

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 gentlewoman from Kentucky [Mrs. NORTHUP] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. NORTHUP 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.

ONE MORE SPECIAL INTEREST
RIP-OFF

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

Mr. CHABOT. Question: How many Federal directors does it take to run the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center? Answer: Nine.

Now, if this sounds like a bad joke, it is, and once again the joke is on the American taxpayer, because this sheep center is going to cost American taxpayers at least \$20 million, maybe \$50 million, and it is run by the very industries that it benefits.

Now, what is it supposed to do? Typical mumbo-jumbo. Listen: Promote strategic development activities and collaborative efforts; to maximize the impact of Federal assistance to strengthen and enhance the production and marketing; infrastructure development and on and on. Well, it gets my goat, that is for sure.

This is one more special interest rip-off that uses taxpayer dollars to do what corporate America should do for itself, and so the taxpayers keep getting fleeced.

Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a bill to eliminate this bad program. Let us end this ridiculous bit of shear nonsense.

AMERICA'S UNINSURED CHILDREN

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Mother's Day is fast approaching and there has been no committee action to date on passing legislation to cover America's uninsured children. Last week, the House Committee on Appropriations failed to pass an amendment to fully meet the President's funding request for the Women, Infants, and Children's Program.

According to the nonpartisan Center on Budget and Public Priorities, 180,000 participants will be cut off from this vital nutrition program by this September as a result of Republican ac-

tions. Even though the General Accounting Office has reported that each dollar invested in the prenatal component of WIC averts over \$3.5 of Medicaid and other spending, Republicans felt that this prevention program did not warrant their full support.

Last week's vote on the Committee on Appropriations sends the wrong message to the American people. We should be working to ensure that our children are healthy and expand insurance options instead of rejecting proven preventive programs. Maybe the Republican leaders will surprise us by passing children's health care legislation through the committee process before Mother's Day. Democrats are waiting for Republican leaders to join us in helping our Nation's children.

CREATING A BETTER AMERICA

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, now is the time for Congress to focus on our agenda. That agenda is aimed quite simply at creating a better America for ourselves and our children, creating a better tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what generations of Americans have done for the past 200 years. Today, however, we must recognize two obstacles to the American success story. The first is the juvenile justice system that is broken. The second is a legal system that actually threatens volunteerism with absurd lawsuits.

Let us think about, Mr. Speaker, kids being safe, where every mother expects her government to provide a minimum of security for her children. As for the second, volunteerism, helping our kids in Little League, helping the poor and the elderly, volunteering our time at our churches, volunteerism is as American as apple pie.

But lawsuits and manipulation of the legal system threaten these activities everywhere. Let us start by passing reform of the juvenile justice system and volunteer protection legislation now.

HARSH NEW WELFARE LAW

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, in 94 days the new welfare law will rip apart the social safety net for hundreds of thousands of elderly, disabled, and vulnerable legal immigrants. But today, consider one such immigrant, just one, a woman in my district in Chicago.

Sophia is a 91-year-old Polish immigrant. She is in poor health and has little means of support besides her supplemental Social Security. During World War II, Sophia, then still in Poland, hid as many as a dozen Jews in her home, saved them from certain death at the hands of the Nazis.

Because of her compassion and courage, Sophia received a unique distinc-

tion from the Government of Israel. She received and was recognized as a righteous person because she had given others the chance to survive. Now Sophia has received a notice from our Government telling her that she is unworthy of Federal assistance, cutting off her only means of survival.

We have 94 days to restore benefits to legal immigrants like Sophia, to restore a sense of fairness and logic to the welfare debate, to restore the principles of compassion and justice. America should be proud to have immigrants like Sophia and ashamed of our harsh new welfare law.

COMMONSENSE FOREIGN POLICY

(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, America gives billions to Russia. With American cash, Russia builds missiles. Russia then sells those missiles to China, and China, who gets about \$45 billion in trade giveaways from Uncle Sam, then sells those Russian-made missiles to Iran.

Now, Iran, with those Russian made missiles sold to them by China, threatens the Mideast. So Uncle Sam, who is concerned about Iran threatening the Mideast because of those Russian-made missiles sold to them by China that were financed by American cash, sends more troops and sends more dollars. Beam me up.

Now, if that is not enough to tax your rubles, check this out. Boris just signed a deal with those Chinese dictators that makes NATO look like the neighborhood crime watch.

Mr. Speaker, this is not foreign policy. This is foreign stupidity. I think a little common sense would go a lot further than all of these think tank experts and their advice.

WE MUST SAVE MEDICARE

(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 may sound like a broken record, but just 1 year ago I stood here in this well and said we must save Medicare. I said we cannot let this program that helps so many senior citizens in our country go belly up. Yet as much as many things change, they sure seem to stay the same.

Medicare is still on the road to ruin and now we only have 4 years, 4 years before it is bankrupt. In fact, because of the President's inaction, it is now 2001. At that time Medicare will be \$23.4 billion in the hole.

Perhaps the President may have had too much on his mind with all of those fundraising distractions last year. But now the campaign is over, and it is time to worry about our seniors who need a healthy Medicare to survive.

So I would ask my friends, particularly those on the other side of the aisle, to join in this time to help us fight, stop the games, stop the demagoging. It will not help your campaigns to put our seniors at risk. Let us save Medicare.

HOUSE MUST ACT NOW

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on the Judiciary and Subcommittee on Crime, I rise today to say to America, hatreds, no, terrorists, yes. The Republic of Texas this past weekend and the last couple of days held hostage two innocent Americans, two individuals who were guilty of nothing other than rejecting their terrorist activities.

Over 800 militia exist across the Nation. It does us no good to not respond to these unchecked fringe groups, violating the civil rights and constitutional rights of Americans.

This House must act now. Among the legislative inertia, we must respond to militia that are organized across this Nation to unseat this Government in a violent way. We must now have immediate hearings dealing with these types of groups. We must pass my House Resolution that indicates and asks for vigorous enforcement of U.S. laws against such militia and we must update the database. We cannot stand for these kinds of attacks on the constitutional and civil rights of Americans.

COMMONSENSE REFORMS TO REBUILD AMERICA

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

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, what American does not dream of creating a better life for himself, his family and his children. What American does not dream of living in a community where children are safe, the rights of all are respected and people feel a sense of belonging to that same community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you what American who achieves success does not feel an obligation to give something back to his community and make a contribution to those who helped him get there. What American does not feel a duty to help those in need, a moral imperative to help those who face hardships, misfortunes, and struggles in their life.

Mr. Speaker, Americans have these dreams, feel these obligations and think about these challenges. The Republican agenda is aimed at addressing these very American ways of thinking about our society. It is an agenda aimed at commonsense reforms that will allow people to pursue their dreams, build strong families in safe communities, and create a better

America for future generations. That is our agenda. It is time for this Congress to move forward and quickly act to implement that agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 5 p.m. today.

WELFARE REFORM TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 1997

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1048) to make technical amendments relating to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1048

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Welfare Reform Technical Corrections Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—BLOCK GRANTS FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES

Sec. 101. Amendment of the Social Security Act.

Sec. 102. Eligible States; State plan.

Sec. 103. Grants to States.

Sec. 104. Use of grants.

Sec. 105. Mandatory work requirements.

Sec. 106. Prohibitions; requirements.

Sec. 107. Penalties.

Sec. 108. Data collection and reporting.

Sec. 109. Direct funding and administration by Indian Tribes.

Sec. 110. Research, evaluations, and national studies.

Sec. 111. Report on data processing.

Sec. 112. Study on alternative outcomes measures.

Sec. 113. Limitation on payments to the territories.

Sec. 114. Conforming amendments to the Social Security Act.

Sec. 115. Other conforming amendments.

Sec. 116. Modifications to the job opportunities for certain low-income individuals program.

Sec. 117. Denial of assistance and benefits for drug-related convictions.

Sec. 118. Transition rule.

Sec. 119. Effective dates.

TITLE II—SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

Subtitle A—Conforming and Technical Amendments

Sec. 201. Conforming and technical amendments relating to eligibility restrictions

Sec. 202. Conforming and technical amendments relating to benefits for disabled children.

Sec. 203. Additional technical amendments to title II.

Sec. 204. Additional technical amendments to title XVI.

Sec. 205. Additional technical amendments relating to titles II and XVI.

Sec. 206. Effective dates.

Subtitle B—Additional Amendments

Sec. 211. Technical amendments relating to drug addicts and alcoholics.

Sec. 212. Extension of disability insurance program demonstration project authority.

Sec. 213. Perfecting amendments related to withholding from social security benefits.

Sec. 214. Treatment of prisoners.

Sec. 215. Social Security Advisory Board personnel.

TITLE III—CHILD SUPPORT

Sec. 301. State obligation to provide child support enforcement services.

Sec. 302. Distribution of collected support.

Sec. 303. Civil penalties relating to State directory of new hires.

Sec. 304. Federal Parent Locator Service.

Sec. 305. Access to registry data for research purposes.

Sec. 306. Collection and use of social security numbers for use in child support enforcement.

Sec. 307. Adoption of uniform State laws.

Sec. 308. State laws providing expedited procedures.

Sec. 309. Voluntary paternity acknowledgment.

Sec. 310. Calculation of paternity establishment percentage.

Sec. 311. Means available for provision of technical assistance and operation of Federal Parent Locator Service.

Sec. 312. Authority to collect support from Federal employees.

Sec. 313. Definition of support order.

Sec. 314. State law authorizing suspension of licenses.

Sec. 315. International support enforcement.

Sec. 316. Child support enforcement for Indian Tribes.

Sec. 317. Continuation of rules for distribution of support in the case of a title IV-E child.

Sec. 318. Good cause in foster care and food stamp cases.

Sec. 319. Date of collection of support.

Sec. 320. Administrative enforcement in interstate cases.

Sec. 321. Work orders for arrearages.

Sec. 322. Additional technical State plan amendments.

Sec. 323. Federal Case Registry of Child Support Orders.

Sec. 324. Full faith and credit for child support orders.

Sec. 325. Development costs of automated systems.

Sec. 326. Additional technical amendments.

Sec. 327. Effective date.

TITLE IV—RESTRICTING WELFARE AND PUBLIC BENEFITS FOR ALIENS

Subtitle A—Eligibility for Federal, State, and Local Benefits

Sec. 401. Alien eligibility for Federal benefits: limited application to medicare and benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act.

Sec. 402. Exceptions to benefit limitations: corrections to reference concerning aliens whose deportation is withheld.

Sec. 403. Veterans exception: application of minimum active duty service requirement; extension to unremarried surviving spouse; expanded definition of veteran.