



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1996

No. 111

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mrs. MYRICK].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 25, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable SUE MYRICK 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 Your Word tells us to do justly and to love mercy, help us, O God, to walk the path of justice and mercy in our lives. We admit that our ways are weak and our wishes can miss the mark and we too easily mind our own way. We know too that there are many paths available to us and there are choices we make every day. We pray, gracious God, for the insight and wisdom to follow the path that leads to faith, the road that strengthens hope, and the way that celebrates love. This is our earnest prayer. 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 Washington [Mr.

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

Mr. NETHERCUTT 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 bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1627. An act to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3235. An act to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Office of Government Ethics for 3 years, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain eight 1-minutes per side.

THE FIGHT TO CURE DIABETES

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

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Madam Speaker, today is a new day in the fight to cure diabetes. Not only Members of Congress but every group who is dedicated to curing this disease and preventing its health consequences, from the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation to the American Diabetes Foundation to the Coalition for Diabetes Research, they are all concerned about and they are united behind legislation that has been introduced by the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE] and me and sponsored by over 230 other Members of Congress.

We all realize that the complications of diabetes can be prevented if the 16 million American diabetics and over 100 million diabetics internationally have the proper education about their disease and the means to take care of themselves.

This legislation does just that, Madam Speaker. It allows Medicare to cover the cost of diabetes education and the cost of blood testing and monitoring, critical factors if we are to reduce the \$100 billion it costs American society each year to combat the results of diabetes.

I urge all my colleagues and the other 200 who have not sponsored it yet to support this legislation and give life to the fight against diabetes.

CONGRESSIONAL REFORM

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, America has asked for real reform of the way this Congress operates, an end to the money chase and more attention to the Nation's business, and a bipartisan effort has been made to accomplish real campaign finance reform, supported by a number of independent citizen watchdog groups. But today, 1 week after Reform Week was canceled by the Gingrich leadership, today we will have phony reform and be denied completely an opportunity to even vote on a bipartisan reform of the way business operates here.

And what of the bill that will come before us? Well, 10 Republicans have described that Gingrich bill as fundamentally flawed, more so than the current system, as freezing the average American out of the political process. That is their description of the bill.

The independent watchdog groups like Common Cause have been more direct. They refer to this Thomas bill as phony reform that locks in the corrupt

□ 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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status quo, leaves open the floodgates of special interest PAC money and increases the amounts that the wealthy can give. This is not reform, it is a fraud.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today Speaker GINGRICH has an opportunity to do something truly positive for the American people, to save a dying effort for real reform. Basically the Republican bill puts more money into the system, the Democratic bill favors less money in politics. The two bills are miles apart and dead on arrival. The only way to revive campaign finance in the Senate and to pass a viable bill here in the House is to create an independent strong commission that will come forward with a principal plan for an up-or-down vote.

Madam Speaker, Speaker GINGRICH and the President shook hands on it and publicly endorsed the concept. An independent commission is reform's only chance in this Congress. Madam Speaker, only Speaker GINGRICH can make it happen.

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, American working men and women need the Working Families Flexibility Act. Federal labor laws mandate that overtime compensation must be in the form of cash wages, even if the employee would prefer to have paid off or comp time.

The time has come to update these antiquated laws to reflect the evolving needs of today's working families. For some employees, in today's hectic pace, time off is more valuable than money. For working moms, dads, and single parents, time off allows them to better balance the often competing demands of work and family.

Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle claim that this is an attempt to weaken overtime protections in the law for employees. This is simply not true. The truth is that the Working Families Flexibility Act will give private sector employees the same options and flexibility which public sector employees have had for years. Let's change the law to accommodate the needs of today's workers who want more options and greater control over their working schedules. Support the Working Families Flexibility Act.

WHAT IS MISSING FROM OUR SCHOOLS IS PRAYER

(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, something does not add up. Congress continues to spend more money on crime and cops, more money on jails and prisons, pumps money into schools wherever possible, but you can still find drugs in our schools, guns and violence in our schools. There are even condoms in our schools, God forbid, rape, and even cases of murder in our schools.

About the only thing you cannot find in our school today is prayer. Even though "in God we trust" is written over all our buildings and on all our currency, about the only time you can hear God's name in school is when God's name is taken in vain. Shame, Congress. Shame. A nation and a Congress that will keep God out just may have invited the Devil. Think about that one.

IT IS TIME FOR OUR PRESIDENT TO SIGN COMMONSENSE WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, the current welfare system cannot be defended. It is a system characterized by dependence, illegitimacy, and family breakdown.

Tuesday, the other Chamber, with a strong bipartisan vote, approved commonsense reforms that will stop welfare from becoming a way of life. These reforms honor work and encourage personal responsibility.

Bill Clinton campaigned on a promise to "end welfare as we know it." It is now the fourth year of his Presidency and so far, he has done nothing but stand in the way of welfare reform. He postures. He poses. He talks tough, but he never comes through.

Madam Speaker, it is time for Bill Clinton to lead. It is time for him to keep at least one of the promises he made during his campaign. It is time for Bill Clinton to get with the program and sign commonsense welfare reform.

EDUCATION

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

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, last week Bob Dole gave an education speech in Minneapolis during which he said that public schools are being driven into the ground by bureaucrats and teachers.

First of all, if Bob Dole wants to know what is going on in public schools he ought to visit a few—and talk to parents and teachers who are struggling to help students become knowledgeable and productive citizens in tomorrow's world.

I would like to suggest that he visit Pontiac Central High School where

this year a team of corporate engineers, students, and teachers designed and built an innovative robot that won first place in a nationwide competition of 73 teams. If Bob Dole were to visit a school like Pontiac Central High he might not see just problems, he might see what the teachers and the scientific and engineering community of Pontiac see—children with promise.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Dole should use his campaign to encourage public schools as they strive for excellence and innovation. He should join with the leaders of business and industry who are calling for a renewed commitment to public schools. Above all, he should not squander that opportunity by condemning the legacy of public education and demonizing those people who commit themselves to educating children in a pluralistic society—our Nation's classroom teachers.

PRESIDENT CLINTON SHOULD LISTEN TO WHAT PEOPLE WANT AND SIGN WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, this week Congress has taken bold steps toward enacting genuine welfare reform. The next step will be President Clinton's. We will send him real work requirements, real time limits. We will end welfare for noncitizens. Our bill will lift 1.3 million people out of welfare and into jobs by 2002, and we will end the process whereby able-bodied recipients stay on welfare for 13 years.

Many in Congress would say that welfare reform is cruel to children. Absolute nonsense. Nothing could be more cruel than to leave today's children in yesterday's welfare system. The goal of any true welfare reform is to lift children and families out of poverty and despair. If America is to prosper in the next century, we must reform welfare so that it honors work and encourages people's responsibility.

Mr. President, the American people want you to sign this welfare reform bill. Please, Mr. President, listen to the people.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Madam Speaker, today our prayer was about doing justice and loving mercy and today our legislative agenda is about descending these steps collecting more and more money from special interest groups. We have failed at campaign finance reform and we have failed miserably. This is not what the American people want. Common Cause points out that anybody who votes for this is going to be going along with having the richest people in America having even more influence and the average people having even less. Is that justice, coming