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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. GUNDERSON].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 29, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable STEVE GUNDERSON 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:

O gracious God, from whom comes every good gift, we thank You today for the gifts of our past, those moments in our history when justice flowed down like waters and righteousness like an everflowing stream. We are grateful that women and men from the years of our birth have been models of character and stood for truth. May their witness in their day encourage our witness in our day and may their commitment to justice encourage each of us to that same commitment, an obligation and duty that inspires and makes whole, a responsibility that blesses and gives life. 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.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of order of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. NETHERCUTT 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 agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1561), an act to consolidate the foreign affairs agencies of the United States; to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1996 and 1997; to responsibly reduce the authorizations of appropriations for U.S. foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 1996 and 1997, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the interest of time, the Chair will receive five 1-minute speeches from each side.

Further 1-minutes will be allowed at the conclusion of legislative business for the day.

ONE GREAT LEGISLATIVE DAY

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

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, let me say I just wanted to remind our Members, because we were so busy yesterday and it may not have been obvious, how much we got done in 1 day.

In 1 day this House sent to the President a landmark freedom-to-farm bill which revises 60 years and provides reform for a 60-year-old program.

We sent to the President a historic line-item veto bill which Presidents, beginning with Grant in the 1860's, requested from the Congress, and for the first time we passed it to send to the President.

We sent to the President an earnings limit increase for senior citizens so they could work without being punished by the Social Security Administration taking money away from them, something which every senior citizens' group has supported and which encourages people to stay active and be healthy.

We sent to the President real regulatory relief to help small businesses create jobs, helping the economy and reducing the amount of unnecessary redtape in this society.

We passed health care reforms to end job lock and make health care more affordable, the Health Coverage Affordability Act of 1996, which dramatically increases the ability to change jobs without worrying about preconditions,

□ 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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guaranteeing portability, which prevents health care fraud and abuse and establishes a senior citizen incentive to turn in fraud, which creates administrative simplification to save on red-tape, which passes medical liability reform to reduce the number of lawsuits and increase the amount of care that is focused on health care rather than legal behavior, which has tax-related concerns that guarantee deductibility for long-term care and which establishes the deductibility of medical savings accounts.

All of those were done in 1 legislative day.

I think this Congress can be proud of its commitment to reform and the serious, practical, commonsense work we are engaged in to give the American people a better government at lower cost with better services.

THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA IS ON TRACK

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues may not have seen this, but today's Washington Post features a neat little chart showing the progress in the Contract With America.

Congressional compliance—signed into law; unfunded mandates—signed into law; Defense spending increases—signed into law; and on and on.

Mr. Speaker, just this week, Congress gave the President the line-item veto, we lifted the regulatory burden on small business, we started reversing the Clinton Social Security tax on the elderly, and we passed commonsense health care reform.

We have a solid record of achievement in the 104th Congress. Our Contract With America is on track—just like it says here in the Post—and, in addition, we have changed the terms of debate here in Washington.

It is no longer about should we do the right thing, it is about how we do the right thing. I am honored to be in the party that stands for America's values, not Washington's values.

THE PRIDE OF KENTUCKY

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body today to share my pride in Kentucky basketball. This past Saturday night, Sullivan College in my hometown of Louisville, won the National Junior College Athletic Association national championship basketball tournament in Hutchinson, KS—the first Kentucky team to win this championship since 1969. Sullivan defeated Allegheny College of Maryland by a score of 104 to 98 in overtime. All of us in Louisville are very proud of this team and their head coach, Gary Shourds, and president, A.R. Sullivan.

This has been a phenomenal year for Kentucky basketball. You know we are very proud of our basketball in Kentucky with the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky both in the NCAA Division I tournament. This weekend UK, my alma mater, goes for the NCAA national championship in New Jersey. In addition, Georgetown College of Georgetown, finished second in the NAIA national tournament and Northern Kentucky University finished second in the NCAA Division II national championship.

I also share with pride that Coach Gary Shourds of Sullivan College has been selected as the National Junior College Coach of the Year and will receive his championship award at the National Basketball Coach's Association luncheon this Sunday in New York City.

So I raise this declaration to all present that Kentucky is still the grandest State for basketball in all of these United States.

MISMANAGEMENT OF USDA FOOD AND CONSUMER SERVICE

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

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday, in the Agriculture appropriations hearing, I examined what can only be described as gross mismanagement in the agency that oversees our Nation's food programs. Without clear explanation, the USDA's Food and Consumer Service could not specifically account for \$13.5 billion, one-third of their budget in 1994. We do know that the agency spent \$500,000 on gourmet chefs to design food for kids and \$400,000 for the Disney Corp. to promote "Lion King" commercials in the name of child nutrition.

While Republicans have been attacked for trying to make certain that Federal agencies use taxpayer money efficiently and effectively, the Food and Consumer Service has in fact had so much money they don't know where it went. The inspector general made such a finding. Every American should be outraged at this administration's mismanagement of these funds for children, and we better look at other agencies, too, to be certain about spending in efficiency in this administration.

WAKE UP TO JAPANESE TRADE DEFICIT

(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, 10 years ago the 10 biggest banks in the world were American banks. Today the 10 biggest banks in the world are Japanese banks, all 10. Even after the merger of America's 2 biggest banks, they did not even make the top 10.

Wake up, Congress. Japanese banks did not get fat on the yen. Japanese

banks got fat pigging out on American dollars. The trade deficit just came out last month. It skyrocketed 48 percent, a 48-percent increase in 1 month, over \$10.3 billion.

Japan takes, America gives; Japan protects, America counsels; Japan regulates, America negotiates.

Let us tell it like it is. If America's trade program was so good, why does Japan not try it?

We are getting our clock cleaned, and we are not even talking about it. Think about that.

INTRODUCTION OF CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM ACT

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

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, in the 104th Congress the new Republican majority has made great strides in reforming Congress and restoring America's faith in the honesty and integrity of this institution. Indeed, our accomplishments are a shining example of promises made and promises kept.

Although we can be proud of these changes, one more vital reform remains, and that is campaign finance reform.

Today I am introducing the Congressional Campaign Finance Reform Act to restore credibility and public confidence in elections. It includes provisions that bring elections back home by requiring a majority of campaign funds to be raised from in State sources, it emphasizes grassroots fundraising by reducing PAC contributions to \$1,000 per election, and it controls the exorbitant costs of campaigns by allowing States to enact voluntary campaign spending limits as we have done in New Hampshire and in other States.

For those of my colleagues who want to complete the reform of Congress that we started so well a year and-a-half ago, let us move forward, and I urge everyone to cosponsor my legislation or any of the other bills. Let us get a vote after the April recess.

□ 1015

AMERICAN LIBERATION FROM FOREIGN OIL DEPENDENCE

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

Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join many of my colleagues in a month-long effort to bring attention to our growing dependence on foreign oil. On the fifth anniversary of the end of the Persian Gulf war and the liberation of Kuwait, it is the logical time to reflect on our domestic oil production, which is at a 40-year low.

Today there are 85,000 fewer people working in the oil and gas industry in