



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 143

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1997

No. 65

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Ronald F. Christian, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray: Almighty God, Creator of all that provides and sustains life, Ruler of all that governs and controls our being, Guardian of our souls and Protector of our Spirits; out of all the knowledge we acquire, grant us wisdom so that we will do that which we learn in order that life may be enhanced for all. In all our appetites for pleasure and personal satisfaction, grant us temperance, so that we may always be ready and able to serve our neighbor and help those who have needs. O God, may we seek to discern what is right when our personal desires and Your good will clash, and may we likewise never fail to request Your guidance when our selfish search for gain is pitted against someone else's need. So we pray, may our work at the end of this day be blessed with Your benediction. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT 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 (Mr. FOLEY). The Chair will entertain five 1-minutes on each side.

INTERNET ACCESS TO THE BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT

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

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to let the House know that the House is not only working on a balanced budget for America's future, but that we are also making this information available through the Internet, so that every citizen, including Members of the House and their staffs, including the news media, including students, will be able to access this.

I am going to mention this, and I hope that we will be able to work through the House Information System and with C-SPAN to actually get this put up on the screen a little bit. But I wanted to start the day today by indicating how different we are going to be.

If you access through the Internet on a home page which will be labeled "A Balanced Budget for America's Future," it is at Hillsource.house.gov/budget.html. I realize people cannot pick all that up. I will repeat it one time. But the point I am making is that all the talk about getting access to materials, all the talk about Washington lobbyists, we are making available today information on the budget.

It is our hope that we are going to be able to make available by the end of today all of the balanced budget documents. The Thomas system, named for Thomas Jefferson, which the Library of Congress runs, will carry what is in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

We are working to get all of that available so that every Member by Monday and every citizen and every

student and every class will be able to pull up this budget in virtually real-time, look at it at the same time as the Washington insiders, have all the knowledge we have, and truly move toward a balanced budget in the right way, with the American people participating. So every talk radio show host, every single potential critic, every columnist will have access to the same data, but so will citizens, without editing by anyone.

Again, if I might say, if Members look for Hillsource.house.gov/budget.html, and again, I hope we will work out some arrangement during the day to have the system put this up in writing so folks can get access to it. I am going to ask C-SPAN if there is a way when they do their call-in shows this weekend that they can actually print this.

In addition, all the dates in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD will be on the Thomas system and available through the Library of Congress, which now gets several million contacts a month through this sort of thing. The initial stage will include the two letters sent to President Clinton and Erskine Bowles from Senate Majority Leader TRENT LOTT and myself, the balanced budget agreement summary documents as compiled by the House Committee on the Budget staff, and other support details as rapidly as they become available.

We are working with the committee, so as rapidly as we can get the entire markup and the Committee on the Budget on the electronic system, everybody in the country simultaneously will be able to have access, without having to wait for printing or having to wait for some document to come from a subscription or from a lobbyist.

DEMOCRATS WILL DEMAND FULL FUNDING FOR THE WIC PROGRAM

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

□ 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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minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, after weeks of resistance the Republican leadership yesterday finally allowed the House to vote to provide the full \$76 million in funding needed to keep thousands of children and pregnant women enrolled in the Women, Infants, and Children, or WIC, nutrition program.

I must say, we are far from home free on this issue. The Senate, unfortunately, has provided only \$58 million for WIC, and Democrats today will offer a resolution on the House floor stating that the House should stand firm in its negotiations and demand that the Senate agree to restore funding for the remaining 85,000 at-risk women and children.

Republicans also voted yesterday for automatic cuts that could undermine the commitment for WIC by freezing funding for it at current levels, this year's level. The President has made it clear he will veto this funding bill if that is what it includes, but I have to say that we still have a lot of work to do to make sure that the full funding is provided for WIC. The Democrats are determined that we will see that through and there will be full funding for the WIC Program.

THE CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RIGHT TO KNOW ACT OF 1997

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain a bill that was introduced late yesterday afternoon, which already has almost 100 cosponsors. It is called the Children's Environmental Protection and Right to Know Act of 1997.

One of the reasons this bill has been so successful already in attracting support is that we did not try to reinvent the wheel. We borrowed one idea from a law in California and another idea from a law in New Jersey.

First, the California law provides further information about toxins present in children's consumer products and eventually in consumer products for adults, based on this very successful 10-year-old program and law in California.

Second, we borrowed from New Jersey a bill which builds upon a very successful 10-year-old New Jersey law that expands the toxic release inventory to include a once a year accounting of toxic materials used and stored in industrial facilities.

I would like this morning to invite and urge my fellow Members of Congress to support this legislation, and join the nearly 100 cosponsors that have already signed on.

WE NEED SOME COMMON SENSE AT THE LABOR DEPARTMENT

(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, the Labor Department says there are more jobs than ever. I would like to discuss a few.

Ear muff assembler, dog food mixer, vibrator tester, worm picker, belly builder, dog washer, diaper machine tender-supervisor, hooker inspector, and a pantyhose crotch closer machine operator supervisor.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. The truth is I think we need some common sense at the Labor Department. Sun Apparel just laid off 600 workers, moving to Mexico; Johnson & Johnson laid off 100 workers, moving to Mexico.

The truth of the matter is that I think we should move the Labor Department to Mexico, and create some good jobs in America. I yield back all these jobs.

URGING MEMBERS TO VOTE "NO" ON INTERIM STORAGE NUCLEAR WASTE SITE

(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, the environment and safety of America is in danger. Two bills have been introduced to Congress, S. 104 and H.R. 1270, that would establish an interim storage facility at Yucca Mountain, NV. Several problems become very evident when the legislation is examined.

First, moving 80,000 tons of waste from 109 reactor sites will traverse 43 States.

Second, in the last 20 years there have been more than 621 earthquakes within a 50-mile radius of Yucca Mountain.

Third, the Congressional Budget Office estimates a central interim storage facility will cost taxpayers \$2.3 billion from 1997 to the year 2002, seven times more than on-site storage.

Finally, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, a bipartisan organization created by Congress, concluded that "There is no compelling technical or safety reason to move spent fuel to a central facility."

This issue is not just a Nevada safety issue. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote no on interim storage.

DEMOCRATS INSIST THAT THE BUDGET BENEFIT THE MIDDLE-CLASS AS MUCH AS THE WEALTHY

(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, today House Democrats sent a letter to the Republican chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means in support of middle class families.

The gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER] has announced that the proposed

capital gains tax cuts contained in the budget agreement will be effective no later than May 7, 1997, even though there is no tax cut plan yet. This would allow investors to be able to think ahead as to how they might deal with their further investments.

Over 100 Democrats are going to ask the gentleman from Texas today to show the same consideration to the President's education tax cuts. The majority of the benefits from the Republicans' proposed capital gains tax cut will go to the richest 1 percent of the population. Democrats are standing up for the folks who are not making the 6-figure incomes, the families who could use some tax relief. Let us help working families make the decisions about whether or not their kids can go to college.

House Democrats are going to stand up to make sure that the deal includes a budget that is balanced in a way that is consistent with our priorities and our values as a Nation, and that includes showing, at the very least, the same consideration to working families as we show the richest of Americans.

ANNOUNCING AN OPEN HOUSE IN NEW JERSEY'S TWELFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FLEMINGTON OFFICE

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that for New Jersey's 12th Congressional District there will be an open house in one of my two district offices in Flemington, NJ, this afternoon from 3 to 5:30 p.m., in hopes that many residents of the district will come to meet with members of my staff.

Mr. Speaker, my district, for at least New Jersey, is very large geographically. It runs from the Delaware River on the west to almost the Atlantic Ocean on the east. The efforts that my staff and I have been taking to reach out to and be of service to the people of the 12th District we believe will be highlighted by this open house.

I spent a majority of my time back in New Jersey to meet with the people that I represent from central New Jersey, and today is what we believe to be an important step in advertising the location of at least one of the district offices.

The schedule here in Washington may preclude me from being at the open house this afternoon, but I look forward to meeting with those people who may be attending.

NEED FOR A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, Americans are working harder than ever before to