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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mrs. WALDHOLTZ].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 21, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable ENID G. WALDHOLTZ 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:

As the days lengthen and the Sun brightens our hours, so may we anticipate the renewal of the bounty of Your creation. When we see the blossoms of nature, may they recall for us the seasons of our own lives; as we await the warmth of the days, may we remember the warmth of Your grace that is ever with us. In all things, O God, may we experience the wonders of Your love and so live our lives with strength and hope. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PALLONE 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 an amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3019. An act making appropriations for fiscal year 1996 to make a further downpayment toward a balanced budget, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 3019) "An act making appropriations for fiscal year 1996 to make a further downpayment toward a balanced budget, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BOND, Mr. GORTON, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MACK, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. BYRD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. KERREY, Mr. KOHL, and Mrs. MURRAY to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills and concurrent resolutions of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 942. An act to promote increased understanding of Federal regulations and increased voluntary compliance with such regulations by small entities, to provide for the designation of regional ombudsmen and oversight boards to monitor the enforcement practices of certain Federal agencies with re-

spect to small business concerns, to provide relief from excessive and arbitrary regulatory enforcement actions against small entities, and for other purposes;

S. 956. An act to establish a Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals;

S. Con. Res. 47. Concurrent resolution to provide for a Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies; and

S. Con. Res. 48. Concurrent resolution authorizing the rotunda of the United States Capitol to be used on January 20, 1997, in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276h-276k, of title 22, United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints Mrs. HUTCHISON as the chairperson of the Senate delegation to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Union during the 2d session of the 104th Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

VETO PRESIDENT POISED TO STRIKE AGAIN

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

Mr. LINDER. Madam Speaker, bowing to special interests, the veto President is poised to strike again. The President who stopped welfare reform, tax cuts, and a balanced budget announced this past weekend that he will veto a bipartisan legal reform bill.

As Governor of Arkansas, the President called for just this type of legislation to limit frivolous lawsuits and sky-high punitive damage awards. But

□ 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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as President, the special interest lobbying group of trial lawyers is a heavy contributor to his reelection campaign.

Democrat Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER said it best: "Special interests and raw political considerations in the White House have overridden sound policy judgment."

Raw political considerations drove the President to veto welfare reform after he promised to "end welfare as we know it." Political considerations made the President veto tax cuts and a balanced budget after he promised both. It is time for Bill Clinton to consider the American people—and not special interest lobbyists—for a change.

ANOTHER CONTINUING RESOLUTION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, here they go again. Again the Republican leadership is going to bring up today another one of these stopgap funding measures, the continuing resolution. I think many people have forgotten that the Government was closed down on two occasions, at least two occasions, by the Republicans in this last year, and they are still moving forward with these temporary spending measures, last week and now again this week, for 1 more week. What it means is a great deal of uncertainty back in our districts, particularly when it comes to education.

Many teachers are now getting pink slips and being told they are going to be laid off. The school boards do not know whether they are going to have funding for education because of the continual assault against education. They are proposing the largest cut in the history of this country in education, over \$3 billion. It is not fair, because the American people have told us over and over again that education is a priority, that they want to prioritize in terms of funding here.

Why should we be cutting back on education funding at the Federal Government and making the local school boards have to pay more in their taxes, in their local property taxes? It is not fair. We should put a stop to it.

THE PRESIDENTIAL VETO THREAT

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

Mr. GEKAS. Madam Speaker, the vicious, vindictive veto looms over the American people once again, this time threatening the lives and health of 8 million Americans who right at this moment, because of their health problems, have medical devices in their bodies, heart valves, pacemakers, brain shunts, a whole host of things, knee replacements, hip replacements. But the

availability of these medical devices is threatened by the veto that the President has threatened to issue because of some quarrel that he has with other elements of the Trial Lawyers Association, et cetera.

Now, the suppliers of these medical devices, elements of the medical devices, are going out of business, in many respects because they are being sued out of their existence. What we have tried to do with the measure that is about to be vetoed is to make sure that the suppliers will feel comfortable in sending these supplies for the medical devices to be made available to the American people.

CONTINUED ATTACK ON THE AMERICAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, once again today we are going to have a continuing resolution. What is continuing about this resolution is the resolution of the Republicans to continue to attack the American education system.

In this continuing resolution, once again the Republican Party will put forth the largest cuts to education in the history of this country. They will put forth cuts in programs of title I to put in jeopardy those children in our school systems that most need an education. They will put forth cuts in the DARE Program, the program that brings our community police, our young children, and the campaign against drugs in schools and drugs in young people's lives together. They will cut that program. Over \$3 billion in cuts will be in this continuing resolution, which continues their assault on our education system.

They do this at a time when more and more parents are reevaluating education because they now understand how terribly important it is to the future of their children's success and our economic existence. The Republicans should stop this attack on the American education system.

LET US PUT AN END TO PARTISANSHIP

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, here we go again. As the American people look to this Congress to find innovative solutions, the guardians of the old order, those who tell us that big government is always the best answer, those who would confuse the process of education with the Washington bureaucrats in the Department of Education, seek to strike fear in the heart of every American.

We do not need to be involved in name calling. In fact, we need to get

past partisanship. That is why, Madam Speaker, I noted with interest the comment of the junior Senator from the State of Nebraska in talking about the proposed budget of the President of the United States. "The budget, this budget, is the same smoke and mirrors. It is ridiculous. They are just not serious."

Madam Speaker, the fact is we will always have differences, but let us work together constructively, end the fear mongering, and solve problems for America.

AMERICA LOSING JOBS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, the standard of living in America is going down. Family income dropped from \$30,000 in 1989 to \$27,000 in 1993. But economists still say "Don't worry, NAFTA is creating jobs."

Let us check out those jobs. One million jobs were created by temporary agencies; 800,000 jobs, restaurants and bars; 400,000 jobs, health clubs and casinos; 400,000 jobs in Government.

The truth is, the American worker is losing a factory job with full benefits and is now washing dishes and waiting on tables. But Government economists still tell us this is an unfair study, that 1989 was actually a boom year.

Boom year? Beam me up, Madam Speaker. The truth is, with economists like this, the only growth industry in America is our bars, restaurants, and Government, and we pay for all of it.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of these jobs.

ENERGY SECURITY

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, as we note the fifth anniversary this month of the successful conclusion of the Persian Gulf war, we must also rededicate ourselves to achieving energy security. Five years after defeating Saddam Hussein's armies, America still depends on other nations to meet the majority of our petroleum needs. We as Americans face the prospect of depending on foreign nations, often unstable nations, to provide us with up to 68 percent of our oil supply within the next 20 years. That is a dependence on foreign oil that America should not be exposed to.

America does not lack for proven oil reserves. Today, the House Resources Committee has scheduled a hearing on America's oil and natural gas resource base and Federal initiatives to encourage domestic oil and gas exploration. I strongly urge my colleagues to pay close attention to this hearing. Experts from the industry will discuss the promise of oil and natural gas development in America. For example, did you