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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. SMITH of Michigan].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 10, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable NICK SMITH 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:

Let us pray. Strengthen our hearts and minds and spirits, O God, so that we will be good custodians of the responsibilities that have been given to us. As we seek to do our duties with fairness and regard for each other, remind us again of the gift of listening and understanding. May we expound our positions and solutions when we have listened and learned, when we have grasped and understood what is said to us. Let us comprehend the truth that is available to us so we speak and act and think in ways that honor Your creation and are of service to all people. 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 his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. BOSWELL]

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

Mr. BOSWELL 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 ten 1-minutes on each side.

FOLLOWING THROUGH ON OUR CAMPAIGN PROMISES

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, should a candidate's promise be taken seriously? It is funny that I should even ask that question because when I talk to my constituents in Arkansas every week I am constantly reminded that they expect me to follow through on my promises.

The Republican Party told the voters in 1994 and 1996 that we favored lowered taxes and smaller government. The voters believed we were serious about our promises and supported us in each of those years. In 1992, our present President campaigned on the theme of lowering taxes on working Americans. For some reason the people believed him and supported and put him into office.

It happens time and time again that the voters take us seriously, and yet performance does not come through. Cutting taxes is the most direct way to transfer power from Washington back to the people who earn the money in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, we must know that the voters take us seriously when we make promises, and we must fulfill our prom-

ises on tax cuts for working Americans. Let us keep our promises and cut taxes now.

SECURING LONG-TERM HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS

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

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which when enacted will modify the treatment of certain benefits received by veterans who reside in State veterans homes and whose health care and treatment is paid for by the Medicaid Program. It is because of my deep concern for the stability of these veterans homes and for the long-term care of my fellow veterans that I introduce this legislation.

The situation was first brought to my attention by Jack Dack, commandant of the Iowa Veteran's Home in Marshalltown, IA. I have personally toured the Marshalltown State veterans home. This facility is a source of pride to me and other Iowa veterans. The Marshalltown home provides an outstanding level of service for Iowa's veterans who have carried our Nation's flag and are in need of health services. Without this reform, and all of my colleagues should take note, the ability of 33 State veterans homes in 17 States will be placed in jeopardy.

So I submit this legislation because of my commitment to maintaining the long-term health care to our Nation's veterans, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation designed to maintain our commitment to quality health care for our Nation's veterans.

□ 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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