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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. INGLIS of South Carolina].

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 27, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable BOB INGLIS 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 are thankful, O God, that even when life seems crowded and cluttered and there are so many voices demanding attention, we can still hear Your

still, small voice that calls and sustains us and makes us whole. We know that in the center of the winds of change there is the vision that You freely give—a vision of faith and hope and love—a faith that guides us in our decisions, a hope that sustains no matter what our circumstances and a love that transcends all the details of the day and allows us to receive the blessings of Your hand. In Your name, we pray. 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. TALENT]

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TALENT 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.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3458. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 1996, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following

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A final issue of the Congressional Record for the 104th Congress will be published on October 21, 1996, in order to permit Members to revise and extend their remarks.

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WILLIAM M. THOMAS, *Chairman.*

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1505. An act to reduce risk to public safety and the environment associated with pipeline transportation of natural gas and hazardous liquids, and for other purposes.

S. 2078. An act to authorize the sale of excess Department of Defense aircraft to facilitate the suppression of wildlife.

S. 2100. An act to provide for the extension of certain authority for the Marshal of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court Police.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SEPAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces he will entertain ten 1-minutes on each side.

#### CONTRACT WITH AMERICA HAS CHANGED POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago I signed the Contract With America. I am as proud of that decision today as I was then. I have been blessed and honored to have been part of history; to be part of a movement dedicated to a brighter and a more hope-filled future for America.

Our friends on the other side like to say we are running from the contract. I say horse feathers.

The Contract With America has changed the political landscape right here in Washington, DC. The days of tax and spend are history. No longer will Congress levy taxes on the people of this great country for inefficient and burdensome bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, 65 percent of the contract is now signed into law. We have changed Congress, we have cut spending and ended welfare, and most importantly, we have kept our promises.

#### 2-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CONTRACT SIGNING

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

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, today is the Contract on America's birthday.

Two years ago today, Republicans went out to the west front of the Capitol and had a big celebration—with all the fancy trimmings. There was a nicely decorated stage, a large and lively crowd, TV cameras. And one by one, Republicans paraded across that stage to put their name on that contract.

Now, where I come from, whenever you have a birthday, you usually have a big celebration to go with it. But how can there be a party when we do not even know where the guest of honor is? Where is the Contract on America?

Is it filed away somewhere in the Speaker's office? Is it stuffed inside one of those ice buckets that the

Speaker keeps carrying around? Is it hidden underneath that unknown, unseen, "won't-go-public" ethics report?

But burying the contract away in somebody's desk is not going to make the American people forget what it was.

It was NEWT GINGRICH's plan to bankrupt Medicare and Medicaid, retreat from our bipartisan environmental success over the last 20 years, kill the cops-on-the-beat and gun programs that have cut crime rates in our cities, and put kids and education dead last instead of putting families first.

Happy birthday, Contract on America.

#### TWO-THIRDS OF CONTRACT WITH AMERICA HAS BEEN SIGNED INTO LAW

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, this Republican-led 104th Congress has been one of the most productive ever. Not only has two-thirds of the contract been signed into law, we have also delivered health insurance reform, lobbying reform, food safety legislation, the Safe Drinking Water Act, a small business tax cut, and the list goes on and on.

In fact, President Clinton's acceptance speech at the Democrat National Convention took credit for many of these Republican-initiated issues, including the contract issues—welfare reform, line-item veto, long-term care insurance deduction, congressional accountability, the adoption tax credit, and the Congressional Accountability Act.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is this—the Republican majority has delivered commonsense policies for a better America. We have changed the way Washington works by placing power back in the people's hands. And if imitation is the most sincere form of flattery, then Bill Clinton must be throwing Republicans a big fat kiss.

#### FAREWELL REFLECTIONS

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

Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Monday I returned from Rwanda and Sudan, and when you are on a plane for 16 hours you have time to reflect on your life.

I have had a variety of jobs during my life: WWII in a PX warehouse, later a garbage man, Army for 2 years, law for 35 years, State Senate, and now 8 years in Congress.

Congress has by far been the most exciting and challenging job during my life.

This is a unique job, a tremendous experience. Our authority is great—our responsibility is great. This House—

this institution—must be protected. The Constitution must be protected. We cannot continue to look at this document as a loose leaf notebook that we cut and passed.

I now join the exclusive 10,000 graduates of the body—since the inception of the Constitution.

I am very proud to have been a Member of Congress.

I bid you farewell and Godspeed.

#### CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT TO PROMISE NOT TO PARDON THE McDOUGALS

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I believe the American people deserve a clear and unequivocal promise from the President that prior to or after the November 5 election he will not pardon Jim and Susan McDougal or anyone else connected with the Whitewater scandal.

Recent public comments have tended to give us the idea that the President may want to pardon people involved in this scandal. I would just call to his attention that this is not a conviction that was caused by his office. This was caused by people who let their greed get in the way of their good sense, who played loose with the law and with the taxpayer-protected funds that they were managing, all to the detriment of the American taxpayer and the hard-working, saving American citizens.

Mr. President, do not, do not pardon people who have been convicted of crimes. The American people will remember.

#### CONGRESS IS AFRAID OF THE IRS

(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, the 104th Congress has failed.

Even though the American people feel ripped off and taxed off, in 1997 the American taxpayer will still be guilty under the eyes of the law in a civil tax case and will still have to prove their innocence.

Shame.

Mr. Speaker, I am not just taking a slap at Republicans. The Democrats were no better.

It comes down to the fact, the major problem in America is today the people do not govern, today the institutions govern, and the Congress, in my opinion, is afraid of death of the Internal Revenue Service. I say to my colleagues, after all, you do not want the IRS to come snooping around, do you, judges and politicians?

The sad truth is the Congress of the United States has become nothing more than background music in a doctor's office when it comes to the Internal Revenue Service. Shame, Congress.