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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. EWING].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 8, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable THOMAS W. EWING 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:

At our best moments, O God, when we think we have accomplished so much, we acknowledge our dependence on You. When we stand for our precepts and creeds, we realize we do not stand alone. When we are proud of our ideas or ideals, we admit that there have been those foundations that have girded and guided us throughout the years. We offer this prayer of thanksgiving, gracious God, for those people who, from the beginning of our lives, have encouraged and supported us in good times and bad. Bless them and us and keep us all in Your grace, now and evermore. 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.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Chair'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.

Ms. DELAURO. 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 clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BALLENGER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALLENGER 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 seven 1 minutes on each side.

FEDERAL FUNDING OF EDUCATION

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I am a firm believer that when money is allocated for a specific purpose, it should be used for that purpose. This is not the case with Federal dollars allocated to improving our educational system. A recent study has estimated that 15

percent of every Federal dollar earmarked for education is eaten up by the Washington bureaucracy before the funds even reach the local school districts.

To top that off, as a part of a committee project to determine what works and what is wasted in American education, we found that it takes local school districts nearly 480 steps and 26 weeks just to receive a grant from the Federal Government. Local school districts have to put time, money, and staff into obtaining Federal money earmarked for education and then watch as 15 percent of every dollar is spent before the funds even reach the school. After you factor in local costs, imagine how much more Federal money does not get to our children.

If the Federal Government is going to be about providing funds for education, let us ensure that the dollars get down to the local school districts and free school districts from costly paperwork tied to Federal funds.

CHOOSE FOR CHILDREN

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I appeal this morning to my Republican colleagues to choose for children. I urge them to restore the \$38 million their leaders cut from the President's supplemental appropriation request for the Women, Infants and Children Program and, as we move forward in the budget process, to support full funding for WIC.

WIC pays for milk, cereal, and formula, basics that we know reduce low birth weight, infant mortality, and child anemia. The GAO says that every dollar invested in WIC's prenatal program saves \$3.50 in Medicaid spending. That is why AT&T's CEO Robert Allen calls WIC "the health care equivalent of a Triple-A investment."

□ 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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Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the budget, our job is to make choices. Republican leaders have chosen to cut 180,000 mothers and children from the WIC Program. I urge the Republican rank-and-file to join the Democrats. Choose for children, invest in the mothers and their children who benefit from the WIC Program. It is the right choice for children. It is the right choice for families. It is the right choice for America.

NUCLEAR WASTE

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, legislation is pending that will cause great economic and environmental harm to communities all across this country. It will require that toxic nuclear waste be shipped near homes, playgrounds, churches, schools, et cetera, on its way to a central storage facility in Nevada.

If an accident were to occur, disaster would be imminent as dangerous radioactive materials could be released into the environment. Studies estimate that even minor damage in an accident would be sufficient to contaminate an area half the size of the city of Las Vegas. Cleanup efforts would take well over a year in a rural setting and even longer in an urban area.

Before we place the property, health, safety, and welfare of American citizens in jeopardy, much more detailed scientific studies are necessary to safeguard against such accidents. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to oppose storing nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain.

KEEP WIC AFLOAT

(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, how can the Republicans deny milk, cereal, and formula, I have some dry milk up here, that is provided by the WIC Program to young children, to infants? I cannot imagine how they do not see this as a priority. That is what the Federal Government should be trying to do, to protect people who fall through the cracks. I have two young children myself, and I just cannot imagine the situation where I would not be able to provide them with the basic necessities of life.

I know that the Republicans are saying that they do not need this money, that there is already carryover money from last year to pay for this WIC Program, but that is simply not true. What the Republicans fail to understand is that the 1996 funds have already been calculated into determining what funding is necessary to keep the WIC Program afloat. We need the supplemental appropriation to make sure that the kids get food in the morning.

Republicans have to listen to their own Governors. It is the Republican Governors in California and Louisiana who are saying that this program has been cut and that they already have had to start denying children milk and cereal. Let us get together on this one. Let us make sure that we are not denying these kids the basic necessities of life.

A REPUBLICAN RESPONDS TO CUTS IN WIC PROGRAM

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I know the term "confused Democrat" is a little bit redundant, but here we go again with WIC, demagoguing it. From the crowd that told our seniors that a \$190 billion base in Medicare increased to \$270 billion was a cut. From the group that said moving from \$26 billion to \$41 billion on student loans was a cut. From the group that said a 4½-percent increase in the School Lunch Program was a cut. They are now saying that full funding of WIC is a cut. We have in the WIC escrow account \$100 million that is unused right now. In the supplemental appropriations bill, we have increased WIC funding \$38 million.

What is the problem in this House? Is integrity such a scarcity that we cannot have an honest dialog without calling everything a cut, without saying we are going to starve children? Let us have a little bit of truth and respect in this body, Mr. Speaker.

WIC DEBATE CONTINUES

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago the Committee on Appropriations rejected the President's request for full funding of WIC through the end of this fiscal year. Once again, the majority party here and its leadership is asking us to literally take the food out of children's mouths. First it was the school lunch cuts in 1995, then the \$23 billion in cuts to food stamps in the 1996 welfare bill, and now in 1997 as many as 180,000 pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children under age 5 will be denied basic nutrition.

WIC is not Government waste. In fact, it is one of the most highly regarded Government programs. Extensive research shows that WIC has proven to reduce the incidence of low birth weights, infant mortality, and child anemia. And it is cost effective. According to the GAO, each \$1 spent on prenatal WIC services saves the Government \$3.50 in Medicaid and other costs. We need this program. Let us fund it fully and appropriately for the benefit and welfare of young families in America.

THE FEDERAL EDUCATION DOLLAR

(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, in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I want to mention an issue I believe all teachers support, getting more of our Federal education dollars into the classroom. When we vote here in Congress to spend money on education, how much actually reaches our children? As I am sure most teachers can attest, too little.

An Ohio study determined a local school may have to submit as many as 170 Federal reports totaling more than 700 pages during a single year. Ohio gets 6 percent of its money on education from Washington, yet over 50 percent of the time it spends filling out forms come from right here in Washington. These unnecessary bureaucratic procedures consume vital resources while doing nothing to improve the quality of education that our children receive.

As my colleague the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. HOEKSTRA], has found through the Crossroads Project, there are approximately 760 Federal education programs covering 39 Federal agencies. I say we need to put an end to the wasteful bureaucracy from here in Washington that siphons off our precious education dollars. Let us spend the dollars where they ought to be spent, in the classroom. Let parents, teachers, and local schools decide where the money should be spent.

NO SUNSHINE AT FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD

(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, school boards, council meetings, all public meetings in America are subject to the sunshine law, except the Federal Reserve Board. The Fed says what America does not know is good for America. If that is not enough to starch your leotards, check this out:

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City allowed 28 officials from China, Japan, and Europe to attend one of their meetings where they discussed monetary policy. Unbelievable. The American people are shut out, even Congress is shut out, but the Chinese, the Japanese, and the Europeans are allowed in.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. It is time for Congress to audit and investigate these bunch of internationalists setting our monetary policy that allow the Chinese and the Japanese in.

American sunshine, no way. Rising sun, welcome. The last I heard, Uncle Sam controlled the Fed, not Uncle Sucker. Let us get our job done.