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House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

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

We heed the words of the Psalmist when we pray, "We give thanks to Thee, O God, we give thanks; we call on Thy name and recount Thy wondrous deeds."

It is our prayer, O gracious God, that we will not let this day or any day pass without having thankful hearts and appreciative spirits for Your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all people. May our crowded hours and sometimes cluttered minds never keep us from the marvelous virtues of gratefulness, gratitude, and thankfulness. With the Psalmists of old we know of the trials of each day and yet we celebrate with all our strength and energy, the wonder of Your creation, the joy of our friendships one with another, and the love and power that Your spirit gives day by day. In Your name, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Florida [Mr. JOHNSTON] will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JOHNSTON 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.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO THE UNITED STATES GROUP OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the provisions of 22 U.S.C. 1928a, the Chair appoints to the United States Group of the North Atlantic Assembly the following Members of the House:

Mr. BEREUTER of Nebraska, Chairman; Mr. SOLOMON of New York, Vice Chairman; Mr. REGULA of Ohio; Mr. BATEMAN of Virginia; Mr. BLILEY of Virginia; Mr. BOEHLERT of New York; Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas; and Mrs. ROUKEMA of New Jersey.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will announce there will be 15 1-minutes on each side.

Before recognizing the first one, the Chair will also announce that tomorrow 1-minutes will begin at the end of legislative business in the hopes the House can leave early and have a few days off to go home. The Chair hopes Members will indulge and appreciate that.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states the following:

On the first day of Congress, a Republican House will: Require Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else; cut committee staffs by one-third; and cut the congressional budget. We have done this.

It goes on to state that in the first 100 days, we will vote on the following items: A balanced budget amendment—

we have done this; Unfunded mandates legislation—we have done this; Line-item veto—we have done this; A new crime package to stop violent criminals—we have done this; National security restoration to protect our freedoms—we are doing this now; Welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence; Family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and protect our children; Tax cuts for families to lift Government's burden from middle-income Americans; Senior Citizens' Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without Government penalty; Government regulatory reform; Commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits; And congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature.

This is our Contract With America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OLDER WOMEN'S BREAST CANCER DETECTION ACT

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

Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in 1995, 46,000 women will die from breast cancer, and another 182,000 will be diagnosed with this disease. The incidence of breast cancer has increased by 2 percent every year since 1980.

Today I am introducing legislation to help reverse this alarming trend, and give hope to thousands of American women. The Older Women's Breast Cancer Detection Act will change Medicare law to provide yearly mammograms for women over 65. Currently, Medicare only allows for one mammogram every 2 years.

Early diagnosis is often the key to successfully treating breast cancer. In fact, both the American Cancer Society and the American Medical Association explicitly recommend that women over

□ 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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age 50 have a mammogram every year. It is time that Medicare follow this recommendation and allow for yearly mammograms.

This legislation will ensure that women are not denied access to a life-saving diagnostic tool simply because a birthday has passed.

Please support the Older Women's Breast Cancer Detection Act.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, this is day 43 of our effort to pass the Contract With America, and, as I did a few weeks ago, we finished passing yesterday the six bills which are our effort to meet contract No. 2 which says stop violent criminals, let us get tough with an effective, believable, and timely death penalty for violent offenders. Let us also reduce crime by building more prisons, making sentences longer, putting more police on the street.

We believe we have met No. 2 with the passage of those six.

So I am now going to have a second hole punched in the card. Over the next 57 days, as we finish it up, I will be back again.

ETHICS COMMITTEE MUST ACT

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise again to call on our House Ethics Committee to take steps to name an independent counsel to investigate the ever growing list of possible ethics violations by the Speaker. Only an independent counsel can remove the cloud of disrepute that hangs over this House, and every day this cloud grows darker, larger, and ever more sinister.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a partisan request by me but, rather, an effort to get the House Ethics Committee to act on this important issue which has now been joined by Common Cause. It should not take our ethics committee 100 days to act on this most important of issues.

I hope our Ethics Committee does not spend all their time fighting over stacking the staff this week like they did last week. We need the entire committee to review the X files put together by Common Cause.

THE NATIONAL SECURITY REVITALIZATION ACT

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

Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee. Since the end of World War II, the brave men and women of our Armed Forces have

worked to guarantee the national security of our country. We should not reward their loyal service by delegating responsibility for their lives to a foreign command

H.R. 7, the National Security Revitalization Act, would stop the President from unilaterally putting American troops under the U.N. flag. As the United Nations adapts itself more and more for nation-building and peace-keeping operations, the need for restraint on the President's ability to send Americans overseas is needed.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7 establishes the proper constitutional balance between the President and the Congress and keeps American troops under U.S. commanders. H.R. 7 will give Congress and the people we represent the means to stop the President from placing our Armed Forces in the hands of a foreign command.

With the National Security Revitalization Act, we can keep all obligations and all the necessary involvement in the world community while adding congressional approval as a check to protect American lives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to support H.R. 7.

CUT THE CIA

(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 CIA said they knew nothing of secret government radiation tests on American guinea pigs in the fifties. Those guinea pigs were American citizens.

Can you believe this, Government documents now reveal the CIA not only knew, they funded a radiation testing lab in California to test American prisoners. Unbelievable. They knew nothing about the mining of the harbors, they knew nothing about the death-threat manuals, they knew nothing about Gary Powers. Stone cold lies.

Now, evidence shows that during the Westmoreland-CBS trial, a secret CIA memo says, "Have we gone beyond reasonable dishonesty?" Reasonable dishonesty, Members? Lies, stone cold lies through their teeth.

If Government is going to reform itself and cut the size of Government, Congress should cut the hell out of the CIA.

ANOTHER PRESENT FOR RONALD REAGAN

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, last week we celebrated President Ronald Reagan's birthday by giving him the line-item veto. This week we will have the opportunity to give him another present. We will once again return our national defense to a level President Reagan would approve.

Mr. Speaker, under the Clinton administration we have not only seen an attitude of arrogance toward the military, we have also seen a lack of respect, and subsequently, the inability to effectively command our Armed Forces. Mr. Speaker, the only time we have ever allowed U.S. troops to serve under a foreign commander has taken place under the watch of President Clinton.

Mr. Speaker, U.S. Troops should only be under the command of U.S. military officers, and the National Security Revitalization Act mandates just that—no U.S. troops under command of a foreign officer.

THE LINE-ITEM VETO

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I do not make a habit of defending the Contract With America.

But when this House passed the line-item veto last Monday night, important language from the contract was not included. And that is bad news for the American taxpayer. The bill gives the President broad power to veto any spending provision. But the bill's authors gave the President very narrow authority to veto tax benefits or tax loopholes for special interests. This excludes the vast majority of tax breaks—worth hundreds of billions.

The Contract With America said the President should be able to veto any tax benefit. My Republican colleagues breached their contract by voting against a version of the bill containing the contract's exact language. Apparently, they dislike tax loopholes for special interests only when they are the minority party.

Mr. Speaker, let us remember another pearl of wisdom from the Contract With America. It says, "If we break this contract, throw us out!"

ACT NOW TO REVERSE DECLINE OF OUR ARMED FORCES

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE], the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, for the great job he did in shepherding through the House the anticrime package we passed yesterday. Another important component of the contract has been completed.

Now, the scene shifts to defense. When Bill Clinton ran for the Presidency, he promised to cut \$60 billion from the Bush defense plan. Once in office, however, that pledge soon became like all the other Clinton promises, dead on arrival. Bill Clinton weakened our military strength by twice that amount.