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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are grateful, O God, for all those people who, by their passion for life and by their magnanimous acts of charity, help point the way to our objectives, one for another. We are thankful, gracious God, that there are everyday saints all about us through whom the light of compassion shines and through whom goodness and virtue and reconciliation know expression.

May we use the gifts and talents that we have been given in our own lives so we will do such good deeds that reflect the beauty and love that You have first given us. Bless us, O God, this day and every day, we pray. 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.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MILLER of California. 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. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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. Will the gentleman from California [Mr. ROGAN] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROGAN 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 SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1420. An act to amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to improve the management of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1161. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize appropriations for refugee and entrant assistance for fiscal years 1998 and 1999.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276d-276g of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group during the 1st Session of the 105th Congress, to be held in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, Canada, September 11-15, 1997: The Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY], vice chair; the Senator from Maryland [Mr. SARBANES]; and the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. AKAKA].

### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO CANADA-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the provisions of 22 U.S.C. 276d, the Chair appoints the following Members of the House to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group, in addition to Mr. HOUGHTON of New York, chairman, appointed on March 13, 1997:

Mr. BEREUTER, Nebraska  
Mr. GOSS, Florida  
Mr. STEARNS, Florida  
Mr. MANZULLO, Illinois  
Mr. ENGLISH, Pennsylvania  
Mr. SANFORD, South Carolina  
Mr. HAMILTON, Indiana  
Mr. OBERSTAR, Minnesota  
Mr. PETERSON, Minnesota  
Ms. DANNER, Missouri  
Mr. HASTINGS, Florida

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). The Chair announces he will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

### KITCHENGATE?

(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, we never know what we are going to learn next about the White House when we pick up the morning newspaper. Earlier this week we learned in the Washington Times that a former assistant White House chef had filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleging discrimination. It seems that the former head chef received a secret \$37,000 payment and a good recommendation in return for keeping details of the firing quiet.

According to the former chef, he was fired because, and I quote, "He was fat and spoke with a French accent."

□ 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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We do not know exactly what was going on in the White House kitchen, but we do know that personnel problems at 16030 Pennsylvania Avenue are nothing new. We all remember the saga of Billy Dale, the civil servant whose life was thrown in turmoil and whose savings were drained when Mr. and Mrs. Clinton sought to staff the White House travel office with their own cronies.

Let us see. We have suffered through Travelgate, Whitewatergate, Pillowgate, Buddhist Templegate, Filegate, and now, Kitchengate. Lord help us.

#### AMERICANS WANT TO CHANGE CIVIL TAX CASE BURDEN OF PROOF

(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 American Bar Association does not want it, former IRS commissioners do not want it, the current IRS commissioner does not want it, tax attorneys do not want it, IRS collection agents do not want it. All of these bureaucrats and special interest people do not want Congress to change the burden of proof in a civil tax case.

Some surprise, Mr. Speaker.

All of these bureaucrats and special interest people have one major thing in common: They all make big bucks off the backs of the American people. Beam me up. I must admit, the only people in America that support changing the burden of proof in a civil tax case are the American people, in record numbers, and it is very simple: They are taxed off, they are fed up, and they want Congress to right this major wrong. Congress was not elected to represent special interest bureaucrats and the IRS.

#### EDUCATION SPENDING, HIGHER; SAT SCORES, LOWER

(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, is there a relationship between how much money is spent on education and how well our students perform academically? After all, if I look at a graph showing the SAT scores since 1960 and spending on education since 1960, I might be tempted to conclude that spending just keeps going higher and higher while SAT scores keep going lower and lower.

Further, an independent analysis of how much money spent on education in cities like Washington, DC, New York, Chicago, or Kansas City will show that school districts that spend the most often have the worst schools.

What is the logical conclusion? When I speak to teachers in my district and throughout Nevada they all agree that it is important that schools are ade-

quately funded but no one says that the money is the most important thing. So what makes for better student achievement? Most important are loving parents who teach their children that reading, writing, and arithmetic are important. No government program can do that. That is something money cannot buy.

#### IN SUPPORT OF THE WIDENING INVESTIGATION OF PERSIAN GULF WAR ILLNESSES

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, 6 years after the Persian Gulf war, 70,000 veterans of that war, including hundreds in my State of Vermont, continue to suffer. Six years after the Persian Gulf war, the Department of Defense and the Veterans' Administration acknowledge that they do not know the cause of that illness and have not developed an effective treatment protocol. Six years after that war, the General Accounting Office and the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Illness have discussed at length the ineptitude of the DOD and the VA in addressing that issue.

Mr. Chairman, I am delighted that within the Labor-HHS bill there is now an appropriation of \$7 million over a 5-year period to go to an outside agency, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, so that they can begin to study the cause of the chemical impact on gulf war illness and hopefully develop a treatment.

It is about time we went outside of the DOD and the VA. It is a major step forward, and I thank the chairman of that committee for his effort in this direction.

#### WHY LOOK TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO MAKE BAD SCHOOLS BETTER?

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, as the Washington Post reported last month, despite a booming economy and a soaring stock market, most Americans think America is on the wrong track. They are deeply mistrustful of the Government's ability to solve the problems that most concern them.

My question is, if 75 percent of Americans do not trust the Government to solve the problems that most concern them, why, why do liberals keep turning again and again to the Government to solve the problems? Most astonishingly of all, why would liberals look to the Federal Government in Washington to somehow make bad schools good or mediocre schools better?

Mr. Speaker, certainly the education of our children is one of the most important issues on the minds of those

who have kids in school, and certainly we can all agree that if there is one thing Government excels at, it is mediocrity.

If our goal is mediocrity, then, yes, we should sing the praises of the Federal Government's wonderful powers to make bad schools better. But if we care about excellence, then look to school choice, local control, parents, educational savings accounts, and more competition to produce better schools for our children.

#### REPUBLICAN PARTISAN SELF-INTEREST PREVENTS CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM FROM COMING TO THE FLOOR

(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, the Republican leadership continues to thwart Democratic efforts to bring campaign finance reform to the House floor for a vote. The Republican majority leader, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], told Congress Daily earlier this week that he doubted campaign finance reform would come to the floor this fall.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that Americans are crying out for reform because they feel that too much money is spent in congressional elections. But what is incredible is that the Republican leadership wants more money spent in campaigns, and few, if any, restrictions on the contributions of wealthy individuals.

Speaker GINGRICH was recently quoted, and I see the chart here, saying "Let any American citizen give any amount. Let everyone play. Let them buy all the ads they want. Let them send all the direct mail they want."

Once again, Mr. Speaker, the Republican partisan self-interest is preventing them from acting in the public interest.

#### SCHOOL CHOICE LETS PARENTS MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION FOR THEIR CHILDREN

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, when parents express their unhappiness about the quality of schools where they live, it is very rare that they point to insufficient money as a source of their unhappiness. In fact, it is almost never a question of money. They are much more likely to point out no respect for authority and the lack of discipline in the classroom, their fear of violence in schools, or their disagreement with the values and attitudes taught their children.

Mr. Speaker, school choice already exists to some degree in America. In fact, many parents decide where they