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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

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

May the grandeur of Your creation, O God, and the opportunities available to every person spark a new commitment in our own hearts and souls to become involved in good works in our communities and in our neighborhoods. If we use a hammer, let us build. If we can sing, let us join the chorus. If we can share our dollars, let us give generously. If we can be a mentor, let us lead and guide. So bless us each one, whatever our tasks, as we light our candle of hope in our communities and so witness to Your love for all humankind. This is our earnest prayer. 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. McNULTY. 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. McNULTY. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Florida [Mrs. MEEK] come

forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida 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 a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1266. An act to interpret the term "kidnapping" in extradition treaties to which the United States is a party.

The message also announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 830) "An Act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the regulation of food, drugs, devices, and biological products, and for other purposes," agrees to a conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. COATS, Mr. GREGG, Mr. FRIST, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Mr. HARKIN, and Ms. MIKULSKI, be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The Chair will recognize five 1-minutes on each side.

RADICAL REPUBLICANS USHER IN AN AMERICA OF MORE CHOICE, FREEDOM, AND LIBERTY

(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, the 13th amendment of our Constitution says, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist within the United States." Today we take that for granted, and for that I am thankful. It is still our standard, our ideal. But the 13th amendment only came to be the law of the land because of the insistence and persistence of a group of Republicans that were called radical. Radical Republicans.

Well, Mr. Speaker, today those who are protectors of big government and big unions are criticizing new ideas by calling the Republicans radical, extreme, mean-spirited, in hopes of swinging public opinion in their favor.

They do not trust people to choose their own schools. That threatens the big teachers unions, so they call school vouchers radical. They oppose IRS reform because they believe taxpayers should be automatically guilty in an IRS tax audit because big government must be funded, so IRS reform is extreme.

Mr. Speaker, remember, when we hear "radical," "extreme" or "mean-spirited," it is not new. Radical Republicans insisted on abolishing slavery and today these derogatory words are just ushering in a better America of more choice, more freedom, and more liberty.

DEMOCRATS WANT MEANINGFUL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, today Democrats are lining up for reform. We have had enough. We have had enough delay. We have had enough Republican excuses. We have had enough hiding behind investigations. We want a real, meaningful cleanup of the campaign finance system.

Therefore, we are here lined up to sign a discharge petition to discharge

□ 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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all the proposals on campaign finance reform, some authored by Republicans, some authored by Democrats. Some I am for, some I am against, but we need a meaningful debate on this floor and only one thing has stopped that in this House, and that is the Speaker of the House, who refuses to bring it to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, we say to the American people that we believe the only way to discharge our responsibilities as representatives seeking a cleanup of the corrupting special interests' influence peddling that goes on here in Washington is to put our names right here on a discharge petition forcing a debate so that reform can be effected by the next election.

Mr. Speaker, if the Republicans are ready to join in that effort, it will be a reality. Investigate and prosecute any existing violations, but reform the law.

PAULDING COUNTY APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as we in the Congress continue to grapple with the problem of making sure Americans have the skills they need to work productively in today's society, I am pleased to report that the school system in my district has found a successful way to approach this perennial problem without Federal mandates, without government interference, without tax increases, without national standards.

The Paulding County School System in Georgia's Seventh District, under Superintendent Ray Parren and Apprenticeship Coordinator Nick Pedro, has developed a youth apprenticeship initiative that places high school students in meaningful work experiences during their junior and senior years. It provides them with a broad range of on-the-job experience with an employer of their choosing that is compatible with their career goals, even allowing them to begin college work while enrolled in high school.

Mr. Speaker, my office is a proud participant in this program. Nichole Robinson and Julie Turner have greatly assisted our staff and acquired valuable work experience along the way.

I encourage all schools to begin actively searching for ways to partner with local businesses and government agencies. By preparing students to compete in an increasingly specialized and complex economy, we can help ensure continued national economic growth, prosperity, and academic excellence.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM SHOULD BE DEBATED NOW

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

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year we passed a balanced budget plan and a tax cut for the American people. We did it by working together. But today we are in danger of having that accomplishment marred by the refusal to clean up our political system.

Mr. Speaker, today the target date for adjournment is less than three weeks away and the prospect for bringing this critical issue to the floor diminishes each day. Even the other body, with all of its outdated procedures, has managed a handful of votes. Here in the House we have not even been able to debate the issue.

Mr. Speaker, that is wrong and that is why so many of us have lined up to sign this discharge petition to force debate on this issue. That includes many Democrats and a few Republicans signing that this morning.

Mr. Speaker, let us debate this issue and let us debate it now.

PRESIDENT SHOULD NOT PANDER TO COMMUNIST CHINESE LEADERS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we know, the Chinese Government leaders are coming to America and President Clinton is welcoming them with open arms. I want to ask the President why these Chinese Communists can do no wrong? Is this not the same Chinese Government who illegally donated funds to the Clinton campaign? The same one that uses slave labor, that imprisons political dissidents, and now has leased up our former naval base in Long Beach; a Communist encroachment right here in the United States?

Mr. Speaker, instead of taking money and wrapping his arms around the Chinese leader, the President should be rapping them on the knuckles for their horrific record of religious persecution and human rights violations.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the President, "Mr. President, stop pandering to a corrupt government that tortures its people and thumbs its nose to a free world."

DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS MUST ADDRESS DRUG PROBLEM AT OUR BORDERS

(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 Democrats have claimed another victory. The Democrats were successful in stripping the Traficant amendment that would allow troops on the border from the defense bill, and all the Democrats are excited about it, even though our troops are vaccinating dogs in Haiti, they are building homes in Italy, they are guarding the borders in

the Mideast, and they are filming political parties at the White House.

Mr. Speaker, a new report that just came out states that the use of heroin by 12- to 17-year-olds in America is at historic levels and our borders are wide open.

The Democrat Party did not kill the Traficant amendment. The Democrat Party is killing the Democrat Party. There is no program. And if the Republicans do not step up and protect our borders, then both the Democrat and Republican Parties should be thrown the hell out and this country needs a third, new independent party.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) should avoid profanity in his remarks.

INDEPENDENT COUNSEL NEEDED TO INVESTIGATE WHITE HOUSE FUNDRAISING PRACTICES

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, remember what President Clinton said when he first took office? He was going to have the most ethical administration in history. This is the same administration that held fundraisers in the White House and called them coffees. The same administration that held fundraisers in Buddhist temples and called them finance-related events. The same administration whose ethical standards led them to have sleepovers in the Lincoln bedroom so that the people's house could be turned to fundraising purposes. The same administration that dialed for dollars from the White House and then could not remember doing it.

The same administration that denied the existence of videotapes of White House fundraising coffees and then discovered them in the same uncanny manner that subpoenaed documents in the White House Book Room were found, by the same people who could not remember hiring Craig Livingstone. The same administration that puts Dick Morris in charge of their family values charade and the same administration who hired the same Dick Morris to circumvent the campaign reform laws.

Mr. Speaker, it is the same business as usual at the White House. I would ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to line up to ask the Attorney General, Janet Reno, to hire an independent counsel so we can investigate this mess.

□ 0915

THE MARRIAGE OF KEVIN MCCARTHY AND LESLIE NOLAN

(Mrs. TAUSCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)