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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. THUNE].

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 30, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable JOHN R. THUNE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 25 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] for 2 minutes.

### THE DRUG COURT PROGRAM GIVES THOSE CHARGED WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRIMES A FIGHTING CHANCE

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell my colleagues about a justice program that is working. The drug court is a program in use across our country to help give those charged with substance abuse crimes a fighting chance to make the difficult transition from a life of drug abuse to that of productive members of our society.

I worked hard to obtain Justice Department funding to keep this program going in Orange County, and I am glad that I was successful. The Orange County drug court is one of 160 drug courts throughout the Nation that are making a difference in helping to keep our courts from getting engulfed in a sea of cases.

Very simply put, this program allows some of those individuals who are charged with drug offenses the option of completing the drug court program which consists of individual specific community service and rehabilitation.

I recently went to the graduation of some of these people in the drug court program, and we affect not only individual's lives but entire families. Of the 14 who graduated that day, there were probably about 50 family members who had tears in their eyes that day to see the change that had overcome those people that they loved. Those who choose the option are placed in a highly structured program, and they are subject to intense supervision. Their successes are praised, and their failures are dealt with quickly and appropriately.

This program works. It makes our justice system more efficient, but, more important, it rebuilds peoples' lives. If any of my colleagues want to learn about this unique, effective drug court program, I would be happy to work with them to promote drug courts in their own areas.

### PRESIDENT OPPOSES CITIZEN OVERSIGHT OF IRS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROGAN] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, as a new Member of Congress, I had the chance to go home during the break and talk to constituents throughout my dis-

trict. One of the things that I was pleased to report back home was the fact that Congress, acting in a bipartisan fashion, was able to deliver the first balanced budget in almost 30 years, and the first broad-based tax cut in almost 16 years. That is good news. It was good news to deliver, and judging from the response of my constituents back home in California, it was good news to receive.

But the fight is far from over, because if we are going to be able to deliver meaningful tax reform to the people of this country, tax reform that does not last just for one Congress but will last through the years, we are going to have to look at restructuring, and perhaps abolishing, the tax collection agency known as the Internal Revenue Service.

There is an exciting debate that is about to occur in Congress, and I hope that it will be on the radar screen of every taxpayer and every citizen. We in Congress are going to debate whether we should move to a flat tax as proposed by our Republican Majority Leader DICK ARMEY, or move to a consumption tax, essentially a national sales tax, as proposed by the Ways and Means chairman, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. BILL ARCHER, and the gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. BILLY TAUZIN, and others. That that will be an important debate, because it will significantly change the process of tax collecting in America. Either one of those alternatives will be preferential to the status quo.

Unfortunately, the IRS over the years has become an agency that has gone beyond its limited role of being a collection agency to fund constitutional government, and instead has been used time and time again as an agency to reward political friends and oppose political enemies.

During the last week here in Congress, we have held hearings on the IRS, and have heard horror stories

□ 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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about how taxpayers have been treated. These facts came not just from citizens who were injured by the IRS, but from IRS agents themselves who testified as to the practices of the IRS. The evidence shocked and stunned Americans. As a result of those hearings, one of the things we Republicans in Congress have proposed is a "citizens' oversight board" to protect Americans from agency abuses.

It ought to come as a shock to all taxpayers that we even have to consider appointing a board such as that to protect citizens from the abuses of an agency that was created to serve them, and not the other way around. Unbelievably, this morning I picked up the Washington Times and saw on the front page a headline that says, "White House Champions IRS, President Opposes Citizen Oversight." The lead column said, "The White House yesterday came to the defense of an embattled IRS vowing to 'vigorously oppose' congressional efforts to create a citizen oversight board to protect Americans from agency abuses."

Mr. Speaker, we Republicans have tried to work with the White House and with Democrat colleagues to forge a bipartisan solution to a lot of the problems that are facing our country. If ever there was a time for bipartisanship, Mr. Speaker, it is now when it comes to dealing with the IRS.

I do not know where the President will eventually come down on the issues of a national sales tax or a flat tax or if he supports the status quo, but surely this President, surely this administration, which has shown as a hallmark over the last 5 years the ability to read the tea leaves of public opinion, ought to understand that this is not a partisan issue. This is an issue about good and decent Government.

The IRS for too many years has abused its power, has abused taxpayers, that have paid for this agency, and the time has come to make this agency responsive and accountable to those who pay its way. I urge the President to reconsider this unfortunate policy that was announced today, and to join with Republicans to create citizen oversight of the IRS. The best way to clean up the IRS is to have citizen accountability as Republicans have proposed in Congress.

#### PUT THE GULF WAR VETERANS FIRST BECAUSE THEY PUT OUR COUNTRY FIRST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, America should never forget the contribution of the men and women of our Armed Forces in the gulf war. Unfortunately many of the families of our veterans of that gulf war can never forget it because the lingering consequences

of illness and disability continue to afflict many of those who participated in our Nation's defense in that gulf war.

Indeed, those classified as having so-called gulf war syndrome, who were exposed to toxins, exposed to poison substances, and who continue to experience a wide variety of very serious symptoms as a result of their service for our country in the gulf war.

In all, some 3,000 Desert Storm veterans have filed claims concerning their illnesses against frozen assets of the Iraqi Government. It was following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq in 1990, that the United States froze \$1.3 billion of Iraqi assets in this country. Those veterans should get the priority with reference to any claims that they might have against those assets.

I have up for the consideration of this House later today a motion regarding these matters. Before reviewing the text of that motion, let me cover very briefly the history of this matter.

In 1991, the U.N. Security Council declared in a resolution that "Iraq \* \* \* is liable under international law for any direct loss, damage, or injury to foreign governments, nationals, and corporations as a result of Iraq's unlawful invasion and occupation of Kuwait." I think the type of claim that our gulf war veterans have is the very type of claim contemplated by that international resolution.

Accordingly, in 1994, when the Democrats were in charge of this House, legislation was passed through this House by an overwhelming majority, under the leadership then of the chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the honorable gentleman from Indiana, Mr. LEE HAMILTON, that established an Iraq Claims Fund. I would quote from that bill in saying "before deciding any other claim against the Government of Iraq, the United States Commission shall, to the extent practical, decide all pending noncommercial claims of members of the United States armed forces." This body went on record in giving a priority to those who put their life and limb at risk for the future of our Nation.

Unfortunately, quite a different turn has occurred in this Congress in this session. Legislation has been approved and is pending in conference committee at present that would place these same gulf war veterans in a position where they would never be allowed to recover one red cent against the Government of Iraq.

And why is that? Because the separate commercial claims that existed before this war ever occurred of the seven largest tobacco companies and of other commercial enterprises have been elevated over our veterans. Our veterans have been left in last place with no real right to make a recovery against these frozen Iraqi assets.

This all took place at the behest of Senator JESSE HELMS of North Carolina, who inserted it into the State Department authorization that is pending

in conference committee. Fortunately, this House has not yet acceded to his demands. I would say that while he may be able to block an Ambassador to Mexico, he ought not to be able to block the claims of these 3,000 people who served with valor our country.

My motion would instruct our conferees, here in the House, to the State Department bill to not accede to the demands of those who would place the tobacco companies and the other commercial claims ahead of our veterans, who deserve to be heard first and foremost for what they have done for this country.

I would draw the attention of the House to communications from the National Gulf War Resource Center which concludes in a letter to this House by saying, "Senator HELMS' legislation, if passed, would amount to a grotesque injustice against gulf war veterans poisoned by chemical warfare agents and other toxins during the gulf war. We ask you to consider the interests of gulf war veterans when voting on this legislation."

That is what I will be asking my colleagues to do later today as we take up and consider this motion: Put the gulf war veterans first because they put our country first.

□ 0915

#### INS: SERVICE VERSUS ENFORCEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THUNE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997 the gentleman from Texas [Mr. REYES] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to speak on an issue that is very important to me. For more than 26 years, I was an employee of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. I am proud to say that I worked for the INS and that I helped to enforce our Nation's immigration laws as a Border Patrol agent and subsequently as a Border Patrol chief.

I am proud to have worked alongside some of the most dedicated and professional men and women this country has to offer. It is for these men and women that I will introduce the Border Security and Enforcement Act of 1997, a bill which will separate the Border Patrol and other enforcement components from the INS and create a new enforcement agency.

The INS has real problems that demand real answers. I believe I can provide those answers in a manner that is beneficial to the INS and the American people who demand more from their Government.

The inherent problem with the INS is that they are attempting to serve two masters. For all of its good intentions and willing personnel, the INS is doomed to fail. The problem is that they are tasked with conflicting missions: service versus enforcement.