



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1996

No. 50

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 18, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable JACK QUINN 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 look at our world and too often we see distrust and strife, and yet we look elsewhere in our world and we see acts of kindness and deeds of good will. We live in our communities and are saddened by the strife of living and we also know people who work to strengthen our communities and build respect for every person. O gracious God, from whom comes the power for us to be people of good will, enable us to choose to be builders of character and models of integrity so we will contribute to the health of our Nation and strengthen the lives of those about us. Bless us today and every day, 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 Kansas [Mr. TIAHRT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TIAHRT 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 House to the bill (S. 735) "An act to prevent and punish acts of terrorism, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 70-770, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints Mr. BREAUX to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, vice Mr. PRYOR.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

DANGER OF A COMMUNIST COMEBACK TO THE WEST

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

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, those of us who thought the end of the cold war ended the danger of communism to the West had better think again. The headline on the front page of the New York Times recently read "Fear of a Com-

munist Comeback Has Many in Russia Packing Bags."

With all our attention on the advance of communism in Russia, we have taken our eyes off the resurgence of Stalinist style communism that threatens elsewhere. Next Sunday, the Italian people go to the polls in what is their most important election, for they must make a basic choice: Will they select these Communists, no matter what name they call themselves, to rule their nation?

We may be appalled by the thought, but it is not difficult to achieve in this disordered political system. These are the facts: There are more than 20 political parties. The center right is projected to win 45 percent of the vote. The Communists under the banner of "Progressive Democrats of the Left" will have 21 percent. A union of members of the discredited parties of the past will add 14 percent. The Northern League will probably give its 5 to 7 percent to make it 40 percent.

That leaves the Stalinist Communist Refoundation Party with its 11 percent. They are the swing vote, and the left must join them if they want to rule. Thus, Stalinist Communists will write national policy.

This scenario played out in the recent election for mayor of Rome.

At issue in this campaign is electoral reform. The center right parties want an American Presidential-type government, elected directly by the people, not by the political parties. The Communists bitterly oppose. They are against it, they say, and hold on to your hats with this one, because it is not democratic.

I bring this to your attention because what happens in Italy has consequences for NATO, Europe, and ultimately the rest of the world.

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

H3583

STOP CODDLING CRIMINALS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I thought I heard it all. Richard Allen Davis, the murderer of 12-year-old Polly Klaas, now says, yes, I killed her. I admit I killed her, but I did not rape her.

Check this out. Davis abducted 12-year-old Polly Klaas from her own home. She was later found with her miniskirt above her waist and her skull completely separated from her body. Now Davis is ready to admit the murder, but he said "I didn't rape her."

Only as a ploy to avoid the death penalty, Mr. Speaker. Unbelievable. Davis should not live to see the month of May. And I say instead of free health care for Davis, free television for Davis, free food for Davis, Davis should only get one thing free from the American taxpayers: 50,000 volts.

And it is time for Congress to stop murdering our country by coddling criminals and letting the Constitution's amendments be used to get around the death penalty.

HOW TO DO THE RIGHT THING

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

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more with the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT]. That tragedy occurred in California; the trial has gone on long enough. Let us commence the execution.

Mr. Speaker, the American people inherently know that the Federal Government has no problem spending money. This Government has created a \$5 trillion national debt, which will be paid off by our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. It has created a bureaucracy so large that almost every aspect of your life is somehow touched by it, either through regulation or through taxation.

Since the Republicans took over Congress, we may not have done everything we want to accomplish, but we have done one thing very important: We have changed the debate. It is not whether we should do the right thing, it is how to do the right thing.

For 40 years Congress has been dominated by the liberal impulse to spend more and tax more. Hopefully that philosophy has been laid to rest. The Republicans will continue to fight for the kind of change demanded by the American people in the 1994 elections, because it is wrong to steal from our children and our grandchildren, no matter how compassionate it might be.

Mr. Speaker, let us kill the tax-and-spend philosophy, the minimum wage philosophy, to spend through regulation.

TIME TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you just heard it and the American people heard it. The Republicans are talking a lot about working families, but it is time that they did more than just talk about it. It is time they decided to actually raise the minimum wage.

Seventy percent of Americans believe that the minimum wage must be increased. Now at least 20 Republicans are backing the increase in the minimum wage. It is time, Mr. Speaker, that we bring this to a vote.

Yesterday the Democrats on our Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities asked our chairman of the committee to hold hearings on the minimum wage. Democrats understand that the purchasing power of the minimum wage will soon be the lowest it has been in 40 years.

American families are working hard to get ahead, but it is tough to get by when working full-time does not even pay to get off welfare. An increase of \$0.90 means an additional \$1,800 a year in the pockets of full-time workers.

Republicans have an opportunity to join us in helping America's working families. It is time to pass the minimum wage increase bipartisanship.

AMERICANS DESERVE TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, for nearly 4 years now Bill Clinton has promised a middle-class tax cut. He promised a tax cut in the presidential campaign and he throws the words "tax cut" around at opportune times. But his actions speak louder than his words.

By a single vote, Bill Clinton rammed through the last Congress the largest tax increase in history. Then, earlier this week, 88 percent of his party opposed requiring a two-thirds supermajority to raise taxes. Increasing taxes on hardworking Americans should be as difficult as completing the tax forms.

What really gets me about Bill Clinton's veto of tax relief is that taxes not only hit Americans in the wallet, but also in the home and family. The current tax system makes Americans work harder, take second jobs, and put in longer hours just to meet their tax burden. Not only is the Government taking Americans' money, it is essentially taking the precious time they would normally spend playing with their children, going to PTA or church functions, or volunteering in their communities. Higher taxes have become a tax on free time too.

ALLOW VOTE TO RAISE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the House Republican leadership continues to pursue policies that hurt America's working families.

Just look at their continued opposition to the minimum wage. Even though the typical minimum wage worker is a woman in her twenties who is often the sole wage earner in the family, the House Republican leadership continues to dig in its heels in opposition to raising the minimum wage by a mere 90 cents from its 40-year low.

The fourth-ranking House Republican said yesterday that raising the minimum wage "is horrible economic policy." And the Republican majority leader says he would fight the minimum wage, "with every fiber of my being."

But despite their rock-like resistance, the Republican leadership can no longer duck voting to increase the minimum wage.

Stop toying with the lives of America's hard working families. Let us have a vote to raise the minimum wage.

STRANGE COMPASSION

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, with middle-class families paying 38 to 44 percent of family income in taxes, the claim that the era of big Government is over is utterly absurd. Think about it: 38 to 44 percent of middle-class family income goes to taxes. That means that the purpose of the second job in the household is to pay for taxes, which means you may think that your spouse is a computer operator or real estate agent or insurance agent or whatever, but the truth is your spouse is a government employee, working for the Government simply to pay taxes.

It got worse in 1993, when the President increased the gas tax 4 cents a gallon, increased Social Security tax, and increased taxes on small business. The Republican plan tried to counter this with a \$500 per child tax credit, an adoption tax credit, and a senior dependent tax credit. But the President vetoed that.

Think about this: We have got a Democrat Party who is telling the American people, "We are compassionate because we want you to get 90 cents more an hour, but we are against the \$500 per child tax credit offered by the Republican Party."

That is real compassion, comrades, real compassion.

THE NRA; AN ORGANIZATION WITH NO SHAME

(Mr. SCHUMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1