

would rein in the Girl Scouts from being quite so active politically. It is just an outrage." Or commenting about how dangerous it is to American society to have the YMCA involved in the debate about child care.

□ 1315

But while we are off on this tangent, people are being distracted from the fundamental inaction in the House of Representatives on real, central, political reform here in the House; namely, getting to the activities of real lobbyists and their inappropriate ways of trying to influence decisions here through a whole range of extracurricular activities, whether it is gifts or meals or junkets or what have you.

Mr. Speaker, why haven't we taken up that legislation which most Members of the House arrived in January saying ought to be central to our reform agenda around here? Why are we not doing that, rather than messing around with this very, very trivializing and, I think, insulting diversion about wanting to make sure that the Girl Scouts do not have too much say in the political life of this country.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLINGER). There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RIGGS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

We pray, gracious God, for a clear vision of ourselves and of the world in which we live and work and have our being. Enable us to see ourselves as we truly are—created in Your image and marked by opportunities to be the people You would have us be—and also aware that we often miss the mark and lose the vision. We know, O God, that if we do not see the heavenly vision and miss the direction for our lives, our steps will wander and we will lose our way. Open our eyes, gracious God, so we see the path to freedom and opportunity and of service to others. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announced to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

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

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

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

Mr. LINDER. 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 pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT 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 Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2076. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2076) "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes", requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. GREGG, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. KERREY to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

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. 1267. An act to amend the Congressional Award Act to revise and extend authorities for the Congressional Award Board.

The message also announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 641) "An Act to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act of 1990, and for other purposes", requests a conference with the House on

the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. FRIST, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. DODD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 652) "An Act to provide for a pro-competitive, deregulatory national policy framework designed to accelerate rapidly private sector deployment of advanced telecommunications and information technologies and services to all Americans by opening all telecommunications markets to competition, and for other purposes", agrees to a conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BURNS, Mr. GORTON, Mr. LOTT, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. FORD, Mr. EXON, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFeree IN LIEU OF CONFeree ON S. 395, ALASKA POWER ADMINISTRATION ASSET SALE AND TERMINATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair appoints, without objection, Mr. OBERSTAR as a conferee for consideration of House amendment No. 4 for the conference on the bill S. 395 to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation from the House of the gentleman from California, Mr. Mineta.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will notify the Senate of the change in conferees.

ACT NOW TO PRESERVE MEDICARE

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is a lot like a 1965 model car. It is comfortable transportation, but it may not always be reliable. The 1965 model lacks the efficiency of the newer cars and is expensive to maintain.

The Medicare Preservation Act would allow folks to have the health care equivalent of a new car with air-conditioning, better gas mileage, or other options of their choice. The technology has improved and the new safety features are important. Of course, those who prefer the classic car are welcome to keep it.

I urge the American people and particularly our senior citizens to be informed consumers. Do not be hastily swayed by the advertising of AARP and other groups which depend on Government spending and bureaucracy for their livelihoods.

When individuals in my district in Georgia understand the facts of the Medicare crisis they soon realize that the Medicare Preservation Act is the best solution. They know we must act