



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1996

No. 128

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. HANCOCK].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 17, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable MEL HANCOCK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leaders limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY] for 5 minutes.

THE CHOICE THIS NOVEMBER

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, as the November elections edge ever closer, the American people will be presented with a historic choice: They can choose to move forward with commonsense change or they can fall back to the old ways of doing business in the Congress.

The Republican Congress has worked very hard to enact commonsense change. It has passed the first balanced budget in a generation, while cutting taxes for working families. It has cut wasteful Washington spending, passed historic health care reform, brought commonsense changes to our legal system, and reformed the welfare state.

We still have a lot of work to do. The President vetoed our balanced budget. He vetoed tax cuts for working families. And he has consistently pushed for more wasteful, Washington spending.

Democrats in Congress are leading the reaction against common sense. I respect many Members of this body for standing up for their liberal philosophy. For instance, the gentleman from New York [Mr. RANGEL], who is poised to become the chairman of the committee that oversees taxes in the Congress should the Democrats regain control of the House, has become the chief defender of the Internal Revenue Service. He says, and I quote: "We have the best and fairest tax collection system in the world."

In other words, if Democrats regain control of the Congress, we can just forget about tax relief for working families.

Liberals are also thinking of ways to cut defense spending to pay for social welfare programs. The gentleman from California, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, has asked and I quote: "Do we really have to be prepared to fight two wars simultaneously," rather than pay for social welfare spending?

In other words, if Democrats regain control, we can count on them to slash defense spending to pay for wasteful Washington spending.

It is no secret that Democrats in the Congress will repeal our efforts at tort reform. They will work with their friends, the trial lawyers, as they have over the years, to try to repeal tort reform. And according to the Washington Post, if the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. JOHN DINGELL, becomes chairman of the Committee on Commerce, he will, "reexamine GOP legislation capping awards in civil damage suits and limiting investor suits."

In other words, if Democrats get control of Congress again, we can just forget about any commonsense legal reform.

The Democrats in Congress are also making plans to repeal the welfare reform bill signed by the President, and they have not given up on the idea of having the Government take over our health care system. The Democrat agenda remains, as always, to put the Government first. They want more Government spending, more Government control, more Government influence over the lives of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, if the Democrats regain control of the Congress, they will reverse the great progress we made over the last 2 years to make the Federal Government work better for working Americans.

I urge my colleagues and the American people to take notice. When they vote this November, they have a choice of moving forward with an agenda of commonsense change or moving backward to the old days of higher taxes, more wasteful Washington spending, and a bigger, more intrusive Federal Government.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DELAY. I yield to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman think the Democrats have a chance of taking over? I find this exciting.

Mr. DELAY. Not at all.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. I am sitting on this side of the aisle saying, wow, this is wonderful.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, not at all. I am just reporting what has been reported by those that wish that they could take over. But, no, worse case scenario we will gain 8 to 10 seats.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 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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