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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. CHAMBLISS].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 20, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable SAXBY CHAMBLISS 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 You are the creator of the whole world, O God, and have blessed us and ever watch over us, we express our petitions before You seeking Your grace and mercy. We remember those who have special need this day—those in sorrow or sadness, those who need Your healing hand and Your word of blessing, those who look for confidence and trust, those who seek courage and strength. May Your peace, O gracious God, that is always with us, be and abide with all Your people, now and evermore. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHAMBLISS). 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 Colorado [Mr. HEFLEY]

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

Mr. HEFLEY 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 fifteen 1-minutes per side.

WHY IS CRAIG LIVINGSTONE STILL ON THE WHITE HOUSE PAYROLL?

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, why are taxpayers paying Craig Livingstone not to work? He is the guy who was involved in pawing through the private FBI background files on political opponents of President Clinton. Even the director of the FBI, a Clinton appointee, has termed his conduct "an egregious violation of privacy."

Does the buck stop with Livingstone? Do not bet on it. Others at the White House chose to plead executive privilege to cover this stuff up, but Craig Livingstone is the one that the White House has chosen to suspend. His job has now been reorganized out of existence, yet he continues to be paid with taxpayer dollars.

True, there are probably a lot worse things than paying Craig Livingstone not to work, like paying him to continue his sleazy investigations of American citizens. It is not like he has been named as an unindicted co-conspirator or something. Still, it is curious that he remains on the White House payroll. Very curious.

REPUBLICAN TAX BREAKS FOR THE WEALTHY

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to criticize the Gingrich-Dole Medicare cuts because basically they are being used to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy. They open the door for doctors to overcharge seniors beyond current copayment ceilings, and basically force seniors into managed care and eliminate their choice of doctors.

But now these tax breaks are coming at the very time when, in today's New York Times, it is reported that the income disparity between the poorest and the richest continues to rise. The Census Bureau said today that the gap between the most affluent Americans and everyone else is wider than it has been since the end of World War II, and the Bureau has determined that from 1968, when the gap began to widen, to 1994, the last year for which complete data were available, each indicator has shown a pronounced increase between the gap in the income of the well-to-do and those of the poor and working class. So why do we continue to make these Medicare cuts in order to give tax breaks to the wealthy?

The income disparity in this country has never been as great, and it just indicates once again why the Gingrich Republicans and the Republican leadership continue to play to the special interests, and that is the wealthy Americans, with these tax cuts.

UNINDICTED CO-CONSPIRATOR?

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, one of Bill Clinton's closest advisers, and best

□ 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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friends, Bruce Lindsey, has been named an unindicted coconspirator in the Arkansas trial of two bankers involved in the Whitewater scandal.

Unindicted coconspirator? Mr. Speaker, when was the last time you heard that term used in relation to the White House? How about 1974. That is right—Watergate.

Mr. Lindsey's designation as a co-conspirator is a significant turn of events. What this means is that someone inside Bill Clinton's circle of top advisers has been linked directly to the illegal diversion of funds to Clinton's 1990 campaign for Governor.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton's propensity for unethical, if not blatantly illegal behavior, can no longer be ignored.

Whitewater. Travelgate. Filegate. All of these scandals are just now starting to mushroom and they all demonstrate a White House devoid of any sense of ethical proportion.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind the Member to avoid personal references to the President.

INCOME DISPARITY BETWEEN RICH AND POOR IS STEADILY IN- CREASING

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, the New York Times today, and other newspapers, point out that the income disparity, that is, the gap between the wealthiest, the poorest, and the middle class, is steadily growing; no secret to many working middle-class Americans. From 1968 to 1994, the rich were indeed getting richer, the poor poorer, and a lot of folks just are not moving anywhere.

So what has been the response in the Gingrich-Dole budget that has passed this House and actually passed the Congress? First was to cut back the earned income tax credit for working families earning under \$28,000. That means thousands of West Virginia working families will actually see a tax increase, not a tax cut. Oh, yes, I know about the \$500 tax credit that is proposed. However, that will mean that one-third of low-income children will not see a benefit from that, and it will not offset the tax increase that many of our working families will see.

Another response has been to cut Medicare for those who need it the most to pay for a tax break, many of the benefits of which will go to the wealthiest. That does not make much sense.

Finally, for those trying to be upwardly mobile and get an education, the Gingrich-Dole budget would also rein in student loans. They are trying to cut the rungs off the very ladder people are trying to climb up.

SALES OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO CHINESE COMPANY

(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, the White House approved a \$140 million sale of nuclear technology to a Chinese company that has already sold nuclear technology to Pakistan and Iran. The White House said do not worry, this time the Chinese Energy Corp. has promised not to do this again. Unbelievable. Who is on first? What is on second?

America gives money to Russia, Russia sells billions of dollars' worth of technology to China, China sells the technology to our enemies. The White House threatens China, then the White House sells nuclear technology to China, and China says do not worry.

Beam me up, here. It is completely evident the left hand at the White House does not know what the far left hand is doing. I yield back the balance of any nuclear reactors that we will be facing in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENT TO FIX THE LAWLESS LOGGING RIDER

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

Ms. FURSE. Today, Mr. Speaker, we have a chance to do something that the people of this country have been asking us to do for almost a year. We have a chance to fix the infamous lawless logging rider. We will be offering a bipartisan amendment which will be called the

Porter-Yates-Furse-Morella amendment. It will go a long way toward fixing that infamous rider. That rider passed with no hearings, no scientific input, in the middle of the night, stuck on another bill, and no one knew the consequences. But soon the people told us the consequences. We heard from grandmothers, Boy Scouts, fishermen, scientists, and local communities. They said the rider had been a disaster, and they were right.

Our amendment, Mr. Speaker, it not antilogging, our amendment is prologging under the law. We have been asked to trust a huge Federal bureaucracy to just do the right thing. Trust us, they say. We say, trust the law. So I hope and we hope that my colleagues will help support this amendment that will fix the lawless logging rider.

DEMAND FOR TRUST ABOUT WHITE HOUSE MISHANDLING OF FBI FILES

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration has sunk to new

depths of incompetency and unethical behavior.

The President is sending his spin machine into overdrive in a massive attempt to prove that his actions were not unethical or illegal, but simply a bureaucratic snafu.

Think about it, Mr. Speaker. This administration is making every effort possible to prove that its actions were incompetent. That is the best news that can come out of their inexcusable mishandling of these files.

Mr. Speaker, we do not need Clinton's spinmeisters to prove to us that this administration is incompetent. We need the Clinton spin doctors to prove to us that they can tell us the honest truth about just one of the Clinton scandals without changing their story on a daily basis. And we need for them to prove to us that this administration is truly sorry and willing to cooperate with us in an effort to find out why the rights of individuals could be so hazily violated as they were in this case.

CHURCH BURNINGS

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, over the past few days I have spoken with people who have seen the center of their communities destroyed. When a church is burned much more is desecrated than the wood and the bricks. Churches are placed where families and friends meet, hold community events, and pray. In poor areas where people struggle to get through each day, the church is a place to ask for strength, help and perseverance.

Thankfully, despite losing their churches, these people have not lost their spirit. In DeKalb County, where I live, the predominantly white and integrated congregations affected by these cowardly acts must know that there are extremists in this country who wish to divide us. However, now more than ever, we must unite and send a clear message that their efforts to divide us will fail. They may burn our churches, but they will never destroy our spirit.

WHITE HOUSE BREACH OF CITI- ZENS' PRIVACY WITH FBI FILES MUST BE INVESTIGATED BY INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATOR

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton White House is at it again. The most recent incident, involving the breaching of privacy of nearly 500 American citizens, reaffirms a disturbing trend throughout the President's tenure in office. The background check of these American citizens, as requested by the White House, is an outrageous misuse