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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. WICKER].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 25, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable ROGER F. WICKER 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:

We pray, O gracious God, that the great virtues that support our civilization and culture will grow in our awareness and strengthen our lives and our communities. We know that there must be those values and truths that make stronger the fabric of our society and give cohesion and purpose to daily living. With all the competing beliefs about and with all the striving for new and more relevant ideas, give to us, O God, the strong faith to see clearly Your blessings to this world and to each of us. May those blessings continue to give us meaning in our endeavors and show us more clearly the paths of justice and of peace. In Your name we pray. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1902. An act to immunize donations made in the form of charitable gift annuities

and charitable remainder trusts from the antitrust laws and State laws similar to the antitrust laws.

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 Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HUTCHINSON 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 announces that he will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

REDUCTION IN CAPITAL GAINS TAX

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the liberals often refer to a reduction in the capital gains tax as a "tax cut for the wealthy." This is simply not the case. I know of a large number of farmers, senior citizens, and middle-income families in my district who would greatly benefit from a reduction in the capital gains tax.

I think my constituents would be extremely disappointed to hear that the liberals in Washington have declared

them wealthy. My constituents are good, hard-working Americans, who do the best they can to make ends meet, especially when they have to send so many of their dollars to Washington to pay for big government.

The taxpayer should not be penalized for selling a farm or a home or for being among the 43 percent of adult Americans who own stock. A reduction in the capital gains tax rate means real relief for real, hard-working Americans.

PUERTO RICO MEDICAID BUDGET AGREEMENT NOT HONORED IN RECONCILIATION

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

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, for the last three decades, the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico have been excluded from participating in the Federal Medicaid Program at the same level of benefits as their fellow citizens in the 50 States.

The Medicaid block grant for Puerto Rico is currently capped at only \$133 million and, as a result, the Puerto Rico Department of Health has to provide in excess of \$700 million annually in local funding to take care of this island's medically indigent population.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have actively fought for increased participation by Puerto Rico in Medicaid. I find it unconscionable that the Federal Government would uphold a policy where the health and lives of the people of Puerto Rico are considered to be of less value than the lives of other citizens. And we are talking about citizens, not immigrants or legal residents.

In this spring's balanced budget negotiations, the congressional leadership and the administration agreed to increase Puerto Rico's Medicaid block

□ 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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grant by \$30 million in fiscal year 1998 and by an additional \$10 million annually through the year 2002.

I am appalled by the fact that this agreement between the White House and the Republican leadership has not been honored in the budget act that we will consider today. I would hope that the commitment made by the congressional leadership with the White House is honored, as all commitments should be.

IMPUTED INCOME

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, listening to the other side characterize our tax bill as "tax cuts for the wealthy" has led me to come up with a perfect letter for my constituents. It would go like this:

Dear Middle Class Taxpayer: For tax purposes only, you are hereby declared rich. I know this must come as quite a shock to you, but that is not even the good part.

Although you and your wife live quite modestly and think that when you add your \$25,000 salary to her \$20,000 salary you make \$45,000. Well, think again. This includes all of your overtime. But whenever you earn \$45,000 per year, the liberals in Congress have decided that you actually make over \$75,000 a year. It is called imputed income.

I am not sure exactly how they do that. But the bottom line is, you are hereby declared rich. This means, among other things, that you are now evil and that you are no longer paying your fair share.

Oh, yes, the tax cut you thought you were going to get, well forget it. Being rich has never been so fun, has it?

A FULL COURT PRESS AGAINST DRUGS

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

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by quoting a sports hero from my hometown of Chicago:

I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times I've been entrusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.

Mr. Speaker, the other day in the Committee on Rules, I, like Michael Jordan, took a shot and I missed. I filed an amendment that would have given additional money to our military for our fight to interdict drugs before they cross our borders and reach our neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, we met the challenge of the cold war by providing the necessary resources to win that war. Now it is time we invested some of those same resources to fight and win the war on drugs, a war being waged in every neighborhood and every community in our country. Because, Mr. Speaker, in the final analysis, it is only with a full court press that we can ultimately turn failure into success.

TAX CUTS WILL KEEP THE ECONOMY GROWING

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, do you find it amusing that liberals in this House, people who have never created a job in their lives, spend all of their time attacking the very policies that help create jobs?

Do you find it downright hilarious that liberals spend their entire lives attacking corporate America, the very same corporate America that is responsible for creating 30 million jobs in the U.S. economy over the last 15 years?

Do you find it positively insane, yes, Mr. Speaker, insane that liberals dismiss out of hand the relevance of the very same factors in the economy that are the single most relevant factors that job creators take into account when thinking about starting up or expanding a business?

Just why is it, Mr. Speaker, that the liberals simply refuse to learn any lessons from fast-growing economies and refuse to avoid the mistakes of no-growth European economies?

Keep the American economic system growing, Mr. Speaker. Let us pass the tax cuts in the balanced budget agreement so that there are more jobs for everyone.

IRS EMPLOYEE CRIMES

(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, there is a new management board to clean up the IRS. The GAO said the IRS cannot even handle their own money, and that IRS employees have illegally snooped into unsuspecting taxpayers' accounts.

Now, if that is not enough to seize your tooth fairy money, check this out. An IRS bankruptcy specialist, Reva Vanzijl, stole social security numbers, then ripped off \$10,000 from the credit cards of unsuspecting taxpayers.

"But don't worry," the IRS said, "we got Reva and we convicted her and we threw the book of justice at her." Check this out: Reva got 6 months of home arrest and a \$3,000 fine.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. I say the IRS does not need a management board. The IRS needs a parole board. As for this proverbial book of justice, I say the IRS should shove that book of justice up their audit. I yield back all their crimes.

MORE TAX RELIEF, LESS GOVERNMENT WASTE

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, one way to think about our tax policy is to consider two opposite cases. Under a tax

regime that took every penny of what you earned, that would certainly be considered tyranny. Under a tax regime that allowed you freedom to do whatever you wished to do with that money that you earned, that would be considered maximum freedom.

Well, today we can move our tax regime toward the direction of more freedom and away from the direction of more tyranny. "Tyranny" means absence of freedom.

It means that a truck driver who earns \$100 after driving 100 miles finds that he is not free to do what he wishes with that money because the Government takes a quarter to a half of it. He is taxed on the coffee he drinks. He is taxed on the fuel that he burns in his truck. He pays taxes on the truck. He pays income taxes. No wonder he feels ripped off.

It is time to move to more freedom and less Government tyranny. It is time for more tax relief and less Government waste.

REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today we will vote on the first of two Republican budget bills. The Republicans will say that they are giving tax relief to working families. Do not believe it for one minute. What the Republicans are doing is waging war on working families.

The Republican tax plan will give \$27,000 in tax breaks to the wealthiest 1 percent. Is this fairness? I will say it again. They want to give \$27,000 in tax breaks to the wealthiest 1 percent.

For families trying to move from welfare to work, they want to deny worker protections, they want to deny family and medical leave, and they refuse to guarantee protections for 10 million uninsured children.

Do not be fooled. The Republican budget is a big gift to wealthy campaign contributors, and the Republican budget is an attack on working families.

TAX RELIEF BILL

(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, in the preamble to the Constitution, the people of the United States declared that one of the purposes of having a constitution was to "promote the general welfare, and to secure the blessings and liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Mr. Speaker, one of the best ways to promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our children would be to pass the Republican tax relief plan. Letting people who earn between \$20,000 and \$75,000 a year keep more of what they earn means that their standard of living