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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mrs. MYRICK].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 25, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable SUE MYRICK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

As Your Word tells us to do justly and to love mercy, help us, O God, to walk the path of justice and mercy in our lives. We admit that our ways are weak and our wishes can miss the mark and we too easily mind our own way. We know too that there are many paths available to us and there are choices we make every day. We pray, gracious God, for the insight and wisdom to follow the path that leads to faith, the road that strengthens hope, and the way that celebrates love. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. NETHERCUTT 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 without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1627. An act to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3235. An act to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Office of Government Ethics for 3 years, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain eight 1-minutes per side.

THE FIGHT TO CURE DIABETES

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

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Madam Speaker, today is a new day in the fight to cure diabetes. Not only Members of Congress but every group who is dedicated to curing this disease and preventing its health consequences, from the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation to the American Diabetes Foundation to the Coalition for Diabetes Research, they are all concerned about and they are united behind legislation that has been introduced by the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE] and me and sponsored by over 230 other Members of Congress.

We all realize that the complications of diabetes can be prevented if the 16 million American diabetics and over 100 million diabetics internationally have the proper education about their disease and the means to take care of themselves.

This legislation does just that, Madam Speaker. It allows Medicare to cover the cost of diabetes education and the cost of blood testing and monitoring, critical factors if we are to reduce the $100 billion it costs American society each year to combat the results of diabetes.

I urge all my colleagues and the other 200 who have not sponsored it yet to support this legislation and give life to the fight against diabetes.

CONGRESSIONAL REFORM

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, America has asked for real reform of the way this Congress operates, an end to the money chase and more attention to the Nation's business, and a bipartisan effort has been made to accomplish real campaign finance reform, supported by a number of independent citizen watchdog groups. But today, 1 week after Reform Week was canceled by the Gingrich leadership, today we will have phony reform and be denied completely an opportunity to even vote on a bipartisan reform of the way business operates here.

And what of the bill that will come before us? Well, 10 Republicans have described that Gingrich bill as fundamentally flawed, more so than the current system, as freezing the average American out of the political process. That is their description of the bill.

The independent watchdog groups like Common Cause have been more direct. They refer to this Thomas bill as phony reform that locks in the corrupt

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