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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 24, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable DAVID L. HOBSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Danny McCain, professor of Christian studies, University of Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, the Bible declares about governments, "The authorities that exist have been established by God." We acknowledge Your supreme lordship over this Nation.

Because You are a merciful God, we repent for often ignoring and disobeying You in our personal and national lives.

We pray our Nation will be like a lighthouse beside the global seashore signaling out messages of hope and inspiration to those unfortunate nations still struggling in the darkness of ignorance, oppression, and injustice.

We pray that those in this Chamber will acknowledge Your divine sovereignty, that their words and decisions will be characterized by truth and humility, and that all Members of this House will be worthy to represent us by their moral and spiritual example.

In Jesus' name. 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. STEARNS. 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.

Mr. STEARNS. 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, 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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. GILLMOR] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GILLMOR 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. This morning the Chair will recognize twenty 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle as agreed to by the leadership.

WELCOME TO THE REVEREND DR. DANNY MCCAIN

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Danny McCain is the founder and international director at large of International Institute for Christian Studies [IICS]. This organization develops and enhances academic Christian studies programs in public universities in 10 countries including Nigeria, Russia, Ukraine, and China.

In university classrooms that just 5 years ago were devoted to the teaching of atheism, IICS professors have been invited to teach about the moral foundations of society which Christianity provides.

During the past year, Dr. McCain has taught over 300 West African teachers who daily teach religious and moral education in the public schools. At a recent seminar, the commissioner for education said, "Our country is in trouble; most of our troubles are related to morals; morals are derived from religion. Moral and religious education is essential for our Nation's survival." I am sure we could learn much about the source of moral values from these developing nations.

Dr. McCain currently serves as a senior lecturer in the University of Jos, Nigeria, where he and his family have lived for the past 7 years.

It is a pleasure to have him as our guest chaplain today.

IN MEMORIAM: MIKE SYNAR

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

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, many of us have just returned this morning from a memorial service for our departed colleague, the gentleman from Oklahoma, Michael Synar. It was a moving tribute to an extraordinary man and a courageous public servant.

Mike set the highest possible standards for himself and for this place, a

□ 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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place which he dearly loved. He did his best to act on principle while being fully engaged in the arena. In this place where the line between legitimate compromise and expediency is so often fuzzed, Mike Synar knew the difference. He had a clear head and a moral compass that guided him, not always with perfect outcomes but always with a perfect sense of integrity. He knew that a seat in this House was simply not worth having if there were not some things that you were willing to risk losing it over.

What tribute can we give to this man? Perhaps to give back some of the love he showed for this wonderful institution of our democracy by treating each other better and respecting the principles that we all hold, principles that Mike was so true to in his own service here. Perhaps we can draw some inspiration from his life and service and do so in his name and memory.

STATE OF THE UNION

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the President said a lot of the right things last night. He says the era of big government is over. He says that he now understands that working families are overtaxed. And he even implies that he is now willing to sign the welfare reform, balanced budget, and tax cut measures that he has vetoed over the last few months. Good news, if he means it, very good news.

If the President now means it and he will support tax cuts for working families rather than demagoging about mythical tax cuts for the rich, that is very good news.

If the President now means it that people in Cincinnati should be able to keep more of their own money, rather than seeing it wasted by high flying bureaucrats like Hazel O'Leary, that is good news.

In short, Mr. Speaker, if the President now wants to work together for tax relief and for an end to big government ripoffs—then I am with him all the way. It is great to see that the President is now a fan of the Contract With America. I just hope that he realizes that we need action and not just talk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would advise Members they should refrain from references to demagoguery.

GOODBYE TO MIKE SYNAR

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, this morning at St. John's Church there

was a memorial service for our departed colleague from Oklahoma, Mike Synar. As I listened to the deserving tributes paid to this remarkable public servant, I realized that death sometimes robs us of our last chance to say goodbye. So to my friend and colleague Mike Synar, I want to say goodbye one last time.

I want to say, thank you, Mike, for reminding us what courage is all about. I want to say, thank you for reminding us that one person can make a difference. I want to say, thank you for reminding us that public service can be a noble calling. I want to say, thank you, Mike, for your genuine compassion and caring for your fellow human beings. And I want you to know that like the statue of your fellow Oklahoman, Will Rogers, which watches over this House just outside the doors of this Chamber, your spirit, the courageous spirit of Mike Synar, will forever hover over this House to remind each of us that courage and compassion and acting out of conscience are noble human traits.

Goodbye, my friend. We will miss you, but never forget you.

STATE OF CONFUSION

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

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, last night the American people did not hear the State of the Union but rather I suggest they heard a statement of confusion, albeit a statement of contradictions.

President Clinton spoke to the American people once again about balancing the budget, ending welfare as we know it, saving Medicare and providing middle-class tax relief. However when this Republican Congress sent him an honest balanced budget, he vetoed that. When the Congress sent him a welfare reform bill to end dependency, he vetoed that. When the Congress passed a measure to save Medicare, he once again vetoed that. And when we sent him legislation to provide the middle-class tax cut he referred to last night, he vetoed that.

This Congress has sent the President virtually everything he spoke about last evening. He just must be confused, in my opinion.

Mr. President, the American people are not confused. It is time to stop talking and start signing, not vetoing these bills. The American people have demanded these changes in 1992, in 1994 again, and the Congress has delivered more than just a speech.

LET US TELL THE TRUTH

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, last night the President mentioned that we

need to do welfare reform, and I agree with him. This morning the Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH, on one of the morning talk shows, when asked about welfare reform, said that the President had vetoed it twice, even though the Senate had passed it with 85 votes.

Well, Speaker GINGRICH, I wish you would tell the truth. That bill that the President vetoed, that welfare bill, got only 52 votes in the Senate. It did not get 85 votes, Speaker GINGRICH. Tell the truth; it got only 52. And two Republicans voted against it.

Now, the President wants to do welfare reform, but he does not want to do the radical one that was sent to him. I want to do welfare reform. I would much rather take the one that passed the Senate in September; not the one in December, the one in September, let us do that welfare reform.

Speaker GINGRICH, let us tell the truth.

STATE OF THE UNION

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

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I watched the President's speech last night. That speech and his State of the Union speech last year were the two longest I have heard in my lifetime.

A thought came to me while I was listening to that lengthy speech about how we could save money. Instead of shutting down the Government to save money, we could just suspend Government while the President talks. We would save millions.

Length is not important. Content is. The major themes of the President's speech were simply a rehash of the same promises he made 4 years ago, and on which he did not deliver.

During most of his Presidency he has had a Congress controlled by his own party.

He promised a balanced budget. He did not submit a credible one and vetoed the one Congress passed. He promised welfare reform. He did not submit a credible plan, and vetoed the welfare reform Congress passed.

The American people deserve better.

DEALS, DEALS

(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, what year is it? Is 1996 the 10th year of the 5-year Gramm-Rudman balance deal? Is 1996 the fifth year of the Bush 5-year deal? Is 1996 the third year of the Clinton 5-year deal or is 1996 the new 7-year deal?

Deals, deals. That is what we have. There are more deals here than Monty Hall has, folks, but one thing is for sure, 1996 is the year of denial.

The most important thing last night is what was not said by the President