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No. 1

House of Representatives

This being the date fixed by the 20th amendment of the Constitution of the United States for the annual meeting of the Congress of the United States, the Members of the 104th Congress met in their Hall and, at 12 noon, were called to order by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. NEWT GINGRICH.

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

Let us pray using the words of Isaac Watts:

*O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.*

*Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting you are God,
To endless years the same.*

*O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home. Amen.*

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will utilize the electronic system to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

Members will record their presence by electronic device.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Members responded to their names:

[Roll No. 1]

Ackerman	Becerra	Brownback
Allard	Bentsen	Bryant (TN)
Andrews	Bereuter	Bunn
Archer	Bevill	Bunning
Armey	Bilbray	Burr
Bachus	Bilirakis	Burton
Baesler	Bishop	Calvert
Baker (CA)	Bliley	Camp
Baker (LA)	Blute	Campbell
Baldacci	Boehlert	Canady
Ballenger	Boehner	Cardin
Barcia	Bonilla	Castle
Barr	Bonior	Chambliss
Barrett (NE)	Bono	Chenoweth
Barrett (WI)	Borski	Christensen
Bartlett	Boucher	Chrysler
Barton	Brewster	Clayton
Bass	Browder	Clement
Bateman	Brown (CA)	Clinger

Clyburn	Furse	Kleccka
Coble	Ganske	Klink
Coburn	Gekas	Klug
Coleman	Gephardt	Knollenberg
Collins (GA)	Geren	Kolbe
Collins (MI)	Gilchrest	LaFalce
Combest	Gingrich	LaHood
Condit	Gonzalez	Lantos
Cooley	Goodlatte	Latham
Costello	Goodling	Laughlin
Cox	Gordon	Lazio
Coyne	Goss	Leach
Cramer	Graham	Levin
Crane	Green	Lewis (CA)
Crapo	Greenwood	Lewis (GA)
Creameans	Gunderson	Lewis (KY)
Cubin	Gutierrez	Lincoln
Cunningham	Gutknecht	Linder
Danner	Hall (OH)	Lipinski
Davis	Hall (TX)	Livingston
de la Garza	Hamilton	LoBiondo
Deal	Hancock	Lofgren
DeLauro	Hansen	Longley
DeLay	Harman	Lowey
Dellums	Hastert	Lucas
Deutsch	Hastings (FL)	Luther
Diaz-Balart	Hastings (WA)	Manton
Dickey	Hayes	Manzullo
Dicks	Hayworth	Markey
Dingell	Hefley	Martinez
Doggett	Hefner	Martini
Dooley	Herger	Mascara
Doolittle	Hilleary	Matsui
Doyle	Hinchey	McCarthy
Dreier	Hobson	McCrery
Duncan	Hoekstra	McDade
Dunn	Holden	McDermott
Edwards	Horn	McHale
Ehlers	Hostettler	McHugh
Ehrlich	Houghton	McInnis
Emerson	Hoyer	McKeon
Engel	Hunter	McKinney
English	Hyde	McNulty
Ensign	Inglis	Meehan
Eshoo	Istook	Menendez
Evans	Jackson (IL)	Metcalf
Everett	Jackson-Lee	Meyers
Ewing	(TX)	Mica
Farr	Jacobs	Miller (FL)
Fattah	Jefferson	Minge
Fawell	Johnson (SD)	Moakley
Fields (LA)	Johnson, E. B.	Molinari
Filner	Johnson, Sam	Mollohan
Flanagan	Jones	Montgomery
Foley	Kanjorski	Moorhead
Forbes	Kasich	Moran
Ford	Kelly	Morella
Fowler	Kennedy (MA)	Murtha
Fox	Kennedy (RI)	Myers
Frank (MA)	Kennelly	Myrick
Franks (NJ)	Kildee	Nadler
Frelinghuysen	Kim	Nethercutt
Frisa	King	Neumann
Funderburk	Kingston	Ney

Nussle	Royce	Tejeda
Oberstar	Rush	Thomas
Obey	Sabo	Thornberry
Olver	Salmon	Thornton
Ortiz	Sanford	Thurman
Orton	Saxton	Tiahrt
Oxley	Scarborough	Torkildsen
Packard	Schaefer	Torres
Pallone	Schiff	Trafficant
Parker	Schroeder	Upton
Paxon	Schumer	Velazquez
Payne (NJ)	Scott	Vento
Payne (VA)	Seastrand	Volkmer
Peterson (FL)	Sensenbrenner	Vucanovich
Peterson (MN)	Serrano	Waldholtz
Petri	Shadegg	Walker
Pickett	Shaw	Walsh
Pombo	Shays	Wamp
Pomeroy	Sisisky	Ward
Porter	Skaggs	Waters
Poshard	Skeen	Watt (NC)
Quinn	Skelton	Watts (OK)
Radanovich	Slaughter	Waxman
Rahall	Smith (NJ)	Weldon (FL)
Ramstad	Smith (TX)	Weldon (PA)
Rangel	Smith (WA)	Weller
Reed	Solomon	White
Regula	Spence	Whitfield
Richardson	Spratt	Wicker
Riggs	Stearns	Williams
Rivers	Stenholm	Wise
Roberts	Stokes	Wolf
Roemer	Stump	Woolsey
Rogers	Stupak	Wynn
Rohrabacher	Talent	Yates
Ros-Lehtinen	Tate	Young (AK)
Ros-Dade	Tauzin	Young (FL)
Rose	Taylor (MS)	Zeliff
Roth	Taylor (NC)	Zimmer
Roybal-Allard		

□ 1225

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALKER). On this rollcall, 365 Members have recorded their presence by electronic device, a quorum is present.

Under the rule, further proceedings under the call are dispensed with.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MONTGOMERY 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.

□ 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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COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE
PRESIDENT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 325) providing for a committee to notify the President of the assembly of the Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 325

Resolved, That a committee of two Members be appointed by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives to join with a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF
COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE
PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO
HOUSE RESOLUTION 325

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to join a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has been assembled, and that Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] and the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT].

NOTIFICATION TO THE SENATE

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 326) to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. RES. 326

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House inform the Senate that a quorum of the House is present and that the House is ready to proceed with business.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DAILY HOUR OF MEETING

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 327) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 327

Resolved, That until otherwise ordered, the hour of meeting of the House shall be 2 p.m. on Mondays; 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; and 10 a.m. on all other days of the week up to and including May 11, 1996; and that from May 13, 1996, until the end of the second session, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be noon on Mondays; 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and 9 a.m. on all other days of the week.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON TODAY

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,

January 3, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 5 of rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Tuesday, January 2, 1996 at 12:05 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits an unclassified report on the Loan Guarantees to Israel Program.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,

Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives.

UNCLASSIFIED REPORT ON LOAN
GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL PRO-
GRAM—MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

Enclosed is an unclassified report on the Loan Guarantees to Israel Program and on economic conditions in Israel, as required by section 226(k) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (Public Law 87-195), and section 1205 of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-983).

WILLIAM J. CLINTON,

THE WHITE HOUSE, December 30, 1995.

□ 1230

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—
RIGHTS OF THE HOUSE COLLEC-
TIVELY

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House, and I offer a resolution pursuant to rule IX.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 328

Whereas clause 1 of rule IX of the Rules of the House of Representatives states that "Questions of privilege shall be, first, those affecting the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings";

Whereas over 280,000 Federal employees have been barred from performing the jobs for which they will eventually be paid;

Whereas more than 480,000 Federal employees are required to report for work without being paid their full salaries at regular intervals;

Whereas the public is not receiving the benefits of their tax dollars; and

Whereas the inability of the House of Representatives to act on legislation keeping the Government in operation impairs the dignity and the integrity of the House and the esteem the public holds for the House; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that upon the adoption of this resolution the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill H.R. 1643, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concurred in the Senate amendment, and that a motion to reconsider that action shall be considered as laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] wish to be heard on whether or not his motion constitutes a question of privilege?

Mr. GEPHARDT. I do, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, let me explain why this is most certainly a question of privilege and why this Congress must finally reopen the Federal Government, with no threats or conditions, while we work to resolve the budget impasse that we are involved in.

The fact is that while we fight over the Federal budget, millions of Americans are being held hostage; and while some Republicans have even suggested that no one has noticed this Government shutdown, I think that is simply fiscal fantasy, not reality.

Think about the frail, home-bound seniors who will not have their meals delivered on time, or at all. Think about the elderly who will not have their Medicare claims processed, and the jobless who will not receive their unemployment checks.

Right now, crucial cleanups of toxic waste dumps have been stopped, and the Government's efforts to crack down on workplace abuses and nursing home atrocities are grinding to a halt. If you ask me, that is more than wrong; it is an abuse of power. It is an abuse of the responsibility the American people have placed in this Congress, and in each of us, when they elected us to serve them, not just to throw ideological tantrums. Even the Republicans in the other body have rejected the radicalism of this shutdown.

The extremist approach says, if the President will not agree to a budget that slashes Medicare to give huge tax breaks to the wealthy, we are going to make the whole country suffer until we get our way.

This is, by far, the longest and most devastating Government shutdown in American history. According to news