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No. 2

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 4, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable RAY LAHOOD 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 are thankful, O gracious God, for all the wonderful gifts that have come from Your hand that You have given to us and to every person. Remind us that Your blessings and countenance are not only on us personally, but bless Your people from every background or position or opinion. So we pray, almighty God, that we will be gracious of others, hear their words, respect their concerns, and always realize that Your grace is with each person in Your whole creation. May Your loving spirit, O God, that is new every morning, be with us this day and every day, 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.

Mr. HEFLEY. 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. HEFLEY. 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 the provisions of clause 5 of 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Colorado [Mr. HEFLEY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HEFLEY 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 announces that there will be fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

BALANCING THE BUDGET: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, balancing the budget: What is it all about? Balancing the Federal budget is about better government. It is about being right and responsible. It forces the Government to live within its means—just

like every American family. It means our children will inherit the American dream—not the American debt. It forces our Government to stop spending money it does not have.

Balancing the budget is also about a better future. It means lower interest rates and faster economic growth. It means 4.25 million more new jobs over the next 10 years and a 16.1-percent increase in per capita incomes. A balanced budget is about \$37,000 in savings on an average 30-year mortgage on a \$75,000 home. It means a solvent Medicare system with increased spending per beneficiary. But probably most important of all, a balanced budget is about saving future generations from paying lifetime tax rates in excess of 80 percent.

Mr. Clinton needs to know we will settle for nothing less than a balanced budget. No more excuses. No more Washington gimmicks. It is time to do the right thing for our children's future.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(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, this is day 20 of the Government shutdown and it is beginning to bite. Not simply Federal employees but small business people who cannot get export licenses, other business people who want permits so they can put toxic waste aside and cannot and are closing down their businesses. Social Security recipients who want to sign up for Social Security the first time who cannot.

It is affecting average Americans. Now we hear the most Orwellian of doublespeak from the other side. They blame President Clinton for this because of vetoing some bills that they do not like.

□ 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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Well, Presidents have vetoed bills throughout history, Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, and Roosevelt. But what is different this time is not that the President vetoes bills but that this is the first Congress and only one House of this Congress because Senator DOLE is not going along that says, if the President does not sign every bill we pass, we are shutting down the Government. That is a disgrace. It is a disgrace to all Americans, particularly those affected by this horrible shut-down.

SPEAKING OF DOUBLESPEAK

(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, speaking of Orwellian doublespeak, to hear my friends from New York talk about Washington and Jefferson and Lincoln and mention the current occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in the same breath is truly astounding.

My colleagues, once you get past the politics of victimization, the debate is about this: Why is \$12 trillion over the next 7 years not enough? Why should the children being born today pay over \$185,000 in interest on the debt if we fail to act? My friend from New York indicts this majority in Congress because he would rather go back to business as usual, to the 40 years that gave us this mind-boggling debt, to just continuing on with spend and spend and tax and spend some more.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better. I am proud to stand up for the people.

THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN, DAY 20

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today is day 20 of the Government shutdown. The fault lies entirely with the House Republican leadership.

Yesterday there was an opportunity or there would have been an opportunity because the Senate sent over a continuing resolution to allow the Government to operate once again. But Speaker GINGRICH and the House Republican leadership would not bring the resolution up. There are 198 Democrats on our side that are prepared to vote to keep the Government operating. We only need 20 Republicans in order to accomplish the goal of reaching 218 and opening up this Government again.

My understanding is that in the House Republican conference there are enough votes to do that. But the Speaker, Speaker GINGRICH, and the House Republican leadership will not allow a vote to come to the floor. Instead, we understand today they want to bring up a resolution that would allow them to recess this House for 2 or

3 weeks until January 23 and the Government would be shut down that entire time. I say no to that motion to recess. Let us stay here and let us get this Government going again.

REPUBLICANS DO NOT HOLD THE KEYS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, the President seems to think that House Republicans are keeping the Government shut down. I must say, as a House Republican that is news to me.

You see the Government's front door has got a big old deadbolt on it. Republicans managed to open the door when we passed the Balanced Budget Act of 1995. President Clinton slammed the door shut and locked it tight when he vetoed the Balanced Budget Act.

Now, Mr. Speaker, here is my keychain. None of my keys will open the Government. I checked around with some of my colleagues. None of their keys will open the Government either. As it turns out, when the President vetoed the Balanced Budget Act, he did not just shut the door, he changed the lock.

Mr. Speaker, we do not hold the keys. The President does. There is only one way the Government is going to open back up, and that is when the President of the United States agrees to a plan that balances the budget in 7 years and uses honest numbers.

KUWAIT AND CHINA

(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, in 1991, America went to war. America went to the front lines to free Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. America spent over \$75 billion. American troops died in the gulf. American troops still suffer from that war disease.

After all that, ladies and gentlemen, let us talk some business. Kuwait just awarded China, that is right, China, a \$391 million contract to build two oil gathering projects. Now, if that is not enough to change the oil filter, folks, Kuwait did not even consider American bids. Think about it. After good old Uncle Sam saved their assets, put our young people's lives on the lines, quoting news reports, Kuwait did not even consider American bids. Beam me up. With a foreign policy like this, it is a wonder we have any budget to balance.

TRAVELGATE

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, for 2 long years, Mr. Speaker, a career public

servant has been targeted, smeared, and ultimately prosecuted, all the news suggested, as part of a political cover-up designed to justify the Travelgate firings and the transfer of White House business to political cronies. Thank God for the jury system which acquitted Billy Dale in just 2 hours. But chilling facts continue to emerge.

Today the AP reports a newly released memo in which a high administration official explained the origins of this Orwellian case by saying, and I quote, "We knew that there would be hell to pay if we failed to take swift and decisive action in conformity with the First Lady's wishes." That is shocking, and I will tell my colleagues, regardless of how powerful the person who ordered it, no matter how high in the Clinton administration, if Federal law enforcement agencies were turned against a career public servant as part of a political coverup, there ought to be, and I quote, "hell to pay" on the part of all those responsible.

REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Republicans, this is your Government shutdown, and it is now item No. 11 of the Contract With America. It is your baby and you are going to have to defend it. Good luck.

It is unconscionable to go again on recess without reopening the Government. What you are forgetting is that you are not just hurting Federal employees. You are hurting average Americans, small businesses. Do not hide behind the balanced budget rhetoric. Who is President Clinton expected to negotiate with? Senator DOLE, who is being shellacked already by the right wing? Senate Republicans who appear to be responsible? Or GINGRICH and House Republicans who want a hard line?

Mr. Speaker, we cannot negotiate with five Republican parties. Republicans, get your act together. This institution is not looking good these days. We are all going to have to suffer unless we get these games stopped.

GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE REOPENED

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I understand there is a resolution to allow the Congress to recess until January 23. I personally think we should reopen the Government, but under no circumstances should the Congress leave town while the Government is shut down. The soldiers in Bosnia are not leaving Bosnia.

And do not clap, because I do not agree with you on the other side of the