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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 13, 1996, at 12 noon.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1996

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 10, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable HAROLD ROGERS 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 pray, gracious God, that we will be wise custodians of the gifts that You have made available to us and to all people. Whether we be young or old and whatever our background or history, whether we have great responsibilities or have power and influence, remind each of us that we are to use our gifts in ways that promote justice and righteousness in the land and peace and freedom in all the world. Remind us that all our gifts are from above and we are to be wise stewards and guardians of all the riches we have received, using these gifts so that in all things we do justice, love mercy, and ever walk humbly with You. 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. SOLOMON. 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. SOLOMON. 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 of rule I, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. CHABOT 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

REPUBLICAN PARTY RESPECTS WOMEN

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

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, in this Republican-controlled Congress, women have reached new heights. In addition to the two women committee chairs; the two women subcommittee chairs; the women serving as secretary and vice chair of the Republican conference and the first female clerk of the House, there are a number of women serving in very important, high profile staff jobs.

These women are universally respected on our side of the aisle for their hard work and professionalism. However, that does not seem to hold true for some of our counterparts on the other side. During a hearing yesterday, two Democratic Members publicly questioned the motives of two female Republican staffers based on who their spouses are.

As a working woman myself, I am truly shocked that even after all the gains we have made, some people still believe that we women can't think for ourselves. I am glad, however, that I belong to a party that respects me based on who I am and what I do rather

□ 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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than resorting to some outdated sexist double standard.

THE BUDGET

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Speaker GINGRICH has put together his new budget, Medicare cuts, Medicaid cuts in the tens of billions of dollars, cuts in student loans, all to give tax breaks to the richest people in the country.

Here we go again, Mr. Speaker. Last year when the Speaker introduced this Gingrich budget, again, tax breaks for the rich paid for by Medicare and Medicaid, student loan cuts. It kept going and going. Finally, they shut down the Government to get their way.

The public clearly did not buy what they were saying. The public opposes these Medicare and Medicaid cuts, opposes these student loan cuts to give tax breaks for the rich. Here we go again.

The public again is going to have to stand up as we are on this side of the aisle and reject that way of thinking. Let us work together, Mr. Speaker, to get a good budget without the draconian Medicare and Medicaid cuts, without tax breaks for the richest people in society. Balance the budget, move forward on increasing the minimum wage and building middle class wage jobs.

CREDIBILITY CANYON

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it is always with great interest that I come to the well, hearing the same old tired bromides from the liberals, including my dear friend from Ohio. No wonder there is more than a credibility gap; there is a credibility canyon. And today we have a real gender gap.

Far apart is the rhetoric of the liberal side about ennobling and empowering women and right on the other side is their actions taken against working women. Two liberal male Members of this body yesterday in a Committee on Government Reform and Oversight hearing chose to attack two female staffers, not for who they are but for who they are married to. The depths of the desperation of the liberal side are truly amazing. Along with the credibility canyon, nursed by their accomplices in the liberal media, to allow them to say one thing and do another.

It will not play this time. Let us close this gender gap. Let us respect everyone in this House.

A MOTHER'S DAY GIFT

(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 gentleman who just spoke would be reminded that Mary Matalin, who is an enormously talented woman, was ousted from the Dole campaign because she happened to be married to James Carville. People in glass houses should not throw stones.

Mr. Speaker, with Mother's Day only 2 days away, I know many people are puzzled about what to get Mom on Sunday.

Let's look at what Republicans have offered the mothers of America in the budget they unwrapped earlier this week.

If your mother depends on Medicare for her health care, the Republicans have given her a \$168 billion cut to pay for unnecessary tax breaks including those that benefit the wealthy.

If your mother is in a nursing home on Medicaid, the Republicans have given her a \$72 billion cut combined with a block grant approach that jeopardizes the coverage for her nursing home care.

The greatest gift congressional Republicans can give mothers and their hard working families is a new budget rather than this rehash of the same extreme positions and the same skewed priorities as the budget they proposed last year.

It's time for NEWT GINGRICH and the Republican leadership to put families first.

CALLING FOR AN APOLOGY

(Mrs. CUBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I have been misled. I thought that Members of Congress were supposed to hold themselves to a higher standard. I thought that they were supposed to conduct themselves in a respectful manner. I was even naive enough to believe that male Members of Congress were supposed to treat females and males equally.

Boy, was I mistaken.

Yesterday, two Democrat Congressmen insulted two hard-working and dedicated female staffers. Not because of their job performance, not because of anything they said, and not because of anything they did. The only reason these staffers were insulted was because their husbands were prominent public servants.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when we are supposed to be honoring our mothers for their selfless dedication and hard work, these two Democrat Congressmen have set new lows in the respect for women. They should apologize for their insulting remarks.

NEW MEXICO FIRES

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, despite what you may be hearing, New

Mexico and Taos County are not burning. Our fires, thankfully, have been contained. New Mexico is open for business and tourism. In fact, 99.5 percent of Taos County where this fire took place did not burn.

I would like to let everybody know these fires were composed of a small percentage of land in northern New Mexico. We certainly have not closed our borders to traveling Americans because of them. In fact, Americans should know New Mexico continues to have some of the finest camping, fishing, hiking, skiing anywhere in the country as well as the famous southwestern cultural attractions in Santa Fe and Taos and our Indian pueblos. So as long as you are not in the habit of throwing burning cigarettes and matches on the ground, we wholeheartedly welcome you to New Mexico.

CALLING FOR A PUBLIC APOLOGY

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, yesterday at a Government Reform and Oversight Committee Hearing, two Democrat lawmakers emerged from their stone-age caves.

In a manner that only the Peking man could truly appreciate, they called into question the motives of two hard-working female staffers because they were married to prominent public officials.

In a town like Washington, many folks—both male and female—are married to prominent public officials. But according to this club-waving, cave-man mentality, if you are a woman you are incapable of rubbing two sticks together—much less having an independent thought.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon these supposed gentlemen to publicly apologize to all women for their ice-age mentality.

WINDFALL PROFITS TAX

(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, while gas keeps going up, oil companies keep making excuses. They say the blizzard did it. Spring sprung sooner than expected. More people are buying gas guzzlers and, check this one out, to try and help us, they waited and waited and waited to buy the crude oil at such a low price so they could pass the savings on to us.

Spare me, Mr. Speaker, the profits of Unocal are up 70 percent; Marathon, 180 percent; Phillips, 500 percent. Who is kidding whom? These creeps make the Mafia look like choir boys, Mr. Speaker.

I did not vote for the gas tax. I am going to vote to repeal the gas tax. But I also think we should slap a windfall