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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. TAYLOR of North Carolina].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 25, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable CHARLES H. TAYLOR 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:

Among all the gifts, O gracious God, we treasure the gift of peace—in our hearts and in the world. On this day we remember with appreciation and gratitude those men and women of our armed services who seek by their skill and dedication to contribute to stability and security among those who have been at enmity. We earnestly pray that they and their families will be sustained under the shelter of Your grace and upheld by our thoughts and prayers. May the duty and honor of serving You and their country ever enable them to take pride in their calling and make them faithful in Your service. In Your name, we pray. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. PALLONE 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 a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1494. An act to provide an extension for fiscal year 1996 for certain programs administered by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will receive ten 1-minutes per side.

STATE OF THE UNION ANALYSIS ON TARGET

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, the pregame analysis about Tuesday night's State of the Union Address was completely on target. All the pundits and talking heads agreed that President Clinton would come to Capitol Hill and make a centrist-sounding, middle-of-the-road, warm and fuzzy speech. This time the pundits got it right. The President was his usual split-the-difference self: not too liberal, not too conservative.

But there are things that even he missed. Like reality. He said that the era of big government was over. Well, he is right. But not because of anything Bill Clinton has done. In fact, the President has become big government's little buddy. Just this month he vetoed the first major overhaul of the welfare state in a generation. And last year he vetoed the first balanced budget to reach a President's desk since 1969.

Mr. Speaker, if this truly is the end of big government, it is only because Republicans in Congress have had the courage to stop Washington liberalism and say "no" to Washington spending.

CALL FOR A CLEAN DEBT CEILING

(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, we are getting perilously close to default. When I listen to some of the comments that are being made by Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican leadership about the debt ceiling and when we are going to bring up a clean debt ceiling, or whether we even will, I get very concerned.

Yesterday I listened to the Speaker, and he said that the debt ceiling or the possibility of bringing up extension of the debt ceiling was going to be linked in some way to a budget agreement, or further action on other legislation before this House. I think that is the wrong way to go.

President Clinton said very emphatically in his State of the Union Address that we should have a clean debt ceiling and we should not wait around much longer to do it. Already it is a possibility that after today we will not be in session either next week or for a few weeks thereafter, and so far I have heard no statement by the Republican leadership that they are going to bring up a clean debt ceiling bill to extend

□ 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 debt and to allow us to prevent default. When is this going to come up?

How much longer are we going to have to wait around here for the Republican leadership to play around with this issue? Already it is having a negative impact on our economy and I think it is about time that we faced up to our responsibility and brought up a clean debt ceiling bill so this Government does not go into default.

DEBT CEILING MUST BE LINKED TO BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to my friend from New Jersey again and again and again using the word "clean." I would suggest to my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that is inappropriate for this fundamental reason: We have failed to clean up this city. Thus far, the mission is still in front of us, to try to reconcile the problems of our Nation but not to always resort to big government as the answer.

The point was made at this podium 2 nights ago. The President of the United States came in, and on the headline in the Washington Post it said the President embraces GOP themes. Well, let us break it out from party authorship or pride of authorship and let us work together.

The problem remains the same. The budget has yet to be brought into balance despite the fact that this new majority gave the President a balanced budget with some votes from the other side of the aisle. To clean up our situation, we must embrace fiscal sanity, and these things are joined together, and we have to reconcile the differences.

PROTECT MEDICARE

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, last evening we had another reminder that democracy is alive and well in this great country. Yes, on national television Speaker GINGRICH conceded that his effort to dismantle Medicare this year, in his words, let it wither on the vine, has failed. That failure results directly from the voice of the American people, those who spoke out, those who wrote, those who demanded that their elected Members in Congress be accountable for protecting one of the most effective programs in American history, Medicare, which assures the security for health care of millions of older Americans and people with disabilities.

I commend the Speaker. Even though he pledged to try again to dismantle Medicare next year, he has finally yielded to the voice of the American people.

But I disagree with him on this. Mr. Speaker, we cannot walk away from our commitment to a balanced budget. We do not need a minimal down payment on the deficit. We need to bring the deficit down just as the last speaker said. And we can do that without bringing Medicare down with it. That is what the American people want. Protect Medicare, assure a balanced budget. We can deliver on that.

LET US JUDGE THE PRESIDENT BY PAST PERFORMANCE

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union Address, President Clinton painted a rosy picture of our Nation's economy. He takes credit for reducing the deficit and a drop in crime rate.

What he did not tell you is that since President Clinton took office, our national debt has increased by \$800 billion, causing the debt to rise from \$4.1 to \$4.9 trillion. In addition, under the Clinton balanced budget proposal, our deficit would also increase from \$172 billion in 1996 to \$223 billion in 2002.

As for the economy, which he claims is moving in the right direction, the economic growth is questionable. From 1982 until 1990, it averaged about 4 percent a year. Under Clinton's watch, it only increased by 1.9 percent in the last year.

If there has been a drop in the crime rate, it can be attributed to our Governors implementing tough truth-in-sentencing and three-strikes-and-you're-out.

Mr. President, it is time to stop all the rhetoric and get down to business. We need a balanced budget and we need to lower our national debt.

10-YEAR-OLD TO BEAR CHILD

(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, a 10-year-old girl in Houston is pregnant. The child of this child is due in about 2 weeks. The father of this child's child is the mother's boyfriend. This 22-year-old boyfriend is being charged with aggravated sexual assault. The mother's boyfriend has been with this child since she was 8 years old, and evidently the mother was completely cognizant of that fact.

Mr. Speaker, a woman who bears a child is not necessarily a mother and a man who sires a child is not necessarily a father, and this 22-year-old so-called man is not the only person at fault. This so-called mother should not pass "go." She should go directly to the damn slammer. Think about it.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the President has joined the flood of other former Democrats that have switched parties? If you watched the same State of the Union speech I did, one might think so.

But it is really not what the President said that matters, because he had said it all before. What matters is what he does.

I was hoping the President would present a real plan to reduce the size of government, lower taxes, save Medicare, and reform the failed welfare system.

Instead he gave us a mirage filled with double speak. It looks good from a distance, but the closer you get, the more you realize nothing is there. The President cannot have it both ways.

Our future is too important to risk with a mirage. Now it is time to draw the line in the sand, and stand up for our principles.

The old adage is "Actions speak louder than words." The President has given us a lot of words. Now he needs to follow up with his actions.

STATE OF THE UNION ANALYSIS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the President gave a speech Tuesday night filled with great rhetoric about downsizing government, cutting spending, and returning power to the people. However, we know from experience that these policies of higher taxes, more government spending, and bigger Federal bureaucracy prevail. The President's record, it speaks louder than his words. He vetoed a balanced budget amendment, or a balanced budget bill. He vetoed a pro-family, pro-jobs tax cut. He vetoed real welfare reform, emphasizing work, family, and responsibility. He vetoed legislation returning power to the States, communities, and families, and he vetoed a long-term solution for Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, the President's actions are clear contradictions to his words. He will say anything and then support the liberal policies of the status quo. Big government bureaucracy, big government spending, and a big government intrusion into our lives. As Majority Leader DOLE said, "It's time to walk the walk and talk the talk."

DUMB AND MUCH DUMBER

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, if this were a movie, it would be called