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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. MILLER of Florida].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 20, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable DAN MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, with Your mercy new to us every day irrespective of our nature, and with Your grace provided to each one alike without regard to need, we pray, give to each one of us, O God, Your gift of peace, so that our lives will be an example of Your righteousness.

Give to our Nation, O God, the earnest search for justice, so that our conversations and actions will show a desire for what is right.

Give to those ordained with responsibility for leadership a sense of awe and a spirit of humility that will offer thoughtful and useful commentary on behalf of those without voice.

And give to us all a measure of Your love, so that compassion can be our benchmark for honor, kindness the waterline for friendship, patience the starting pole of brother and sisterhood, and hope the finish line for our lives. 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 Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MONTGOMERY 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 OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2 of rule IX, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a resolution which raises a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas on December 6, 1995, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct agreed to appoint an outside counsel to conduct an independent, nonpartisan investigation of allegations of ethical misconduct by Speaker Newt Gingrich;

Whereas, after an eight-month investigation, that outside counsel has submitted an extensive document containing the results of his inquiry;

Whereas the report of the outside counsel cost the taxpayers \$500,000;

Whereas the public has a right—and Members of Congress have a responsibility—to examine the work of the outside counsel and reach an independent judgment concerning the merits of the charges against the Speaker;

Whereas these charges have been before the Ethics Committee for more than two years;

Whereas a failure of the Committee to release the outside counsel's report before the adjournment of the 104th Congress will seriously undermine the credibility of the Ethics Committee and the integrity of the House of Representatives: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall release to the public the outside counsel's report on Speaker Newt Gingrich—including any conclusions, recommendations, attachments, exhibits or accompanying material—no later than Wednesday, September 25, 1996.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time or place designated by the Chair in the legislative schedule within 2 legislative days. The Chair will announce that designation at a later date.

A determination as to whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege will be made at a later time.

DRUG USE SKYROCKETING UNDER PRESIDENT CLINTON

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

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, America is losing the war against drugs. As a father of two young children, I understand the fear felt by every parent as they send their kids off to school each morning.

Over the past several years, this administration—through its irresponsible actions and indifferent words—has created a world where drug use is not only blatantly ignored but is often the source of careless chuckles and thoughtless jokes. This is not the environment I want my children to grow up in—drug use is not funny.

But worse than the rhetoric is the record. Actions speak louder than words, Mr. Speaker. President Clinton

□ 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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has eliminated drug agent after drug agent. The number of people prosecuted for Federal drug charges has dropped and programs have been cut. I ask you, how many times have you heard the President of the United States tell your children to "Just say 'no'?"

President Clinton's abandonment of strict, effective drug policy has led our young people down a disturbing road of skyrocketing drug use. Jokes on MTV are not acceptable and reckless disregard from the bully pulpit is inexcusable.

THE ADMONISHMENT COMMITTEE

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I am amazed. I think it is time we start calling the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct the admonishment committee. Yesterday they issued admonishment No. 6 for our Speaker, and they went on to say in there, which I find really quite amazing, the committee concludes that the Speaker's conduct of allowing the routine presence in his office of Mr. Jones demonstrates a continuing pattern of lax administration and poor judgment that has concerned this committee in the past with the other five admonishments.

They go on to say: Accordingly, the committee directs you to take immediate steps not only to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents and ensure compliance with standards but to guard against the appearance of impropriety.

Now, I think everyone in America ought to ask for the same standards. When you get stopped for a speeding ticket, until you get six admonishments I guess they are never really going to do anything. I would say the way Members of Congress get treated is how an average citizen should be treated. I find it absolutely amazing that the rules can be thrown over with such great abandonment.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

COCAINE IN SOUTH-CENTRAL LOS ANGELES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May

12, 1995, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WATERS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I come today to continue my discussion on the matter of the San Jose Mercury News article that revealed the dumping of cocaine into south-central Los Angeles by CIA operatives, cocaine that was spread among the Cripps and Bloods gang members and eventually in cities throughout this Nation.

I am spending a lot of time on this issue because I believe it is important for the citizens of this country to know and understand how this country finds itself with crack addiction, crime, crack-born babies, hospitals overloaded with overdoses of crack cocaine, turf wars, all of this devastation. Where did it come from? Who caused it? This article, or these series of articles that were done by the San Jose Mercury News must be focused on. Mr. Gary Webb, the author of the series, is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist.

This is not a fly-by-night journalist. This is not someone who just thought this up and decided they would write something. He spent over a year investigating the leads that came to him. And what did he uncover? It is absolutely startling. Mr. Gary Webb discovered that in the late 1970's, 1979, early 1980's, two CIA operatives, Mr. Danilo Blandon and one other gentlemen found their way into south-central Los Angeles. They connected up with a gentleman, a young man named Ricky "Freeway" Ross. They began to supply him with tons of cocaine. That cocaine was cooked into crack. Those are the rocks that plague our communities today.

Prior to the introduction of cocaine by Mr. Blandon and Mr. Meneses, cocaine was not a factor in minority neighborhoods, in the inner cities. Cocaine was the drug of the elite, of the more well-to-do, of kind of the rich and the famous. It was expensive. It could not be afforded by poor people, and it was really not a factor in poor communities. It was only when the CIA operatives, working with Ricky Ross, discovered that you could cook it and you could put it into crack form, that it could be sold cheaply because you could spread it around. You could get more out of it.

And so they began to cook up the crack. They put it out into the communities on consignment. What does that mean? Prior to this time, you had to have money to get into the drug business. If you wanted to be a drug dealer, you had to go and buy cocaine. You bought it by the kilos oftentimes. But when these CIA operatives started to work with Ricky Ross, they eliminated the need to have money to invest to become a drug dealer. They put it out on consignment.

□ 0915

When you understand this consignment spread of cocaine and crack, then

you understand why they also brought the guns in with them.

We wondered in south central Los Angeles, where are these guns coming from? They were not simply handguns, they are Uzis and AK-47's, sophisticated weapons brought in by the same CIA operatives because they had to enforce bringing the profits back in.

About this time when you saw more and more guns coming into the community, you also saw more and more killings, more and more violence. Now we know what was going on. The drugs out in our communities on consignment were being put out to the gangs and others; if they did not bring the profits back, the guns were brought in so that they could enforce the control.

You got killed. People were sent out to kill others. The killings just mounted in south central Los Angeles, and people said what are they fighting about? What are these drive-by shootings about? What is this gang warfare about? And people said oh, it is about the colors; some like red, some like blue, well, you know it was about drugs. It was about crack cocaine introduced into our communities by people who brought it in with a purpose.

Why did they do this? According to Mr. Blandon, he is on record under oath testifying at a trial that, yes, he was a CIA operative but he was also engaged in funding the war in Nicaragua. He was one of those that helped form the army of the Contras, the FDN. He came from Nicaragua. He was the son of a very rich Nicaraguan. They were involved with Somoza and part of the Somoza government. When they were overthrown by the Sandinistas, they went out and formed their own army working with our Government.

They formed their own army and then they had to supply them. They had to get the guns to them; they had to feed the soldiers; they had to clothe the soldiers. They had to put together an Army. And, yes, they had a lot of support from the right wing, from conservatives right here in the Congress of the United States who set out to get the citizens of this Nation to use their hard-earned dollars to help fund that war.

That effort was resisted by many in this House, but they persisted. But long before they got any dollars, there was money flowing to the FDN and to the so-called resistance armies.

Where did that money come from? We know now that that money was coming from the sale of drugs to the citizens of America, the profits of which went back down to fund the FDN, working with Nicaraguans connected with Somoza, Nicaraguans that were embraced by the right wing of America.

America's children, American citizens exposed, crack cocaine fed into the neighborhoods in order to get money to fund the FDN and the other armies resisting, fighting against the Sandinistas.

It is an outrageous plot. It is an unconscionable plot. How would anybody