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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Ms. GREENE of Utah].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 26, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable ENID GREENE 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 remember with gratitude and appreciation, O God, the members of our Armed Forces who serve in our land and in distant places. We recognize their commitment and faithfulness and they are with us in our prayers. On this day we specially remember those who faced violence and death in places of service so many miles from home. We reach out to their families and those they love asking that the power of Your promises and Your abiding strength will be with them in their need. May those whose joy has been turned to sorrow sense our prayers for them and may Your peace be with them, now and evermore. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. KLINK 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-minute speeches on each side.

IN MEMORY OF D. PRESCOTT GRIFFITHS

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Madam Speaker, D. Prescott Griffiths, known to friends as "Don" or "Grif," was an outstanding example of the American Hero. He lived in Douglasville, in the Seventh District of Georgia, where he recently passed away. Born in New York City during the Great Depression, Don grew up in an atmosphere of family devotion, decency, and service.

Enlistment in the U.S. Army brought him to combat service in Korea, where after being shot down over enemy territory and wounded, it was discovered he had been underage at enlistment in order to serve his country. Later, he was recruited to hold an important post in counterintelligence with the Army C.I.D. in England, and he continued to give honorable service until his retirement. His absolute and complete memory recall made him one of the best counterintelligence agents of the cold war era.

His international and political contacts were legion, and he could always be counted on for encouragement and friendly advice.

Perhaps his memory can best be summed up in his own words. He said:

Life is a slice of time, brief and brutal. It is important to know love, to be loved, and to give love. And that's what it's all about.

To his country, which he deeply loved, D. Prescott Griffiths gave his all. He will be sorely missed and fondly remembered.

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE BOMB EXPLOSION IN DHAHRAN, SAUDI ARABIA

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

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the minority leader, Mr. GEPHARDT, who cannot be here this morning, and myself, I wish to express sadness to the families who have lost their loved ones in the bomb explosion in Saudi Arabia. Not only Americans were killed, but others from France and from Great Britain probably were killed or hurt.

Now, Madam Speaker, this has to be a terrorist attack, in my opinion. Who did it, we do not know. But only 7 months ago, a car bomb explosion killed 5 Americans in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. You know, we are really there in these countries for no other reason but to help these people and to bring peace in these areas. Why do these bad people hurt our innocent victims that are only doing their jobs? The President has sent FBI teams to help the Saudis to find out who did this heinous crime.

□ 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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THE WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, anyone watching the news this week would have been impressed with the President's sudden commitment to promoting workplace flexibility, but my question is this: Where was the President last year when I introduced the Working Families Flexibility Act; a bill that would allow an employee to choose between cash wages or paid time off for overtime work—a valuable opportunity to spend more time with family. Not only did the President oppose this bill—at the request of the Washington union bosses who are spending \$35 million to run false and misleading campaign ads against Republicans—but his Chief of Staff, Leon Panetta, calls it a poison pill. Why the sudden change of heart?

Madam Speaker, my guess is the President's army of political hacks and spin gurus suddenly discovered in their polling that American women overwhelmingly support the Republican Working Families Flexibility Act, and they had better do some good ole stump proposals just to cover their electoral bases. While Washington pundits might praise the President's ability to hijack important issues for political gain, this kind of gamesmanship only hurts the American people and their ability to balance the conflicting pressures of work and family—especially working women. This is hardly a formula for election year success.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF BOMB EXPLOSION IN SAUDI ARABIA

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

Mr. VENTO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the loss of life that took place in Saudi Arabia, those United States troops and soldiers serving a peacekeeping mission, an important peacekeeping mission. Nearly 2,500 United States troops, mainly Air Force, are still stationed in Saudi Arabia today. I want to extend my sympathies and that of this House to those in uniform that are serving and the families that have experienced this loss of life, as well as the civilians and other loss of life that occurred. Nearly 150, perhaps more, were injured. We know at least 24 have lost their lives in this tragic accident.

The President rightly has put a top priority on this in terms of investigating and trying to deal with the forces within Saudi Arabia, even as we are doing peacekeeping, that are politically unstable and causing serious problems and outrageous actions and issues that we face. I think it is impor-

tant to remember that any time anyone puts on a uniform, whether in war or in peacekeeping, obviously their lives are at risk. And it is enormously important as the U.S. Nation assign duties and responsibilities and assume the role that we do, that leadership consider the security, safety, and mission risks that our Armed Forces experience in the important and changing role that they fulfill.

ATTEMPTING TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. GINGRICH. Madam Speaker, I just rise to report again to my colleagues that we are trying to reach an agreement with the Clinton administration on health reform so that every working family that has health insurance would be able to change jobs, would be able to continue their insurance without any worry about a pre-condition.

We think it is very, very important that every American know that once they are in the insurance system, they are there for the rest of their life. I have had personal experience in my family, I think every Member has either family or friends who have had the experience of not being able to buy health insurance because of a pre-condition.

We can reach an agreement this week before we go home. It is good for America. It is important for America. This House has voted to go to conference. We should pass health reform to guarantee that every family in America has access to health insurance without regard to preconditions, and we should do it before we go home this week. I hope the Clinton administration will reach an agreement with us today to have that kind of health reform for all Americans.

HORROR IN SAUDI ARABIA

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, like my colleagues previously, I rise to offer my heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and the injured survivors of the bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Also, Madam Speaker, on behalf of the minority of this House, I would like to thank them for recognizing this as the priority issue of the day in allowing the first few of us to speak to this concern.

Terrorism and extremism know no territorial boundary. We must, here in this House, engage the international community in working vigilantly to identify and eradicate the perpetrators

of terrorism at their cancerous roots. We in this body must give our law enforcers the tools they need to infiltrate terrorist organizations, deport terrorists and choke their funding mechanisms.

As President Clinton said yesterday, whoever harms an American anywhere in the world will pay. The difference, however, between us and the perpetrators of this kind of crime is that we resolve our disputes in a legal fashion using the rule of law and not of the jungle or desert.

LIBERALS WANT TO SCUTTLE HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I wish to follow up on Speaker GINGRICH's comment on health care.

It is very simple to see what is going on here. Liberals lost the battle over nationalizing health care. Now they want to scuttle any health care plan that does not make the Government bigger. It is a shame. It is a shame because millions of American families would benefit from the health care reform bill being held up by the liberals in the Senate. Millions of people would be able to establish medical savings accounts. Many others would be forced to remain in job lock because they have a prior condition.

Madam Speaker, the health care reform bill now before Congress has bipartisan support. In fact, last week, 25 Democrats sent a letter to President Clinton urging him to support these commonsense reforms that the American people have been demanding for years. They do not want more government. They want portable, available, and affordable health care.

Madam Speaker, let us pass the health care bipartisan reform bill now.

WHITE HOUSE USE OF SECRET FBI AND IRS FILES

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, the White House use of secret FBI files was bad. The White House use of secret IRS files is even worse. After all this, FBI Director Freeh said it is an honest mistake and Secretary Rubin blamed it on a junior detailee. Beam me up.

Who in God's name gave the White House the power to snoop into our private lives? Who at the FBI has the right to violate the Privacy Act? Who at the Internal Revenue Service has the right to violate their oaths and betray American taxpayers? These are not honest mistakes. They are looking day in and day out. Looks like a crime to me.

When Congress allows the White House to act like the KGB, Congress allows the Government of Jefferson and