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House of Representatives

The House met at 12 noon.

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

We acknowledge, O God, that there is the temporal and the eternal in our lives and in the affairs of every person. We know too that so much that we think important and necessary passes away and remains as a fading memory. We know also the daily reality of a vibrant faith that we can have in Your word, a trust that transcends all the power and pomp of a busy world. Teach us, gracious God, to focus not on the transient, but on the eternal, so we may truly gain a heart of wisdom. In Your name we pray. 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.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Mr. SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 1, rule I, the Chair will postpone the vote until later in the day.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BROWN of Florida 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. A recent misuse of handouts on the floor of the House has been called to the attention of the Chair and the House. At the bipartisan request of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, the Chair announces that all handouts distributed on or adjacent to the House floor by Members during House proceedings must bear the name of the Member authorizing their distribution. In addition, the content of those materials must comport with standards of propriety applicable to words spoken in debate or inserted in the RECORD. Failure to comply with this admonition may constitute a breach of decorum and may give rise to a question of privilege.

The Chair would also remind Members that pursuant to clause 4, rule XXXII, staff are prohibited from engaging in efforts in the Hall of the House or rooms leading thereto to influence Members with regard to the legislation being amended. Staff cannot distribute handouts.

In order to enhance the quality of debate in the House, the Chair would ask Members to minimize the use of handouts.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Springfield, IL, September 8, 1995.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, U.S.
Congress, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER GINGRICH: Attached please find the official letter of resignation from Congressman Mel Reynolds of Illinois' Second Congressional District.

Pursuant to state law, I will take the appropriate steps to fill the vacancy created by Congressman Reynolds' resignation. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

JIM EDGAR,
Governor.

Attachment.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 1, 1995.

Hon. JIM EDGAR,
Governor, State of Illinois,
Springfield, IL.

DEAR GOVERNOR: Tonight I shall be announcing my resignation from the 104th Congress. Please receive this letter as formal notice to you of my official resignation effective October 1, 1995.

It has been both an honor and a privilege to serve the people of the Second Congressional District of Illinois.

Sincerely,

MEL REYNOLDS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 27, 1995.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER GINGRICH: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 5 of rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following messages from the Secretary of the Senate on Tuesday, September 26, 1995 at 11:10 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to the conference report on H.R. 1817; that the Senate passed

□ 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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with amendments and requested conference on H.R. 1868; that the Senate disagreed to House amendments and agreed to conference on S. 440; that the Senate passed S. 619; that the Senate agreed to conference report on H.R. 1854.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

REFLECTIONS ON THE 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONTRACT

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, it has been 1 year since House Republicans stood on the west front of the Capitol and promised to change dramatically the way Congress works. We signed a contract that said that we will bring to the floor 10 legislative priorities important to the American people. We brought those bills to the floor and passed nine of them. We kept our promises. We proved that politicians can tell the truth. We proved that real change is possible in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, Rome was not built in a day, and completely reforming the Congress will take more than 1 year. But we have made great strides.

This fall we will focus on four issues critical to our Nation's future: We will pass a budget that balances in 7 years; we will strengthen and protect the Medicare system; we will get tax relief to families who need to have more money to raise their children; and we will reform welfare to give folks a hand up and not a handout.

Columnist David Broder has called this Congress "a rout of historic proportions." Is it not amazing what can happen when you keep your promises to the American people?

SHUTTING OUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ON MEDICARE

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, a story in yesterday's USA Today regarding Republican plans to cut more than \$270 billion from Medicare quoted 76-year-old Naomi Cutrer. Naomi voiced concern that Republicans are rushing through these Medicare cuts, without public hearings. She said:

We need to slow down. They've only held one hearing on Medicare, and I don't know how many on Ruby Ridge and Whitewater.

Well, Naomi, here's your answer—Congress has had 10 days of hearings on Ruby Ridge, 10 days of hearings on Waco, 28 days of hearings on Whitewater and only a single hearing on Medicare.

Naomi Cutrer and seniors like her all across this country are right to be concerned about attempts by Republicans to ram through these Medicare cuts,

without public hearings and without public input. This is supposed to be a government of, by, and for the people, but when it comes to Medicare the American people are being shut up and shut out.

DUCKING RESPONSIBILITY ON MEDICARE

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, over the past several months, the Democrats, during our continuing debate over Medicare, have often accused the Republicans of many things which we are not doing, as we have tried to outline our plans. The comment you heard from the previous speaker is an example of that, ignoring the fact that a number of hearings were held on Medicare before the plan was issued.

The Washington Post has this to say about the Democrats' MediScare campaign.

They have no plan. Mr. Gephardt says they can't offer one because the Republicans would simply pocket the money to finance their tax cut. It is the perfect defense. The Democrats can't do the right thing because the Republicans would then do the wrong one. But that has nothing to do with Medicare. The Democrats have fabricated the Medicare-tax-cut connection because it is useful politically. It allows them to attack and to duck responsibility both at the same time. We think it is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Washington Post. I believe the American public agrees with the Washington Post. We are doing the right thing. We have the courage to do the right thing, and we will do it.

GUTTING MEDICARE

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Webster's Dictionary defines the verb to cut as to hit sharply, to constrict, to reduce, to lessen, to hurt.

I understand that the Republican leadership is unhappy about us using the word "cut" to describe the Republican's revolting and offensive Medicare plan. OK, fine. Maybe "cut" is not quite the right word. Well how about gut? According to Webster's, to gut is to demolish, to destroy. How do you like the word gut? The fact is that Republicans want to destroy Medicare's security and leave our seniors stranded to fend for themselves. Perhaps gut is a more appropriate word.

Mr. Speaker, during the August recess, I held 13 town meetings and met with 3,000 of my constituents. My constituents told me that they are outraged about the Republican's reverse Robin Hood tactics—taking Medicare benefits from seniors in order to pay for a tax break for the wealthy.

Republicans call it a cut in the growth of spending. They call it progress. I call it the good old-fashioned bait and switch.

SAVING MEDICARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN POLITICS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, we Republicans in Congress have been working very hard to come up with a plan to save Medicare from bankruptcy. Unfortunately, the Democrats in Congress here are refusing to help us, choosing instead to push a MediScare campaign.

This is a prime example of putting partisan politics above the needs of the American people. These liberal Democrats claim that the Republican plan will cut Medicare to pay for a so-called tax break for the rich.

Mr. Speaker, those tax cuts were paid for last April and mainly benefited working families, not the wealthy. Now Democrats are even running TV ads that are designed to help mislead the American people into believing their partisan fantasies.

But Republicans will not be sidetracked. We remain committed to the task at hand, saving Medicare and preserving it for this generation and for future generations. We do not believe that politics should stand in the way of this goal. Saving Medicare is too important.

WAKE UP CALL ON VIOLENCE

(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, another public official, a prosecutor this time, fighting drugs and gangs, was gunned down in cold blood. I am not talking about Colombia. This was Boston, MA, Congress. Police say that tennage gang leaders ordered this assassination.

Unbelievable. From Boston to Seattle, New York to Los Angeles, your town to my town, American is bleeding, unsafe, and dangerous. I say it is time to treat these teenagers as adults, charged with murder, and they should be put to death. Whether it is a deterrent or not, one thing about capital punishment, there is no recidivism. It is time.

Think about it. When Boston goes from Minuteman to triggerman, all Congress and America should be hearing this wake up call.

I yield back the balance of this violence.

FIXING MEDICARE

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, the American people elect politicians to help fix problems with Government. Pretty simple stuff, one would imagine. But, unfortunately, some politicians do