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House of Representatives

The House met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. WHITE].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 27, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable RICK WHITE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Ronald F. Christian, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Washington, DC., offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we acknowledge this day our dependence upon Your gracious care and mercy. Faced with great personal loss and national pain, our thoughts always turn to You seeking Your solace and comfort. We do so again today, O Lord.

In the comings and goings of our lives, it is appropriate that we pause, remember, and give thanks for families and friends of those in our national family who are brought home on their last journey this day. Oh God, grant Your mercy to those who now rest from their labors and to all who mourn. And, for the life and work of Bill Emerson, we give You thanks and seek that same mercy.

May all of our days for all of us be so numbered before You that our efforts for good will be untiring, that our concern for justice will never waver, and that our work for peace be forever urgent and steadfastly determined. 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. WYNN. 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. WYNN. 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 matter will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia 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 and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2437. An act to provide for the exchange of certain lands in Gilpin County, Colorado.

H. Con. Res. 102. Concurrent resolution concerning the emancipation of the Iranian Baha'i community.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 3517. An act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3525. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the Federal jurisdiction over offenses relating to damage to religious property.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendments to the bill (H.R. 3517) "An Act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon and appoints Mr. BURNS, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. GREGG, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. REID, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. BYRD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

COST OF GOVERNMENT DAY

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the celebration of our Nation's independence, let us reflect on one of the lines in the Declaration of Independence.

□ 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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Referring to the repeated injuries and usurpations inflicted upon them by the King of England, Jefferson wrote:

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.

Sadly and outrageously, Mr. Speaker, this describes the way many Americans feel about the enormous size, intrusiveness and cost of Government today.

That is why I am introducing a sense-of-the-Congress resolution today to highlight cost of Government day, which this year is coincidentally 1 day before Independence Day. That is right, Mr. Speaker, according to Americans for Tax Reform, from January 1 through July 3 this year, Americans are working to pay for Government spending at all levels plus the cost of regulations.

One hundred eighty-four days to pay for Government and regulations and 181 days to pay for the things they and their families really need. This situation, my colleagues, has gotten ridiculous. Maybe it is time for a new Declaration of Independence, Mr. Speaker.

GENERAL MOTORS CLOSING MORE U.S. AUTO PLANTS AND MOVING JOBS OVERSEAS

(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, General Motors has closed another auto plant in America, this time Tarrytown, NY. 2,100 American workers, gonesville.

In addition, General Motors announced it will close another seven factories in America in the next several years.

Now, if that is not enough to grease your slip clutch, General Motors announced it is building a billion-dollar factory in Thailand and a massive new plant in Mexico, and because the Mexican workers are so poor, they will help build the Mexican workers new homes. Unbelievable. Think about it. American workers losing their homes, General Motors building homes for Mexican workers, averaging 70 cents an hour.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. For years I thought the Three Stooges ran our economic policy. Today I suspect Dr. Jack Kevorkian. This is no program.

Before the day is over, we will approve most-favored-nation trade status for a country that pays 17 cents an hour wages.

I yield back any jobs left.

TRIBUTE TO HON. BILL EMERSON OF MISSOURI

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that I regret very much

that I was not able to be on the floor when a number of Members rose to pay tribute to Bill Emerson, and I urge all Members today, as we have a very spirited debate, to keep in our thoughts and prayers Bill Emerson and the work that he did on behalf of his constituents. As we meet here at this hour, there is a service being conducted for him in Cape Girardeau, MO, and I urge all Members to remember Bill and in the days and months ahead to remember Jo Ann Emerson and Bill Emerson's family.

MUZZLING DEBATE ON UNITED STATES-CHINA TRADE RELATIONS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, what a travesty. Last Tuesday in the dead of night, with Members of this House given no voice and no notice, the House Rules Committee, at the behest of Speaker GINGRICH, ramrodded a rule to restrict debate on the critical issue of United States-China trade relations. Then last night, after 1 a.m., the restrictive rule was voice-voted by a deal struck by the proponents to muzzle debate today. Members were not recorded on that key rule vote. Now today the brief debate on whether Congress will actually grant Most Favored Nation trade status to China for the first time in a straight up or down vote in this Chamber will occur and the debate itself while most Members are at Bill Emerson's funeral today. What an outrage.

Commerce with a fascist state will not yield liberty. Our 250-million-person market cannot sustain these gaping trade deficits growing every year with a nation of 1 billion 250 million people. Just the \$40 billion trade deficit this year means another 800,000 lost jobs in America.

EXHIBIT HONORING MARK TWAIN

(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. Mr. Speaker, for 75 days this summer the people of Cobb County, GA, and neighboring communities will have a unique opportunity to view an exhibit featuring original materials from America's great writer and humorist: Mark Twain.

The exhibit, known as, "Mark Twain: An American Voice to the World," will be on display in Kennesaw State University's Horace Sturgis Library, and will feature original manuscripts, artifacts, first editions, and other items from this great American author.

The exhibition has been praised as "The most richly varied and representative display of original materials relating to the life and works of Mark Twain ever assembled for public exhibi-

tion," by Robert Pack Browning, director of the Mark Twain papers at the University of California, Berkeley.

I would like to congratulate Kennesaw State University president Betty L. Siegel, library director Robert B. Williams, and his staff. I would also like to thank the numerous institutions and collectors who participated in the exhibition. My thanks goes also to my colleagues, Speaker GINGRICH, and Fifth District Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and to Fred Bentley, Sr., for making this project a reality for the people of Georgia.

THE MANAGED CARE BILL OF RIGHTS OF 1996

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise before the Members to introduce a crucial piece of legislation that is long overdue, the managed care bill of rights of 1996.

Today I introduce this legislation in response to a repulsive and dangerous trend that is taking place. Across this country, Americans are joining managed care plans in order to cut costs. However, while ultra-wealthy HMO's are making multibillion-dollar profits, working-class families are paying for these profits with their health and, in some cases, their lives.

Health care companies should make people healthier, not sicker, yet HMO patients are routinely denied access to specialists and refused compensation for emergency room visits. My legislation will put an end to these cruel policies. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and work toward safeguarding every American's access to quality health care.

SUPPORT THE WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, once again, the Clinton administration has stolen yet another Republican idea and called it their own. After originally opposing legislation that would let hard-working Americans spend more time with their families, the President has chosen to co-opt this popular idea. This is a desperate action by a desperate man in a political year.

When a Republican bill containing comp time, the Working Families Flexibility Act, was first mentioned as the minimum-wage legislative vehicle, the President's Chief of Staff, Leon Panetta, called it a poison pill and President Clinton waved his veto pen at it. But now after the Republicans have built support for this legislation, the President ran down to Nashville this past weekend to announce his own version of a comp time bill.