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House of Representatives

The House met at 11 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,
March 19, 1997.

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:

Your word has told us, O God, that You know us individually and by the power of Your creative spirit, You support us all the day long. We place before You our petitions asking that You would hear our prayers and give peace to any troubled soul. We pray specially for healing for those who are ill, for strength for those who are weak, for encouragement for those who face anxiety or fear and for every person we pray for the gift of hope in all the days to come. Grateful for all Your blessings, O God, we offer these words of petition and thanksgiving. 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 Ohio [Mr. CHABOT]

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

Mr. CHABOT 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 will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

MEXICO'S PRESIDENT ZEDILLO IS WRONG ON DECERTIFICATION

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, Mexico's President Ernesto Zedillo made some very troubling comments last week following the House vote to decertify his country for its miserable performance in the war against drugs. President Zedillo said, "This is where we draw the line." He had it wrong. This is where we draw the line. Mr. Zedillo went on to say that Mexico's sovereignty and dignity as a nation are not negotiable.

I would point out to Mr. Zedillo that the dignity of his nation was not diminished by the House action last week, but by the failure of his own government to responsibly fight against the scourge of narcotics traffic through Mexico.

Blocks from this Nation's Capitol, one can see the horror of drug abuse. Whether we are talking about cocaine, marijuana, or methamphetamine, there is a pretty good chance it came to this city and other American cities like my community, Cincinnati, from Mexico. Sadly, the demand is here, and as Americans we have an obligation to

do something about the demand, but as a neighbor, Mexico has an obligation to become an equal partner in that battle.

Up to now they have failed. That is why this body finally drew the line. It is about time.

APPLYING NEW THINKING TO THE CLEAN AIR DEBATE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the clean air debate cannot be reduced to a simple cost-benefit analysis that ignores the effect of pollution on human health and separates the economic from the human.

We should not face the 21st century locked into the old paradigm that gives us the false choice between jobs and clean air. Being proenvironment should not mean one is antibusiness. It is time for new thinking on the issue of pollution, thinking that promotes both economic growth and human health and supports environmental regulations that encourage efficiency and non-pollution.

Nineteenth century thinking focused on pollution control, at the end of the tailpipe or at the end of the chimney. Such an approach requires a great deal of energy and money and is generally insufficient to protect the environment. New thinking looks at pollution prevention, inventing ways to stop pollution from being created. New thinking views pollution as resources that are distributed in the wrong place. Wasted resources mean lost profits. Environmental protection can be equated with fiscal conservatism.

Application of more enlightened environmental management processes can increase profits. Such an approach will require that government and industry leaders work together to further the development of new communities;

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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new technologies in energy; efficient industrial protection and transportation; new industries; and the unfolding of a new economic order based on profit and human progress.

THE WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today we take a giant step forward for working families. Today we will vote to give all parents the ability to choose between getting paid for their overtime or to take time off equal to the amount of money in overtime.

I know today's working men and women find it increasingly difficult to balance work and family responsibilities. How many times have we as parents labored to strike a balance between attending a parent-teacher conference and being at our job? Or how many times were we forced to choose between a ball game or recital and our ability to bring home more money?

The Working Families Flexibility Act, which I cosponsored, gives families the ability to strike the balance needed between work and family. Mr. Speaker, I would prefer the title of "Dad" to the title of "Congressman." I urge my colleagues to join me and allow every parent to be called dad and mom. Support the Working Families Flexibility Act.

WHY WE NEED CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(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, the front page of today's Washington Post shows why the Republican leadership wants to limit the scope of investigation of alleged campaign finance abuses to the White House while avoiding any action on campaign finance reform.

According to the story in today's Post, the Republican chairman of the committee charged with investigating campaign finance laws pressured lobbyists from the government of Pakistan to contribute money to his campaign in what the lobbyists describe as a shakedown.

I understand the chairman in question has canceled a hearing scheduled today. In light of today's allegations, the gentleman from Indiana should recuse himself from the committee's investigation. He should also open up his committee's probe to a much wider scope than the White House and include both parties in Congress.

The country has been reading and hearing an awful lot about foreign money in campaign committees, and here we have the gentleman charged

with leading the probe writing a letter to a foreign government. This same chairman is now looking to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on a one-sided partisan probe of campaign finance, and issuing subpoenas. It is this kind of hypocrisy that makes the American public so jaded about our entire campaign finance system, and it shows why we need campaign finance reform.

PASS THE WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Congress today will be voting on the Working Families Flexibility Act. This bill is very simple. It gives workers the right and the flexibility to choose how they wish to be compensated when they work overtime, with more time or more money.

This is not a radical notion. Passing this bill will merely give workers in the private sector the very same choice government workers now enjoy. Who are we in Congress to tell a working mother or father that overtime pay is the only compensation they can get for working overtime? What if a worker prefers getting comp time? Workers now have no choice at all.

The Working Families Flexibility Act will make it easier to balance the demands of work and family. The Working Families Flexibility Act will give workers the freedom to choose whether time or money is more important to them at any given time. Let us put our trust in the American workers. Let us pass the Working Families Flexibility Act.

MAKING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM A TOP PRIORITY OF THIS SESSION OF CONGRESS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last week the other body voted 99 to 0 to conduct a fair and a thorough investigation of all improper 1996 campaign fundraising activities. We should follow their example.

Today's front page story in the Washington Post may be an indication of why my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have thus far refused to allow an investigation into 1996 Republican fundraising activities. This is also further proof that our current campaign finance laws are not doing their jobs. Our campaign finance system is broken and we need to fix it.

Two things are abundantly clear. First, this House must make campaign finance reform a top priority for this session of Congress; and second, any House investigation into inappropriate fundraising activities must include a thorough examination of Democratic

and Republican fundraising practices. To do any less would cast doubt on the integrity of this House and the process.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF ZOAR

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Mayor Larry Bell of the community of Zoar, OH and I rise today to recognize the Zoar Community Association and the citizens of the historic Village of Zoar, OH which I am proud to represent. They are in the midst of Project Pride, an innovative effort to preserve and faithfully restore their town hall in a way that both honors the past and explores the future.

Project Pride will create a year-round tourist information and welcoming center for visitors to Zoar, the Ohio and Erie Canal corridor, and the entire region. The preserved town hall will also provide an interactive technology area linked to the Internet, which will be available to local citizens for research and distance learning.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, the efforts in Zoar are an outstanding example of the ways in which local government, business, citizens, and students work together in a positive manner, in a partnership to enhance the quality of life in our small towns and rural areas. Efforts such as these deserve our praise and support.

AMERICA'S NATIONAL SECURITY WITH REGARD TO 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, evidently Chinese money is paying off. A Chinese company is taking over a multimillion dollar naval base in Long Beach, CA. Another Chinese company is getting a \$138 million government-backed guaranteed loan in Alabama. Another company with ties to China will operate both ports on each side of the Panama Canal, Mr. Speaker. Another Chinese company was just awarded a \$250 million contract by Uncle Sam, even though they had been convicted of smuggling semi-automatic weapons into our country, infiltrating our streets.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that Congress investigate before the Lincoln bedroom ordeal turns into a Chinese flag flying over the Lincoln monument. Beam me up. If we are going to investigate, let us look at our national security.

URGING COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT THE WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1