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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.
The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Breathe upon us, O God, the breath of life, speak to us in the depths of our hearts, look upon us with favor, hold us in Your strong arm and at the end of time, grant us Your peace that passes all human understanding. We place these petitions before You, gracious God, for You have been our help in ages past and You are our hope for years to come. As You have given us our very lives, so You give us the blessings that make each day possible and make each opportunity an occasion for serving others in their need. 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. Will the gentleman from California [Mrs. SEASTRAND] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. SEASTRAND 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 a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 740. An act to confer jurisdiction on the United States Court of Federal Claims

with respect to land claims of Pueblo of Isleta Indian Tribe.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3060. An act to implement the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minutes on each side.

TROUBLE IN IRAQ

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

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, the trouble in Iraq was in the north, so we shot missiles in the south, 27 the first day, 17 the next day, then 1. A missile a day is not going to keep Saddam away. We know that we must and we do support the President's military action. He is the Commander in Chief and in times of this type of international crisis, we must remain united as a people and as a Congress, reflecting the wishes of our people.

But, Mr. Speaker, we also need to have the White House explain fully the long range goals and targets of this military action so that the American people will know that they do not have to face the prospect of another missile attack or another reaction by Saddam or a reaction to that action by our Armed Forces. What is the overall final policy envisioned by the White House? We need to know that so that we can support it as Congress should, and so that the American people will know what to support.

THE DOLE-GINGRICH TAX PLAN

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the folks who brought us the Government shutdown are back at it. Cut taxes on the rich, they say, and cut Medicare and student loans to pay for it. The Dole-Gingrich tax plan, some \$600 billion in tax breaks mostly for the rich, will mean ever bigger cuts in Medicare, ever bigger cuts in student loans, ever bigger cuts in environmental protection than the original Gingrich plan.

The Gingrich-Dole plan will mean fewer Medicare services and fewer student loans. The Gingrich-Dole plan will mean higher Medicare premiums, higher Medicare copayments, higher Medicare deductibles, and higher costs for middle-class students getting student loans.

The Dole-Gingrich plan will mean Medicare beneficiaries who are now paying about \$46 a month in premiums will see their premiums approaching \$100 a month.

Mr. Speaker, not cuts in Medicare and student loans to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy. It simply does not make sense.

DEMOCRATS HOOKED ON SPENDING

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, the liberal Democrat leadership will be holding mock hearings today for the sole purpose of criticizing the Republican plan to cut taxes by 15 percent.

Liberal Democrats just can't stand the idea of Americans keeping what they earn. For some reason, they love big government; they love spending billions and trillions of hard-earned tax

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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dollars on Washington-based bureaucracy.

Today at their hearing, liberal Democrats will bring the old arguments that Republicans want to slash programs to the elderly to pay for tax breaks for the rich. But these arguments have been thoroughly rejected by the American people. Congress has proven that we can have substantial tax relief while saving sensitive programs, like Medicare, from bankruptcy.

The difference here is that Republicans trust the American people. Families should have the freedom to do what they want with their own money. Liberal Democrats love big government and they love the big taxes needed to run it.

BOB DOLE'S ECONOMIC PLAN

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, Bob Dole's economic plan does spell disaster for the millions of Americans who depend on Medicare. His proposal for a close to \$600 billion tax cut could result in \$300 billion in Medicare cuts. That is not my number, that is the Congressional Budget Office which is controlled by the Republicans. It calls the cuts draconian. They say that Medicare beneficiaries would probably find their own costs rising substantially, that is a direct quote, if \$300 billion in Medicare cuts were required. Mr. Dole says he plans to pay for this tax cut by closing corporate loopholes.

Get a hold of the New York Times this morning where this is the following quote from the New York Times:

During Mr. Dole's 27 years in the Senate, he has proved himself to be a master at engineering the very sorts of special tax breaks for constituents and corporations that he now decries. And recipients of those breaks in turn have been among Mr. Dole's most generous contributors.

Let me say this to you, that he was also very proud that he voted against Medicare, 1 of 12 to do that. Who do you trust to deal with the Medicare system, Mr. Dole or the Democrats who have stood here to defend Medicare every single day for the last 20 months against the Republican onslaught?

TEENAGE DRUG USE

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, here is a headline from the Greenville News out of South Carolina, 2 weeks ago: "Twice as Many Teens Using Drugs as in 1992."

Mr. Speaker, why do we have this headline? Why is it teen drug use has exploded? There are probably many plausible theories, but I think the most important is the attitudes of those in positions of authority. In the 1980's, the Reagan administration told young people to just say no.

But in 1993, when Bill Clinton first took over as President, he slashed the budget of the Office of National Drug Policy. Then, his administration hired about 40 staffers who had to be placed in a special drug program because they admitted to using hard drugs such as crack cocaine only a few months before going to the White House.

Mr. Speaker, when we have an administration that takes a casual view of adult drug use, its no wonder we have headlines like this.

IRS AUDIT OF COLLEGE COURSE

(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 believe it is time for Members of this House to stand up to intimidation. A letter has been sent from the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. ARCHER, to the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, Ms. Richardson, intimating that she should not continue with the audit of the two courses that were given in Georgia on which the Speaker was a party. They were at the Reinhardt College and the Keenesaw State University.

These audits that are ongoing are legitimate audits of a not-for-profit foundation that was possibly used for political purposes. Yet Mr. ARCHER has written to the Commissioner asking her not to continue with the audits. That is intimidation. Never, I have been here 20 years, I have never known a chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means ever try to intimidate an IRS commissioner.

ANOTHER VIEW ON IRS AUDIT

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman who just spoke referring to the IRS audit of the course did not point out that this may be the only college course given for credit that has been audited in the history of this country. I wonder why. The IRS is also auditing the Christian Coalition, the National Rifle Association, and Pat Robertson. I wonder if they are auditing the AFL-CIO.

This is perhaps the most biased, the most tendentious, the most politically active IRS in the history of this country. And the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means has a right to ask for an explanation. He did not order anyone to stop. He asked for an explanation. It is time that they explain their political activity.

MORE ON THE IRS

(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 IRS. Murderers, terrorists, rapists, child abusers, even traffic violators are also innocent until proven guilty. It had been good enough for Madison, Jefferson, Washington, good enough for everyone except the Internal Revenue Service. The Internal Revenue Service says taxpayers should remain guilty and have to prove themselves innocent in tax court. And they said, Congress, if you change the burden of proof law it will cost us billions of dollars. Unbelievable, Congress.

Could you imagine Madison saying to Jefferson, discussing the Bill of Rights, Tom, this is great stuff but it costs too much? Beam me up. You want to talk about family values. The IRS, NEWT GINGRICH, picking on political targets.

Congress, put this thing in order. It is time to change the law. A taxpayer is a citizen, too. They should be innocent until proven guilty. Bring your damn case or do not bring it right. Think about that. I am asking Congress to change the burden of proof in a tax case and start treating taxpayers like American citizens. I yield back the balance of these laws.

REPORT ON TEENAGE DRUG USE

(Mrs. CHENOWETH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, the Department of Health and Human Services released a shocking report on teenage drug use. Here are some of the findings: Overall drug use for 12- to 17-year-olds, from 1992 to 1995 is up 78 percent; marijuana use up 105 percent in the same age group during the same period; marijuana use, in just the last year: up 37 percent; LSD use, 1992-95: up 183 percent; LSD use in just the last year: up 54 percent; cocaine use, 1994-95: up 166 percent. In just 1 year.

It used to be that the White House encouraged our young people to just say no. Today, the White House just says nothing about this explosion of teenage drug use.

The Clinton war against drugs has been a failed war against drugs. And now we see the consequences.

BACK TO SCHOOL

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, in my home State of California, which is being called the epicenter of the school enrollment explosion, 5.5 million students are returning to school this week, 100,000 more than last year. Nationwide enrollment is expected to rise by 7 percent over the next 6 years. Instead of responding to this crisis, the majority, however, is contributing to it by proposing tax cuts on the rich while voting to cut education spending by 7 percent, 7 percent below 1995 levels.