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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mrs. WALDHOLTZ].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 3, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable ENID G. WALDHOLTZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Ronald Christian, Office of the Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, in this moment of quiet, as the work of the day begins, we first acknowledge our dependency upon Your grace and Your care.

We seek guidance when we could so easily be led off the course of justice for all, we ask for wisdom when our decisions could so quickly be driven by selfish desires, we plead for mercy when our petty jealousies have caused a wedge to be driven between ourselves and others, and we pray for courage when, with feeble heart, we might easily give in to goals that are less than the best for others.

Oh God, in these moments and with these words, let us all be reminded again of Your presence with us and our responsibility to You, and may our actions this day serve more Your majestic will and purpose than our fleeting wants and wishes. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NORWOOD 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. 1905. An act making appropriations for energy and water development 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. 1905), "An Act making appropriations for energy and water development 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. DOMENICI, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GORTON, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BURNS, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. BYRD, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. REID, Mr. KERREY, and Mrs. MURRAY, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This morning the Chair will recognize ten 1-

minute speeches on either side of the aisle as agreed to by the leadership.

TIME TO END WELFARE FOR LOBBYISTS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I stand in support of the Istook-McIntosh-Ehrlich grant reform amendment. This amendment in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill would put a stop to the Federal Government subsidizing political advocacy groups.

We want to stop the welfare for lobbyists. These are the groups that feed at the Government trough, complaining that if we take away their funds, we take away their first amendment rights. They call this the "nonprofit gag order." They say, "Without our advocacy voice, nonprofits will no longer be able to share their insights with policymakers."

I tell my colleagues, there are plenty of advocacy groups and nonprofit educational research institutes who share insights without using taxpayers' dollars and without using your money. Besides that, constituents are free to visit or can come and call on me, or any of my fellow Congressmen, and share their thoughts; they just cannot send the phone bill or the airline bill to us and our neighbors.

Madam Speaker, that is exactly what happens when we have welfare for lobbyists. I encourage my colleagues to pass the Istook-McIntosh-Ehrlich Federal grant reform amendment. It is the right thing to do.

KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE ARE DUE AN APOLOGY

(Mr. BAESLER of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address

□ 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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the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAESLER. Madam Speaker, recently, on Wednesday, July 19, a freshman Republican Member of Congress made the following quote in an interview regarding Koresh and the Waco hearings. "The only law they clearly established," talking about Koresh, "broke that I can see, so far, is he had sex with consenting minors." He said, "Do you send tanks and Government troops into large sections of Kentucky and Tennessee and other places where such things as this occur?"

This statement shows, I think, the extent to which some members of the majority party will go in order to justify the narrow world view about David Koresh. Instead of condemning him for what he was, this Member attacked the good people of Kentucky and Tennessee.

Something is clearly wrong with this picture, and this Member, as others, just does not get it. Defending religious freedom is not the same as defending religious fanaticism. Somebody ought to tell him the difference.

On behalf of the good people of Kentucky and Tennessee, I think this Member owes us an apology.

ABC GOT IT WRONG ON REPETITIVE MOTION STATISTICS

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, I have come to the floor to correct a few things ABC's report on ergonomics last night would have led the American people to believe.

Madam Speaker, ABC says that 60 percent of workplace illness occurs from repetitive motion. Why would they give out that number? Why would they not say that the Bureau of Labor Statistics says that only 7 percent of the workplace illnesses occur because of repetitive strain?

Why would ABC not have said, The National Safety Council does not agree with either one? They say that only 4 percent of the workplace illnesses come from repetitive strain. It is a perfect example of what is wrong in this town.

Where did ABC get 60 percent? They got it from Joe Dear. Why did Joe Dear say 60 percent? So he could do what they have been doing for 40 years: Run down to this Congress and say, "Look at all these problems. I need more money. I need more people. I need to grow my agency."

MEDICARE PATIENTS NEED TRUE CHOICES

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, the Congress is about to embark on

major changes in Medicare. These reforms we will be considering will offer patients less choice, not more, unless we take action to ensure that their choices are protected.

Many of the so-called reform plans include efforts to increase the use of managed care for Medicare patients. A study released last week found that three-fourths of Americans age 50 and over said they would not join a Medicare managed care plan without the freedom to choose their doctor; 82 percent believe that the freedom to choose out-of-network physicians or specialists would be "very important" or "critically important" to their decisions about whether to join a Medicare managed care plan.

The message is simple. Choice is essential to older Americans. A point-of-service option provides true choice by allowing Medicare patients to go outside of a network when they need services. This option should be built into every health plan involving Medicare patients.

Madam Speaker, \$270 billion in cuts in Medicare to pay for tax breaks for the rich is wrong. It is equally wrong to force America's elderly into managed care and take away their choice of physician.

HOLD THE LINE. COMPETITION JUST DOES NOT RING TRUE

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, hold the line. Competition just does not ring true.

Madam Speaker, does competition mean a monolithic, one-sided monopoly? The manager's amendment to H.R. 1555, the Communications Act of 1995, will do just that. The bill that came out of committee passed with bipartisan support and had some level of approval from all industry representatives. What happened?

The provisions in the manager's amendment are so vague, it will be difficult for State regulators, and everyone else, to determine what constitutes competition. As the U.S. Congress deregulates telecommunications, we must assure that some fair standard exists for gauging competition and create a blueprint for the future of a competitive communications industry.

As a former state utility commissioner, I have seen firsthand how true competition can benefit the consumer. This is why I have some reservations about the manager's amendment.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on the manager's amendment. Let us go back to the original bill that the committee passed. We owe it to our constituents, the customers for all of these services, to make sure that rates are fair and wide open to competition.

IRS RIPPING OFF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, thousands of Americans receive faulty notices from the IRS. The IRS says, "Your taxes are delinquent, pay them up." When the IRS was asked if the 1993 tax law allowed deferrals, they said, "The law is being reviewed." When IRS was asked how many taxpayers got notices they said, "A small number."

Now documents reveal that 43,000 Americans got faulty notices in the first month. The IRS said, "Small problem. These things happen."

Shame, Congress. Shame, for allowing the IRS to rip off and trample the rights of the American taxpayers.

By the way, the old saying, "Easy for you, difficult for me," does not apply to the IRS.

REPUBLICANS ARE KEEPING THEIR PROMISES

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

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, yesterday we were treated to a tremendous display of partisan rhetoric on the floor of this House.

Madam Speaker, most of yesterday, liberals took to the floor and accused Republicans of being extremists, mean-spirited, and shameful. The experiment in big government that was started in the 1960's has failed. It is over. We will not keep pouring hard-earned tax dollars of the American people down a huge sinkhole of debt just to support a bloated, ineffective government.

Madam Speaker, the American people want a balanced budget, they want to eliminate duplicative and wasteful programs, and they want, in short, to transform government to be effective and provide the needs that the American people demand.

Madam Speaker, we are going to keep our promise on this side of the aisle to reduce the size and cost of government and to create effective programs that work.

PHILADELPHIA'S EXAMPLE

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

Mr. SANFORD. Madam Speaker, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight held a field hearing in early July in Cleveland. Amongst those who gave testimony were the mayor of Philadelphia, Edward Rendell.

Madam Speaker, I was fascinated by his story because 3½ years ago Philadelphia stood at the brink of financial disaster. They were a quarter of a billion dollars in debt. Their bonds had