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No. 14

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. EWING].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

February 6, 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

Rev. Larry C. Christenson, director emeritus, International Lutheran Renewal Center, Northome, MN, offered the following prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, we pause at the beginning of this day to acknowledge Your divine presence, and to bring our prayer before You.

As the prophet Daniel wrote so long ago, so also we would pray, "O my God, incline Your ear and hear * * * we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act!"

We thank You, Lord, for the blessings of freedom vouchsafed to our Nation and held in trust by those who serve here. May Your spirit impart gifts of understanding and wisdom, in this House, on this day. Grant, O God, that human agreements humbly sought and found here, may agree root and branch with Your divine will and purpose. 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 New York [Mr. SOLOMON] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SOLOMON 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

MAKING IN ORDER NOT BEFORE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1997, A MOTION TO PROCEED UNDER SECTION 518A(e)(6)(A) OF THE FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may not be in order before Thursday, February 13, 1997, for the House to consider a motion to proceed under section 518A(e)(6)(A) of the Foreign Operations Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997, as contained in section 101(c) of the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION FROM COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the Committee on the Budget:

February 5, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby tender my resignation from the House Committee on the Budget.

Sincerely,

LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTION AS MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 42) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H.R. 42

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and that they are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

To the Committee on Science: George Brown Jr., California.

In lieu of the Members elected in H. Res. 36 to the Committee on Small Business, the following Members: John LaFalce, New York, Ike Skelton, Missouri, Norman Sisisky, Virginia, Floyd Flake, New York, Glenn Poshard, Illinois, Nydia Velázquez, New York, Bill Luther, Minnesota, John Baldacci, Maine, Jesse Jackson, Jr., Illinois, Juanita Millender-McDonald, California, Robert A. Weygand, Rhode Island, Danny K. Davis, Illinois, Allen Boyd, Florida, Carolyn McCarthy, New York, William Pascarelli, New Jersey, Virgil Goode, Virginia.

In lieu of the Members elected in H. Res. 36 to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the following Members: Lane Evans, Illinois, Joseph Kennedy, Massachusetts, Bob Filner,

□ 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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California, Luis Gutierrez, Illinois, Sanford Bishop, Georgia, James Clyburn, South Carolina, Corrine Brown, Florida, Mike Doyle, Pennsylvania, Frank Mascara, Pennsylvania, Collin Peterson, Minnesota, Julia Carson, Indiana, Silvestre Reyes, Texas, Victor Snyder, Arkansas.

Mr. BOSWELL (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 43) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 43

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and he is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives: Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Mr. LaHood.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REQUIRE A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support today for a constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget and address some concerns that have been raised.

Opponents say that this amendment would restrict the Government's flexibility. Well, of course it would. The whole purpose of having a Constitution is to restrict the Government from doing things that may be easy today but harmful tomorrow.

Our national debt is the single greatest threat to Social Security. A bankrupt Federal Government cannot send out any checks. The best way to ensure Social Security will be here tomorrow is to balance the budget today.

It is also said that the Congress can and should balance the budget without an amendment. Of course it should. But by this logic we do not need the Bill of Rights to protect our most basic liberties.

I believe that this Congress can and will get the budget moving toward balance, but a constitutional amendment

is necessary to prevent future Congresses from returning to the borrow-and-spend addictions of the past. Spending our children's money is far too easy. The temptation to make the easy, but wrong, decision must be removed.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support a balanced budget amendment.

PASS THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in this historic Chamber for the first time to discuss an issue that I consider infinitely important. Almost every Member of Congress in the last 30 years has run on the their pledge to balance the Federal budget, and yet what we have today is a Federal budget that is a \$5 trillion in debt.

Truly, promises to balance the budget have not worked in the past. I come from a State where we have a balanced budget in our constitution, and it has required the legislature every year to make those tough, hard decisions that have to be made each year in order not to go more and more in debt. That is what we need at the Federal level, so that the promises we make in our campaigns, the promises we make to the American people, will in fact become a reality.

I want to urge the Members of this body to pass a constitutional amendment so that the legacy we pass on to our children rather than be a crushing national deficit will be a fiscally responsible Nation.

THE NEED FOR CONGRESS TO PASS A BALANCED BUDGET CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak today on the need for Congress to pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. It has been 28 years since we last had a balanced budget. Since that time out-of-control deficit spending has brought us to a current national debt level of \$5.3 trillion. This is simply unacceptable.

The Federal Government has clearly forgotten a basic and fundamental fact, the money it spends belongs to the people. It is not our money to spend. It is the American people's to keep. And when the Government spends money that it does not have, it violates the people's sacred trust.

That is what has been happening for the last 28 years.

We can talk about the need to balance the budget as the President did 2 nights ago, but let us be honest. Until Congress passes and the States ratify a

balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, annual balanced budgets will not become a reality.

Consider the fact that a child born today will spend almost \$200,000 in taxes just to pay the interest on the debt. That is money that could be spent on roads, schools, or parks. Our failure to balance the budget is robbing our children and grandchildren of the opportunity and prosperity they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support a balanced budget amendment.

WELCOME TO REV. LARRY CHRISTENSON

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, our guest chaplain today is the Reverend Larry Christenson of Northome, MN, one of the coldest places in the United States of America I am told, and I come from Lake Placid, NY, which is often as cold as that, I guess.

Pastor Christenson is a retired minister at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and he and his wife now live in the northern woods of Minnesota. Pastor Christenson has written numerous books and spoken to groups around the world about the importance of family life. His book, "The Christian Family," has sold well over a million copies.

He has been involved in renewal work with the Lutheran Church for 35 years, and he is director emeritus of the International Lutheran Renewal Center in St. Paul, MN.

The House Chaplain, James Ford, shares something in common with our guest chaplain today. Both were educated at fine Minnesota colleges, and I understand there is an ongoing debate as to which one is the finer. Pastor Christenson received his BA from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, which is a college with Norwegian-American roots. Further south, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Olaf's Swedish competitor, claims Dr. Ford as one of its own.

This is not Pastor Christenson's first trip to the Washington area, my friends. In fact, he has been visiting regularly over the past decade, with 2 of his sons and their families living in this area. His son Tim is an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, which is special to me, and he and his family live in Springfield, VA. His son Arnie is chief of staff to the Speaker of the House, who we all lean on so heavily, and he and his family live in Fairfax, VA.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to welcome Pastor Christenson to this House today. Welcome.

BUDGET OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, 1998—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 1053).

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the President of the