to provide parents greater say over what programs come into their home and to have the ability to lock those programs out should they desire that their children not be able to view those programs.

Many in the telecommunications industry and certainly many in the networks fought this effort when it was offered on the floor of the Senate and were able to defeat it. We should empower parents to have the say, to have this control in their own home about the kind of programming that is coming into their programs, especially when so very often young children are left at home or are home for a good portion of the day while both parents are out working.

Those parents should have the confidence that they can have some say to regulate the flow of programming, if they are concerned about violence, if they are concerned about sexual content of programs, they should have some say in that. They should be able to pick and choose for their children, not the networks and apparently not the sponsors that are not prepared to exercise self-control and to respect the rights of young children and of families.

I hope that the Committee on Rules would make the amendment in order and Members of the House would vote for the V chip amendment.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, 27 years ago, on July 3, 1968, my predecessor in Congress, the late James Howard, spoke eloquently on this floor in honor of the second anniversary of the Medicare Program. Medicare was enacted during Congressman Howard's first term in Congress. I know he looked

upon this opportunity to be part of that Medicare debate as a great honor.

I just wanted to quote something that he said in the RECORD on that day in 1968. He said:

As we celebrate the second anniversary of Medicare, we are really celebrating the enrichment of many lives, the elderly who are already served by Medicare, those who will be served in the coming years and the rest of us whose lives are enriched daily as we watch our elders lead more productive lives.

Now, I would like to compare what Jim Howard expressed so eloquently to what the Republican leadership of today is saying about Medicare.

According to one of the Republican leaders recently, "Medicare is a program I would have no part in the free world. Medicare," he said, "teaches seniors the lessons of dependence."

Mr. Speaker, the differences between Congressman Howard's statements and those Republican statements and the differences in the philosophies underlying them could not possibly be more stark. On the one hand you have Congressman Howard, a man of great compassion, expressing what most Americans believed then and still believe now, that Medicare is a hugely successful program which have been responsible for dramatically enhancing the quality of life of senior citizens and that this, in turn, has enriched the lives of all Americans, young and old.

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, you have the Republican leadership of the 104th Congress tearing down Medicare as somehow unAmerican and implying that senior citizens should be ashamed of themselves for using their hard-earned Medicare benefits to pay for their health care, that participating in Medicare is somehow learning the lessons of dependence.

Of course, none of this is at all surprising. It is exactly what congressional Republicans have been saying about Medicare since it was started. After all, the congressional Republicans of today are indeed the direct ideological descendants of the party that did everything it could to prevent Medicare from ever being enacted.

Next week, we will be marking another anniversary, the 30th anniversary of the House passage of the Medicare Program. Unfortunately, unlike when Jim Howard came to the floor 27 years ago, this anniversary is not an occasion for celebration. Rather, it is a time to rally against yet another wrong-headed Republican attack on Medicare.

So far the Republican side has tried very hard to keep the specifics of their plans to change Medicare a secret from the American people. Who can blame them when you consider that the vast majority of Americans are against them. But last week we noticed in the papers that Senator GREGG of New Hampshire announced legislation with the goal of replacing Medicare coverage with a voucher program.

Mr. Speaker, a voucher system, no matter how you cloak it, amounts to