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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 21, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable J.D. HAYWORTH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray using the words of St. Francis.

Lord, make us instruments of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed bills of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S.J. Res. 20. Joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the compact to pro-

vide for joint natural resource management and enforcement of laws and regulations pertaining to natural resources and boating at the Jennings Randolph Lake Project lying in Garrett County, Maryland and Mineral County, West Virginia, entered into between the States of West Virginia and Maryland; and

S. Con. Res. 27. Concurrent resolution correcting the enrollment of H.R. 402.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH). 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 pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] will lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MALONEY 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minutes from each side.

SALMON FLUSH MODEL

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, salmon rehabilitation on the Columbia River is required by the Endangered Species Act. In Washington State, a computer

model called the flush model is being used by Federal agencies as the basis for Columbia River salmon recovery efforts. While this model is used to justify reservoir drawdowns and spend hundreds of millions of dollars of expenditures, its scientific base has never been made public nor subject to peer review.

Despite months of repeated requests, I have not been able to obtain this model. The Resources Committee, under Chairman YOUNG, will issue a formal request for a copy of this model, but this information should have been available for public and peer review before the planning and costs of salmon recovery began.

But I have to ask: What do they have to hide?

MEDICARE CUTS FOR TAX CUTS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today is Thursday, September 21, and we still have no Medicare plan from Speaker GINGRICH and the House Republican leadership.

As you know, we were supposed to have it yesterday, and today was supposed to be 1 day of hearings before the House Committee on Ways and Means on the plan. Instead, the meeting was delayed. It is now scheduled for tomorrow, and we still have no Medicare plan to outline how the Republican leadership is going to cut \$270 billion from Medicare over the next 7 years.

The Democrats feel very strongly there should be at least 4 weeks of hearings on Medicare and Medicaid. We tried to bring that up in the House yesterday and were denied that by the Republican majority. Instead, we are going to have to have our own alternative hearings starting tomorrow and going into next week just so that the

□ 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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American people can find out what the Republican plan is for cutting Medicare and Medicaid, how they are going to implement it, and how they are going to figure out what they are going to do to prevent the fact, to prevent all the tax cuts for Medicare cuts.

SPEAK OUT AGAINST VIOLENCE

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

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I could not let another day go by without commenting on two senseless incidents that have happened in the last week that are very, very frustrating to me.

One of them was in my own home city of Charlotte, where a teenager, a high school student, was senselessly gunned down in a drive-by shooting. It was not the first time it has happened, there or in other parts of the country.

Last week there was an incident in Los Angeles where a young couple made a wrong turn. When they tried to turn around, they were stopped by a gang of youths who literally fired into their car, killed a 2-year-old, injured a 2-year-old and an adult.

I just ask: What has happened in America, and how long are we going to stand back and allow this to go on without us as a people speaking up? I mean, it is just like it has become so common and everyday what we do, feel, or say, that is just the way it is. We ignore it.

I implore everybody, no matter where you live in this country, to start to speak out, to let your voice be heard and to say we are not going to tolerate this type of behavior in this great land of the United States any longer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gallery is reminded they must refrain from applause or other editorial comments during the course of proceedings.

MEDICARE IS THE REAL CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the Republican plan to cut Medicare by \$270 billion strikes a mortal blow to health security for all senior citizens. Their plan to hold just 1 day of hearings is an insult to democracy.

We had 28 days of hearings for Whitewater, 10 days for Waco, 8 days for Ruby Ridge, and we are having 1 day only, only 1 day, for Medicare. I defy anyone to find an American anywhere in this country outside of Washington, DC, who agrees with that legislative agenda.

They are cutting \$270 billion to preserve corporate welfare, extravagant defense spending, and tax cuts. The result for senior citizens is higher premiums, less access, low-quality health care, and, in many cases, poverty.

The \$270 billion cut is far in excess of what is needed to keep Medicare solvent, yet Republicans have the gall to say they are saving Medicare.

They will save Medicare, all right. It will be a classic case of the operation was a success, but the patient died.

Let us have real hearings. Medicare is the real contract with the American people.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE PRESERVATION ACT

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, today being introduced in the House of Representatives is the Medicare Preservation Act, a comprehensive plan for a better Medicare.

What you have heard from the other side and what you hear repeatedly is this notion there have not been hearings or there will not be hearings. It is simply not true.

The fact is, and everybody knows it, that we have been dealing with this problem now for at least 3 years, that it is clear the trustees of the Medicare trust fund have said the trust fund is going broke. We have to do something about it. We have to do something about it now.

There has been voluminous testimony, numerous, innumerable hearings, tens of thousands of pages of evidence that has been given, and that somehow this subject that has been aired as exhaustively as any subject has been in the United States in the past 3 years has not gotten hearings is absolutely ridiculous. It is untrue.

What we will do, and what we are going to do, and what the American people expect us to do, is to preserve, protect, and strengthen the Medicare Program.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NEED JOBS, NOT DEBATE

(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, AT&T, after having already laid off 20,000 American workers, announced it will lay off another 8,500, including 1,000 workers in Dayton, OH. AT&T said through a spokesman they are restructuring because our economy is so strong.

Some economy, folks. Check it out. Westinghouse cut 6,000 jobs, United Technologies 11,000, McDonnell Douglas 9,000, IBM 50,000, General Motors 100,000, Xerox, Eastman Kodak 40,000.

Truth is, ladies and gentlemen, while Congress fights over partisan politics,

America is becoming a colony once again. The American workers are fighting for their very jobs. The American people need jobs, not debate.

THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, last week, by voting to terminate the Legal Services Corporation, Republicans committed one of the most shameful attacks on the working poor that I have ever witnessed.

In my own community, Brooklyn Legal Services is there day after day, whether it is intervening to save an elderly woman from eviction or helping tenants receive fair treatment from their landlord. Legal Services is there fighting for their forgotten people.

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution says that we are all entitled to equal protection under the law, but in today's society, some of us are ore equal than others. In this country, if you have the money to hire a good lawyer, you can make your way through our legal system. But if you are poor, you will lose regardless of whether you are right or wrong.

Nothing should come at the price of denying individuals their constitutional rights.

I urge my colleagues to support the Legal Services Corporation. Let us show the American people there are still Members in this House willing to fight for those in need of a helping hand.

Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to express my outrage over last week's move by House Republicans to terminate the Legal Services Corporation. These actions represent a shameful attack on the poor of this country.

Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues will argue that we cannot afford programs like the Legal Services Corporation in this time of fiscal constraint. But I challenge them, and I ask, "How can we not?"

Let me tell you about a life that the Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation saved. An 86-year-old latino woman—one of my community's abuelitas—who was to be evicted from her home. It seems the landlord wanted this elderly woman's apartment for his own use, and decided to solve the problem by throwing her out on the street. What he did not tell her, and what she did not know, was that under the law senior citizens are protected from such evictions. The landlord was maliciously tricking this woman into—literally—signing away her right to this apartment. Then, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation stepped in. They assessed the woman of her rights, and halted an injustice that would have condemned her to a certain death on the streets.

This is not an occasional happening. Recently, a landlord in my district decided that because he was going to sell his apartment building he no longer needed to bother with its maintenance and upkeep, so he left the families living there to fend for themselves. The building deteriorated, and it became a place