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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. EMERSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 23, 1998.

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.

PRAYER

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

In addition to all we must know to do our work, all the facts, background, consequences, and magnitude of our action or inaction, we pray, gracious God, that we will also be blessed by the gift of wisdom. We pray that we will know discernment in our thoughts and sound judgement in our decisions as we weigh the worthiness and merit of what we do. We realize that facts and events gain meaning and power when they are blended with prudence and insight. As the scripture tells us, so teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. 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 gentlewoman from Washington (Ms.

DUNN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DUNN 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will take 10 one-minutes from each side.

THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION AND AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, we will soon be debating an amendment which will define what powers the World Trade Organization will have over the ability of the American people, through their elected representatives, to determine our own fate, to make our own laws, to decide our own policies.

Should we sacrifice our sovereignty, our domestic interest in order to satisfy an international tribunal? I think not and I hope that our colleagues will agree. The WTO is selectively challenging our local, State and Federal laws, saying that they are infringements on free trade. No U.S. laws or regulations are safe from the reaches of the World Trade Organization. Even at risk are sanctions laws such as the ones passed by New York City and the States of California and New Jersey which protect Nazi Holocaust victims who had their assets stolen by Swiss banks. The Swiss have already said they want a WTO ruling on such sanctions. Is nothing sacred from the clutches of the WTO? Apparently not.

So along with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH), the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS), we will be offering an amendment to state that diplomacy does not mean surrender.

REPUBLICAN MANAGED CARE REFORM DOES NOT MEASURE UP

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

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, tomorrow we are scheduled to begin the debate on the Patients' Bill of Rights. I ask the American people to look at both plans, the Democratic plan and the Republican plan. As you do, you will see point by point the Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights bill is far superior in reform that will guarantee that doctors and patients and not insurance executives will decide your medical future. The right to have protection for women after mastectomies and reconstructive surgery is in the Democratic bill, not in the Republican bill. Democrats provide for a choice of doctor within a plan, access to specialty care, and direct access to OB-GYN for women. These are all parts lacking in the Republican plan.

To enforce your choice, and it is your choice and your access to your doctor, the Democrats allow enforcement in State courts if you are injured by your HMO plan. Why do you need that protection? Because in this country, two groups have immunity. They are HMOs and foreign diplomats. You pay for health insurance. You have the right to demand quality health insurance. Support the Democratic HMO Patients' Bill of Rights.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET BARNETT

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

□ 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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