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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. COLLINS of Georgia].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 19, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable MAC COLLINS 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:

When we see violence in any form, O God, we cringe and are appalled. And when we see violence against our places of worship, we can despair and lose hope for there is madness about. Yet, O loving and gracious God, You would have all people of good will persevere in peace and be open to the healing and reconciliation that builds community and respect. May Your Spirit, O God, that can accomplish what we cannot, be with those who hurt and may each person speak and work and give in ways that promote justice and peace. 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 Ohio [Mr. BROWN]

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio 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 without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3029. An act to designate the United States courthouse in Washington, District of Columbia, as the "E. Barrett Prettyman United States Courthouse."

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 85-874, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, appoints the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. SIMPSON] to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will receive fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

REPUBLICAN HEALTH CARE REFORM BLOCKED IN THE SENATE BECAUSE IT DOES NOT RELY ON GOVERNMENT MANDATES

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, in 1992 the House Republicans, working with President Bush, put together an excellent health care bill designed to address the questions of portability and

affordability for the American people. That bill was not allowed on the floor in 1992 by the then majority Democrat leadership.

As Members know, we have struggled with this question of health care for some time. We have passed through the House a bill that ensures affordability, ensures portability, and offers to 40 million Americans the health care savings account. The people who would take advantage of these are the self-employed and employees of small business, people who would have an opportunity to buy the most rational insurance possible for themselves by their own choosing, get a tax credit for putting money in a savings account with which to deal with the deductible and incidental medical expenses, and an ability to do something for themselves on their own health care.

That bill is under consideration in the other body and is stopped by one Senator and one Senator alone, from Massachusetts, who apparently does not like freedom and would only have the Americans do what they please if it is mandated.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members they should not refer to Members of the other body by name or in an identifiable way.

CONSUMERS UNION WEIGHS IN AGAINST MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

(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, in fact, we do want to have portable and secure health insurance for people, and we

□ 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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want to have insurance companies prohibited from not insuring folks for their preexisting conditions. But let me tell the Members, under the banner of reform, what the congressional majority has done to the health care bill.

Do not take my word for it, take the word of Consumers Union. Consumers Union produces the Consumer Reports that advise us on buying an automobile, an appliance, and not to buy a lemon. Let me tell the Members what they say about medical savings accounts, which is holding up the health care reform bill:

The inclusion of the Republican MSA proposal in the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill makes the legislation worse than a wash for consumers. It takes us backward in our efforts to make health insurance accessible and affordable.

MSA's are a time bomb. They turn the very principle of insurance on its head. Instead of pooling resources, they help healthy people accumulate wealth.

I ask Members to be on their guard and oppose the MSA's.

HEALTH CARE REFORM: COMMON-SENSE ANSWERS FOR AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE NEEDS

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage our colleagues to join me in calling on the Senate to pass our commonsense health care reforms now. These are reasonable changes like portability, affordability, and most of all, accessibility.

Portability is within this Congress' grasp. And here our reforms can end job lock, giving tens of thousands of Americans the opportunity to maintain their health care coverage, without sacrificing their careers.

Second, by allowing individuals tax-free medical savings accounts, expanding the health insurance deduction for the self-employed and introducing tax incentives to promote long-term care coverage, we are helping people help themselves.

But finally, Mr. Speaker, this Congress has the opportunity to end the preexisting conditions exclusion, which keeps more than 20 million Americans from the coverage they need.

One of these is, in fact, one of my own family. They have a full time job and pay their taxes. Yet, because of a condition that they developed, they cannot secure the health care coverage that they need and want.

I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that when we cast our final votes on this package, it will be these three commonsense reforms, portability, affordability, and accessibility, that will be foremost in the minds of all Americans.

GRANTING MFN TO CHINA NOT FAIR TO AMERICAN WORKERS

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I had planned to hold up a toy assault weapon when I spoke today on the House floor. House rules suggest I not do so.

This toy gun was made in China. It is only a toy. But the 2,000 assault weapons that the U.S. attorney in San Francisco found last month were not toys. They were the real thing, smuggled in by the Chinese Government or a company controlled by the Chinese Government. It is sometimes hard to tell the difference when you are dealing with a Communist country that uses slave labor.

The assault weapons in California kill people. Those toys made by the Chinese in Chinese slave labor camps kill jobs, American jobs. The trade deficit with China is \$34 billion a year and growing. Before long it will be greater than the deficit we have with Japan. MFN, most-favored-nation status, is not fair to American workers. Kill MFN.

THE NEA MUST GO

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. The NEA insists on offending American families. Freshman Republicans tried to eliminate taxpayer funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, in part because taxpayers should not have to subsidize art which blatantly offends the religious beliefs and family values of most Americans. As Bob Dole puts it, most people know the difference between Mapplethorpe and Michelangelo.

Now the NEA has crossed the lines again with a debut this Sunday of the "Watermelon Woman" film at the New York Lesbian and Gay Video and Film Festival. The film is described in the Washington Times as "black lesbian quirky, steamy, and taxpayer funded." The Times goes on to quote Edmond Peterson, chairman of Project 21, an organization of conservative blacks, saying: "This is a classic example of the Clinton administration being in bed with the gay-lesbian movement and funding a project through tax dollars that cannot get funded any other way."

Mr. Speaker, it is a free country and people can make any kind of trash they want, but taxpayers should not have to pay for it. It is time we cut off funding for the NEA.

A MODERN-DAY HELEN OF TROY

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, Helen of Troy supposedly launched many ships with just her face. Today I

picked up the Hill and read that the Speaker of the House is giving me credit for launching the Republican budget with my face. I want to thank him, but I cannot take credit.

Everybody wondered how the Republicans got the last four votes on this Republican budget that they launched, because this Republican budget increases the deficit from this year, next year, and the next year. It is a disaster. It's a ship that should be sunk, not launched.

Mr. Speaker, when the Republicans counted the votes, they did not have them, so they had to keep the voting machine open for a very long time while they pressured their Members to change. The Speaker said he did not have to work at all, that their four changers very willingly came down here and changed when they saw my face. That is fairly incredible, because I was not here. I was one of the first to vote, went home, and was watching the vote on C-SPAN, so I have something over Helen of Troy. If the Speaker is right, they can beam my face right back in here from C-SPAN even if I'm absent.

MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS ARE NEW APPROACH WITH PROVEN TRACK RECORD

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, medical savings accounts have become a focal point for this whole debate over the health care reform. MSA's are a new approach, but they do have a proven track record.

A recent study by researchers at Cleveland State University prove the effectiveness of MSA's. They studied 27 Ohio firms of less than 200 employees. The average employee had lower out-of-pocket costs—as much as \$1,355 per family. The firms themselves saved an average of 12 percent a year without passing on the savings to their employees.

Mr. Speaker, as of last year, 17 States have passed MSA laws, another 11 are considering them, and another 11 have called on Congress to enact MSA's. Even the United Mine Workers offers MSA's to its members. Let us join the trend toward serious, workable health care reform; let us follow the lead of the States and enact the kind of reforms that have a proven track record.

CALL GHOSTBUSTERS FOR AIRLINE SAFETY

(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, before the ValuJet crash, an FAA inspector said that ValuJet is an accident waiting to happen. It is so bad, she