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House of Representatives

The House met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. REGULA].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 5, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable RALPH REGULA 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 leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] for 5 minutes.

REGULATORY RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, it was 1 year ago today when during the flurry of activity that accompanied the floor action with respect to the Contract with America that this Chamber passed overwhelmingly several pieces of legislation, all combined to relax the stranglehold that the various agencies have had for generations over our small business community.

These regulations have served over the years to strangle competition, to

subdue the freedom to exercise new ideas and innovative ways to bring new products and new services to the marketplace. So, as part of the Contract With America, the House endeavored very early, right at the outset of the new legislative year in 1995, to bring about hearings and examination of the issues involved. As a result we are now poised here in this week of legislative action to put the final touches on some of these relief measures for our small business.

Some of the important features that we have taken into the regulation reform arena are, No. 1, we have strengthened the hand of counsel for the Small Business Administration who before had a role to play, under the original act, in advising, so to speak, the small business community as to the impact of regulations. But now we strengthen his position by giving him additional powers and more flexibility and more actual power to be one of the decisionmakers as to the final texture of a rule or a regulation that would affect small business.

We have done other things with respect to the kinds of analyses that must be accorded to the public and to the small business community by the agencies involved so that they will have a better idea and a more involved undertaking on themselves to deal with the agencies and in a cooperative manner bring about the final product of a regulation. Thus, we would be having a rule or regulation offered in which the small business community, the one that would be affected, would have had a part in creating. That is a new way and a good way to do business in this very important sector of our business activity.

Third, and this, to me, is the most important new feature of what the Contract With America and what my committee and the committee chaired by the gentlewoman from Kansas [Mrs. MEYERS] has been able to accomplish,

is to bring about for the first time an opportunity for judicial review. That is, a small business or entity or individual who is adversely impacted by a regulation that says you must do this. Many times the regulation has taken on the form of an edict, a mandate, an unappealable fiat, as it were.

What now we provide for is judicial review. So if in the final analysis, after this joint venture of trying to create a regulation that everyone can live with, if everything else fails, we also give to the disaffected regulatee, if there be such a word, the option to appeal to have a judicial review of that situation.

Now, this is important, of course, in its own right, just to bring about a new set of rules between the business community and the agencies of the Federal Government. But that is not the real reason, the real emphasis that we should be placing on what we are accomplishing here. What we are accomplishing here is creating an additional atmosphere for the creation of new jobs, for the creation of new business activity, for the lifting up of the American business community into a new and better stance for competitive enterprises throughout the world.

This is the importance of what we are about here today and for the remainder of this week. When these provisions become law, we will have fulfilled the Contract With America, that portion of which promised to the American people that we would unsnarl the number of lassos that are thrown around our business communities by the Federal agencies through their regulations and we would loosen them up for the business competition and activity with which they will lead the world.

WOMEN'S HISTORY

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

□ 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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12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor today to talk about March because March is the month of National Women's History week. We keep saying, his story. I guess what we are really trying to do in this month is tell her story. I think women's role in history has really been left out in so many cases.

We have this great image that the men in America all came here on these dangerous ships, coming across the North Atlantic and all that and settling the great country. Yet women came in cruise ships, sitting around swimming pools getting their nails done and their hair done. It is not quite true.

Women were there shoulder to shoulder, came to this great country and said, we didn't come here to walk in front of you or behind you but alongside in building this Nation. I think it is important to remind ourselves that early on many of our forefathers got it right. George Washington, had everybody followed him, I think, we would be in great shipshape. George Washington insisted that the women in the Revolutionary Army be paid equally.

Most people did not even know there were women in the Revolutionary Army but, yes, there were. And there are women who were Revolutionary soldiers buried at West Point. How come they forgot to tell us that? George Washington also did something very interesting. We think of Martha Washington as one who sat home and waited for George. Martha was not that way at all. She ran a very sophisticated plantation. The minute the crops were in during all 3 years of the Revolutionary War, Martha Washington picked up everything she had and moved to winter camp.

So she was there in Valley Forge. She was in New Jersey, and she was in New York where the military was encamped those three terrible winters. The reason we know that is after the war was won and this great Republic began to come together, George Washington insisted that the Congress pay her for having been there and held the morale and the troops together winter after winter.

Is it not interesting they did the painting of George Washington shivering at Valley Forge but they forgot to put Martha in it. If you look at women of all different colors and backgrounds, they from the very beginning did innovative and wonderful things that held this country together. Harriet Tubman was probably one of the most brilliant strategists ever. She figured that if they ever wrote down anything about the underground railroad for which many African Americans were able to escape from slavery in the South, if they ever wrote it down, somebody would find it and that would be the end of the underground railroad. So they put it all in code and sang it in songs

that the white folks thought were just nice little songs. They were really singing the map to the underground railroad. Is that not a brilliant, intelligent undercover operation? As I say, what a strategist.

Would Lewis and Clark ever have found the west coast if a native American woman had not helped them through the forest to get there?

This is not to say women did everything. But when you read the history books, they forget to tell us that women did anything. I think it is really reflected in the attitude that we have today about women's roles. If we look at America, women are still the major care giver, every woman I know, including myself. Life could be stopped tomorrow if someone in the family gets critically ill because we have given women absolutely very little help with any kind of those care giver roles. They are the ones that is to rush with the family's safety net whenever someone is in trouble, be they young, be they old, be they sick.

I think it is time that we do not do gender wars but we just treat each other as brothers and sisters and figure out how we are going to get on with this great country. How do we respect that? There is tremendous value to care giver roles. We should be trying to help women who are not only doing their care giver roles but are often forced out of the home to work because of this deplorable economy. It only generates more and more stress that gets reflected in the family and every other way.

So I would hope that during this month of Women's History Week more and more people would sit down and find out what her story really was and really realize we did not come on cruise ships. We did a lot to help build this Nation, too. We should start taking that into account as we plan our legislative strategy, as we do every other such thing. Because this is the way that the country will continue to be great.

SITUATION IN UNITED KINGDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BUYER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well today to share an insight with my colleagues. About 10 days ago I was in London, the United Kingdom, actually there by invitation of the Royal British Legion to discuss the gulf war illness issues to coordinate our research efforts between the two countries.

What brings me to the well today is, I was constantly asked the question, whether it be from the news media, members of the Parliament, House of Lords or even the citizens in the United Kingdom, what are you doing in the United States?

Many people in the United Kingdom were extremely upset with the United

States, in particular the President of the United States, with a coddling of Gerry Adams of the IRA, now that they have broken away from the peace process and have continued the indiscriminate acts of terror. I was almost left speechless, having to defend the President of the United States in what he had done in the past and not only in the past, but I am now deeply disturbed that while in Northern Ireland they have broken away from the peace process, that the President continues to coddle Gerry Adams, the leader of the Sinn Fein, the political party of the IRA, while the citizens in London and the rest of the United Kingdom do not know if they can walk down the streets in safety, whether the phone booth will explode, whether they can ride on a city bus. And I can understand why they ask, what are you doing in the United States.

My only response is that for some reason this one does not resonate with the American people like it should. For so long we have been insulated from indiscriminate acts of terror, yet we had the explosion in the World Trade Center. We had the experience of Oklahoma City bombing. And how it moved everyone in this Nation that someone could actually commit a cowardly act of terror, such as the Oklahoma City bombing of the Federal building. Yet when trying to relate this to what Gerry Adams and others in the IRA are doing in London, for some reason it does not resonate. You see how would we feel if the President of the United States had coddled those involved with the Oklahoma City bombing at the White House prior to the Oklahoma City bombing, how would we feel in this country?

□ 0945

We probably would be having impeachment proceedings right now. Now what we have is the President, who now exempts them from the terrorist list, permits fundraising to occur in this country, and the President now, even though they have broken away from the peace process, says, OK, and we will grant this visa to Gerry Adams to come to the United States. Something is not right here. This is a disconnect. How can that happen?

So I want to share to my colleagues, if you are going to travel the United Kingdom, be prepared to answer that tough question, what are you doing in the United States coddling Gerry Adams and the Sinn Fein Party while indiscriminate acts of terror are occurring?

You know we are going to have an antiterrorism bill come to this House floor here relatively soon, and I think what we should do is take a good hard look here as to whether or not it is going to permit fundraising to occur. Perhaps what the President should do; he has not asked for my advice; but I think what he should do is in fact not grant the visa to Gerry Adams, play a much harder line. I would also stop any