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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. HASTINGS of Washington].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 18, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable RICHARD "DOC" HASTINGS 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:

We pray, O gracious God, that we would translate our good thoughts and words into deeds of mercy and compassion that reach out to the neediest in our communities. We admit that it is easier to talk about what we would do than to put our hands to the task and accomplish the works of justice. We thank You for the faith that You have given us and for the creeds and beliefs that we hold dear. But on this day we pray for the strength to transpose these ideas and words and faith into achievements that make our words come alive and help people wherever they are. This is our earnest prayer. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. VOLKMER 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 pro tempore. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minutes on each side.

REFORM THE IRS

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

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, in 1995 the Internal Revenue Service's 1-800 number provided about 8½ million Americans the wrong answers to even the most basic questions about tax law. Further, Money magazine estimated in 1990 that nearly half the 30 million penalty notices the IRS mails out each year are erroneous.

Even more alarming, the latest impartial GAO audit of the IRS asserted that the agency that scrutinizes taxpayer finances cannot properly keep track of the \$1.4 trillion it collects each year. Mind you, that was the fourth straight audit the IRS has flunked.

Mr. Speaker, fair is fair. The IRS itself has failed to meet the standards of financial accountability and diligence it imposes on our citizenry. And since it can no longer adequately police itself, it can no longer be trusted with the authority to police individual American businesses and individuals.

We need a solution to our problem that empowers the hard working Amer-

ican taxpayer. We need to reform the IRS.

DOLE TAX PLAN WILL TEAR DOWN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

(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, the Republican leadership over the last 2 years has systematically tried to tear up 25 years of environmental protection, and I am afraid that the Dole tax plan which has been touted by the Presidential candidate over the last few weeks will just do that much more to accomplish the goal of tearing down environmental protection and not providing the funding for enforcement and investigation of serious environmental infractions.

We have seen in the last 2 years an attempt by the Republican leadership to basically gut the Clean Water Act, allow for more dumping in the ocean, and allow for the destruction of wetlands. We have seen them try to change the Superfund law so that basically instead of the polluter paying, the Government would be paying the polluter, and we would not see cleanup at most of the Superfund sites around the Nation. We have also seen Republican efforts to pass legislation that would close national parks, decommission national recreation areas around the country.

Most important, the Republican budgets and appropriation bills have significantly cut the amount of money that would be available for environmental enforcement, for investigating the polluters. That will only continue under the Dole tax plan and the cuts that he is proposing.

□ 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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