

Wicker
Williams

Wise
Young (FL)

Zeliff
Zimmer

NAYS—135

Abercrombie	Hastings (FL)	Peterson (MN)
Ackerman	Hefley	Petri
Baesler	Hefner	Pickett
Baldacci	Hilliard	Pombo
Barcia	Hinchey	Pomeroy
Becerra	Hunter	Poshard
Boehlert	Jackson-Lee	Rahall
Bonior	Jacobs	Rangel
Borski	Jefferson	Reed
Browder	Johnson (SD)	Reynolds
Brown (CA)	Johnson, E. B.	Richardson
Brown (FL)	Kanjorski	Rivers
Brown (OH)	Klink	Roemer
Bryant (TX)	LaFalce	Rose
Clay	Lantos	Roybal-Allard
Clayton	Levin	Rush
Clyburn	Lewis (GA)	Sabo
Coleman	Lincoln	Sanders
Collins (IL)	Lipinski	Schroeder
Collins (MI)	Lowe	Schumer
Costello	Maloney	Serrano
Cramer	Manton	Skaggs
Crane	Martinez	Slaughter
DeFazio	Mascara	Stark
DeLauro	Matsui	Stupak
Dellums	McCarthy	Taylor (MS)
Deutsch	McDermott	Taylor (NC)
Dicks	McKinney	Tejeda
Doggett	Meek	Thompson
Doyle	Menendez	Torres
Durbin	Miller (CA)	Towns
Eshoo	Mineta	Trafficant
Evans	Nadler	Velazquez
Farr	Neal	Vento
Fazio	Oberstar	Visclosky
Filner	Obey	Volkmer
Foglietta	Olver	Ward
Frank (MA)	Ortiz	Waters
Furse	Owens	Watt (NC)
Gejdenson	Pallone	Wolf
Gephardt	Pastor	Woolsey
Green	Payne (NJ)	Wyden
Gutierrez	Payne (VA)	Wynn
Hall (OH)	Pelosi	Yates
Harman	Peterson (FL)	Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—21

Bishop	Fattah	Mfume
Burr	Fields (LA)	Moakley
Chapman	Graham	Paxon
Conyers	Kennedy (MA)	Riggs
Cox	Kennedy (RI)	Torkildsen
de la Garza	Markey	Waxman
Engel	Meehan	Wilson

□ 1117

Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mrs. SCHROEDER, Mr. FOGLIETTA, and Mr. REED changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). Will the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. NEAL] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts 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.

READING THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states that on

the first day of Congress the Republican House will force Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else, cut one third of the committee staffs, cut the congressional budget, and we have done that and many more changes on our opening day.

In the next 80 days, Mr. Speaker, we will vote on the following 10 items: a balanced budget amendment and line-item veto, a new crime bill to stop violent criminals, welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence, family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and to protect our children, tax cuts for families to lift government's burden from middle income Americans, national security restoration to protect our freedoms, Senior Citizens Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without penalty, government regulation and unfunded mandate reforms, commonsense legal reforms to end frivolous lawsuits, and congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature once again.

My colleagues, this is our Contract With America.

□ 1125

VOTE ON PERMITTING COMMITTEES TO MEET DURING 5-MINUTE RULE SEEN AS WRONG AND UNDEMOCRATIC

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to a motion that was forced through this House last night by the Republican majority. While this may seem like nothing more than a trivial, administrative matter, it speaks to the very heart of our purpose here as Representatives of the people in this country.

Last night the Republican majority pushed through a motion that said the committees of this House can meet to consider urgent legislation even while there is urgent legislation on the floor of the House.

In other words, Members of Congress have to be in two places at one time, and if that means we have to miss crucial votes, if that means that on some of those dangerous and potentially devastating proposals, the voices of our districts will be missing in action, then that is just too bad.

When we tried to object to a motion which is impractical, illogical, and just unfair, we were gagged. We were told that we only had 3 minutes to speak, and we were defeated by one of our closed, no-discussion, no-debate votes that have come to define the Republican Congress.

This is not just a partisan issue. I think Republican members should be as concerned and outraged as Democrats. What do we tell our constituents? That we wanted to fight to protect Social Security or Medicare but we missed the vote because we were

running from one room to another, that we wanted to preserve clean air and clean water, but there was a scheduling conflict and we were missing in action?

I know the Republicans want this to be the Hundred Days That Shook the World, but we have an obligation to stand up for those who may be shaken.

This motion last night was wrong, it was undemocratic, and I call upon all of my colleagues to resist it and denounce it for what it is, a gag rule on the people of this House.

THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, we are here doing the people's business on a regular basis, and what we have just heard is a great hypocrisy coming from the other side of the aisle. The fact that I, in the 103d Congress, which is the only Congress I have had the privilege of being a party to—

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I request that the gentleman's words be taken down.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). The gentleman will please be seated.

□ 1128

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, do not the rules of the House forbid Members from impugning the motives of other Members?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There is a point of order that the words be taken down. The gentleman will suspend. The Chair will not anticipate his ruling by a parliamentary inquiry. With due respect to this Chamber, the Chair is a new Member of the House at taking this chair, and ask for your indulgence and cooperation. This is a very serious situation, of which the chair will ask the Clerk to report the words.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I would ask unanimous consent to withdraw my previous words.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I will not object, providing there is an apology to the previous speaker.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to remove the words that I spoke before.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, if the gentleman apologizes for his words, which were directed at the previous speaker, I will not object.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I did not refer to anyone with my words, and, I will repeat, that I would ask unanimous consent to withdraw my words.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I request that the gentleman's words be read by the reporter.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the words.

The CLERK. "Mr. Speaker, We are here doing the people's business on a regular basis, and what we have just heard is a great hypocrisy coming from the other side of the aisle. The fact that I, in the 103d Congress, which is the only Congress I have had the privilege of being a party to."

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I object.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, the gentleman claims to have heard and therefore claims that it was spoken, a hypocrisy, by the previous speaker. If the gentleman does not apologize for those words, I will object to his withdrawing them.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to apologize for the use of the word "hypocrisy," and ask unanimous consent to remove those words.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there further objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE]?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] may proceed in order.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I think it is a great curiosity that the previous speaker, who presided over this body as the majority leader in the 103d Congress, knows full well that during that Congress we were under the 5-minute rule many, many, many times, and during that time we never, never once suspended under the 5-minute rule so that we would not be able to sit in committee. So I think it is a great curiosity that today we should hear that this is a complete undermining of all of the reforms that we are bringing forward, that we are somehow going back on the business of the people's House, when in fact that is the only way that this place was run during the 103d Congress. It was never run another way.

DO NOT GAG AMERICA

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I have here the fundamental contract with America, the Constitution of the United States. And the first amendment of that contract says that the Congress shall make no laws abridging the freedom of speech. But what is going on in this House in the past 2 weeks is a clear violation of the spirit of that contract.

Last night the Republican leader reneged on one of the first promises of reform and instituted a policy that will

make it impossible—impossible—for Members of either party to be on the floor or to be in committee to debate important issues. This is just one, just one in a series of efforts by the Republican majority to shut down debate and gag the voices of the American people. Committees are being adjourned prematurely, the right to hearings is being refused, and minority Members are being denied the right to question witnesses.

Mr. Speaker, the Contract With America cannot be used as an excuse to gag America or shut down the Constitution, and we will not stand for it.

SEALY TIGERS WIN TEXAS CLASS 3A STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

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

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have a unique 1-minute in that this is a positive 1-minute.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment today to salute the members of the Sealy High School Tigers football team, who recently won the Texas class 3A State football championship before a cheering crowd of 12,000 people in Houston's Astrodome.

Sealy defeated Atlanta, TX, to win its first State title since 1978. When this year's season was complete, Sealy had attained a 16 and 0 record, the best in school history. While the excellent coaching staff and the tenacious players themselves are responsible for this outstanding season, news reports indicate that Sealy had a secret weapon that its opponents lacked. Before each game, Sealy's football team listened to a motivational speech from the movie "Patton."

I am proud of the young men of this football team, and I know you, Mr. Speaker, will join with me in saluting the Sealy High School Tigers on their Class 3A State football championship title.

OBSERVE NORMAL RULES OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, last night something happened that has never happened in my 12 years as a Member of this body: The Republican majority totally shut out the minority for debate on a bill, unprecedented and incredible.

Mr. Speaker, speaking out against this incredible transgression is not obstructionism; it is called democracy, civility, the normal rules of parliamentary procedure.

□ 1140

If this type of gag rule continues, I can assure Members that the minority will not stand for this, and neither will the American people. If the majority thinks that a king and his court were elected to do anything they wanted, they will soon discover that the family friendly Congress will only be a dream.

BALANCING THE GOVERNMENT'S CHECKBOOK

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

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, every month millions of Americans go through the same ritual. They take out their bank statement and the records they have kept and they balance their checkbook. It can be a difficult task, and occasionally the numbers just do not add up right. However, for the Federal Government, the numbers have not added up right for over a quarter of a century.

The rest of America understands what it is like to live within a budget. They understand that they cannot spend more money than they make.

Mr. Speaker, every American household must balance their checkbook. It is time the House balanced its checkbook. When the time comes, I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in voting yes for the balanced budget amendment and restoring a sense of reality to this House.

WHERE IN AMERICA IS FREE SPEECH IF NOT ON THE HOUSE FLOOR

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, free speech, free debate, the free flow and exchange of ideas, has once again been denied the American people by the majority party.

Last night our Democratic leader asked to debate the majority leader. As is customary, 1 hour was set aside for debate. The new majority leader only granted our leader 3 minutes to debate, 3 minutes to debate.

Why will the majority not engage in debate on this floor? Why can we not debate the Democratic alternative to a balanced budget amendment? Why can we not debate the Democratic line-item veto, which was passed twice in the last session? Why will the majority not let America debate the Contract with America?

If there is no free speech, if there is no free debate, if there is no free exchange of ideas on this floor, then I must wonder where in this great Nation will the majority leader allow any free speech?