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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mrs. EMERSON].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 22, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable JO ANN EMERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 858) "an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes," agrees to a conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints from the Select Committee on Intelligence: Mr. SHELBY, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. KYL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. COATS, Mr. KERREY, Mr. GLENN, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. ROBB, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. LEVIN, and from the Committee on Armed Services: Mr. THURMOND, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 1997, the Chair will now recog-

nize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KUCINICH] for 5 minutes.

IMPACT ON INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS IN REVENUE RECONCILIATION ACT

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, the independent contractor provision in the Revenue Reconciliation Act will do great damage to employer relations in our country. Millions of Americans would lose health care coverage and pension benefits.

Working women would suffer the most. For women, being an independent contractor means much lower wages than male employees in similar jobs. What about health care and pensions? Only 2 percent of women independent contractors have health care and pensions paid by their employers. Women also would lose critical employment protections.

Independent contractors are not covered by equal employment opportunity laws. They do not receive family and medical leave. Some employers have misclassified janitors and garment workers to evade minimum wage and overtime laws affecting many low-wage workers who are women.

Working women have fought hard to win equal employment opportunity, fair wages, and economic security. The independent contractor provision would be a disaster for them and their families. That is why a coalition of 130 women's organizations is against this measure.

Finally, Madam Speaker, the bipartisan budget bill is the wrong vehicle to carry this issue. As my colleague from

Connecticut, [Mrs. JOHNSON] pointed out in a letter to the Speaker of the House, Congress needs to protect working women and to delete this clause from the budget bill.

THE TRUTH IS IN THE NUMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. STEARNS] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I will bet most Americans would be surprised to realize that they are rich. To accomplish this amazing feat, the Clinton administration has formulated a new exercise in wordspeak that simply defines a significant portion of all Americans as rich. But, frankly, most Americans probably do not feel rich. Most probably rely on two incomes, have a couple of children, a lot of bills to pay and, in fact, feel very far from being rich.

But, more than anything else, Madam Speaker, they deserve a tax break today. Well, why should the White House have any interest in inventing a new measurement of wealth? Well, it is actually quite simple. In order for the administration to score political points at the expense of hard-working middle-class Americans, they must create millions of wealthy taxpayers where none exist.

For decades, American taxpayers have paid taxes based upon the adjusted gross income, the AGI. The AGI is a rather simple and straightforward calculation of earnings. It is at the bottom of the first page of everyone's tax return.

Perhaps the AGI is too simple for the White House, for they have worked diligently over the recent past to prejudice the AGI and with it the tax package that the President initiated. They have done everything in their power to modify and create a new formula to

□ 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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