ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Mr. FILNER. On behalf of the Democratic Caucus, Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 106) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 106

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives: To the Committee on International Relations:

William Luther of Minnesota.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING SPEAKER, MAJORITY LEADER, AND MINORITY LEADER TO ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS AND MAKE APPOINTMENTS, NOTWITHSTANDING ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding any adjournment of the House until Tuesday, April 8, 1997, the Speaker, majority leader, and minority leader be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments authorized by law or by the House.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1997

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, April 19, 1997.

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

There was no objection.

GRANTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE PRIVILEGE TO REVISE AND EXTEND REMARKS AND TO INCLUDE EXTRANEOUS MATERIAL IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD FOR TODAY

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that for today all Members be permitted to extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in that section of the RECORD entitled ''Extension of Remarks.''

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

There was no objection.

DESIGNATION OF HON. CONSTANCE MORELLA OR HON. FRANK WOLF TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 1997

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 21, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable CONSTANCE A. MORELLA or, if not available to perform this duty, the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through Tuesday, April 8, 1997.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the designation is accepted.

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TAXES, BUDGETS, AND SAVING MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take just a few minutes of my colleagues' time to talk about taxes, budgets, and saving Medicare, because this week I seem to make a great deal of news saying something that I thought actually was rather commonsensical and exactly fitting where the Republican Party has been.

I began on Monday by being on this floor for the first time in a long time laying out a Republican agenda which I believe in deeply, which had as one of its items balancing the budget, one of its items cutting taxes so Americans have more take-home pay and more economic growth, and one of its items saving Medicare.

□ 1315

When I came off the floor I chatted with several reporters and said, I think what is vital is that this year we balance the budget, we save Medicare, and we cut taxes so people have more take home pay, so parents have more money, so we have more economic growth, but that the precise way we do it is less important than getting it done, that the important thing, whether it is all done in one big bundle or whether it is done in a series of steps, is that we get it done. In that conversation I said, we should clearly vote on tax cuts before the end of the year.

Now, let me make clear my position. I began running in the 1970's. I was one of the early cosponsors of the Kemp-Roth bill. I believe in cutting taxes, increasing incentives. I would like to eliminate the capital gains tax so we have the maximum savings and the maximum investment to create the best jobs to have Americans have the best incomes in the world. I would like to eliminate the death taxes because I think they are wrong. I think it is wrong to punish a family financially when they are already in pain. And I think if you have already earned the money and paid taxes on the money, the Government should not revisit it and you should not have to sell your family farm, you should not to have to sell your small business just to pay the IRS. I believe the IRS is too big. I have gone everywhere in America and made a speech that said, when there are 110,000 Internal Revenue agents and there are 5,500 Border Patrol and there are 7,400 Drug Enforcement Administration agents so there are 10 IRS agents for every person guarding the border so we cannot protect you from illegal drugs and we cannot stop illegal immigrants but we can audit every small business in America, there is something wrong. We ought to end the IRS as we know it.

So I am deeply committed to lowering taxes. I favor a big debate between Steve Forbes and Majority Leader DICK ARMEY, who want a flat tax to replace the income tax, and Chairman BILL ARCHER and DICK LUGAR and others who want a sales tax to completely eliminate the income tax. I think the Republican Party should be committed to a 2- or 3-year effort to educate the Nation, have the Nation decide, how do you want to replace the current code, which way do you want to do it. How do we dramatically shrink the IRS.

I led the effort to say that I thought that the Internal Revenue Service proved, when their $4 billion computer program did not work, that maybe the problem is the Internal Revenue Code is so complicated that if the government cannot understand it for $4 billion, you should not expect the average citizen to understand it.

The only question I raised was this. We saw in the last 2 years some people use Medicare as a political tool. It was wrong. We saw some people deliberately scare senior citizens and it was wrong. We saw people say, well, Republicans want to cut taxes and they want to save Medicare and there was promptly, let us link them together.

So my position is simple. I think the best, safest thing we could do for America and for our senior citizens is let us get to an agreement on Medicare. Let us get it done and let us get it off the table so there is no question we did it to save Medicare. We did it to save our parents and grandparents. We did it to save our children and grandchildren so we have a stable, honest, reformed Medicare system that is solid, period.

Then I wanted to challenge the liberals. Do not tell me about tax cuts. Tell me about the size of Government. I am for smaller Government in Washington, fewer bureaucrats, less redtape.

I want to return power back home. Now, let us debate the size of Government. I do not think liberals can win that debate.

Now, when we are done doing those two, let us make sure that we get correct, historically accurate scoring of a capital gains cut which means, by the way, it will raise revenue. Under the budget act, if you honestly scored capital gains, it will increase revenue. So you do not score it as a cut. It is an increase. So it is magic. You lower taxes, more Americans save, more Americans invest, more Americans go to work, and historically every time we have done it, you have raised revenue. Only in Washington is an increase counted as a decrease. Only the technicians here who have never created a job could get away with it.

We need to have a debate and insist that it be scored historically accurately. At that point we have enough money. We can cut taxes. I want a straightforward debate. I believe we ought to have a cut in the capital gains tax to create jobs, we ought to lower the death taxes to save family farms and small businesses, we ought to have a $500-per-child tax credit so that parents decide how to spend their money. If our liberal friends want to talk about targeted, which always means the Government targets, I think the American people ought to target. But that is the great debate over taxes.

My only point Monday was, here are three goals for 1997, the goal of saving Medicare because it deserves to be saved on its own. Let us get it done, Mr. President, and get it off the table and not use it for politics. The goal of balancing the budget with a smaller Government in Washington and more power back home. And the goal of reducing taxes so Americans save more, invest more, have more time off with their kids and more money to take care of their families.

I thought that is what I said on Monday. I wanted to come here and make very clear, I hope all my colleagues will go back and read what I said on the floor on Monday. I hope the reporters who had a field day all week reexplaining what I did not say in terms of making them feel better will now listen carefully to what I actually said.

I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. TAUZIN].

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I also commend him for even beginning this great national debate on whether or not we ought to replace an income tax in America with a fairer, flatter, more reasonable proposal for the country.

I want to let him know that on April 15 a great many Democrats and Republicans are going to be together in Boston Harbor. We are going to have an historic reenactment of the Boston Tea Party. We are going to dump the United States tax code into the harbor in a symbolic gesture to begin this debate.

It starts with recognizing we have a code out of control, 4,000 changes since 1986 alone. Maybe it is time for us to really debate whether a better system is right for the country, not Democrat or Republican but a better system for America.

Mr. GINGRICH. Let me say to the gentleman, as you know also on April 15, we are going to hold the vote until you get back from Boston, and we are then going to vote on an amendment that would require a supermajority to raise taxes because more and more States, particularly out West, now require that you get two-thirds of the vote or three fifths of the vote even to raise taxes because they have learned that politicians all too often will take money from the people to pay off the special interests. So April 15 is going to be a great date for the American taxpayer.

But my point to all of my colleagues is straightforward. It should not be hard to figure out what the agenda of the House Republican Party is. It should not be hard to figure out where the Republican Party is going. We want lower taxes for economic growth, stronger families, more take home pay, and greater volunteerism.

We want a stable, balanced budget so our children do not have to pay off our bills. In peacetime we should not borrow the money. We want the lower interests rates and the lower taxes that come from a balanced budget. We want less Government in Washington and more freedom back home, and we believe that saving Medicare should be done on its own terms for Americans by Americans.

It is wrong. It is wrong. It is wrong to use Medicare as a political blackmail to try to stop us from getting an agreement. Let us save Medicare now. Get it done in April. Get it over with. Make sure it is done. Take care of our senior citizens. Get it off the table. Cut out all the fear mongering, all the demagoguery. Then let us talk about how to cut taxes and balance the budget and get economic growth and strengthen families.

I hope that for anybody who is curious among our Members, among activists in the press corps, they now get the clear message. Lower taxes, balanced budget, less power in Washington, more freedom back home, save Medicare on its own terms because America's senior citizens deserve to see Medicare put above politics and done.

I think that is a pretty darn good agenda to start the next few weeks on.

A NATIONAL HOLIDAY FOR CESAR CHAVEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a great American leader and hero, Cesar Chavez. He was a husband, father, grandfather, labor organizer, community leader, and symbol of the ongoing struggle for equal rights and equal opportunity. March 31, the birthday of Cesar Chavez, has already been declared a State holiday in California. Today I ask my colleagues to join me in making March 31 a Federal holiday so that our entire Nation can honor Cesar Chavez for his many contributions.

Cesar Chavez, the son of migrant farmworkers, dedicated his life to fighting for the human rights and dignity of those farmworkers. He was born on March 31, 1927, on a small farm near Yuma, AZ, and died nearly 4 years ago, on April 23, 1993. Over the course of his 66 years, Cesar Chavez' work inspired millions and made him a major force in American history.

In 1962, Cesar Chavez and his family founded the National Farm Workers Association, which organized thousands of farmworkers to confront one of the most powerful industries in the country. He inspired them to join together and nonviolently demand safe and fair working conditions.

Through the use of a grape boycott, he was able to secure the first union contracts for farmworkers in the United States. These contracts provided farmworkers with the basic services that most workers take for granted, services such as clean drinking water and sanitary facilities. Because of Cesar Chavez' fight to enforce child labor laws, farmworkers could also be certain that their children would not be working side by side with them and would instead attend the migrant schools he helped establish. In addition, Cesar Chavez made the world aware of the exposure to dangerous chemicals that farmworkers and all consumers face every day.

As a labor leader, he earned great support from unions and elected officials across the Nation. The movement he began continues today as the United Farm Workers of America.

Cesar Chavez' influence extended far beyond agriculture. He was instrumental in forming the Community Service Organization, one of the first civic action groups in the Mexican-American communities of California and Arizona.

He worked in urban areas, organized voter registration drives, brought complaints against mistreatment by Government agencies. He taught community members how to deal with Government, school, and financial institutions and empowered many to seek further advancement in education and politics. There are countless stories of judges, engineers, lawyers, teachers, church leaders, organizers, and other hardworking professionals who credit Cesar Chavez as the inspiring force in their lives.

During a time of great social upheaval, he was sought out by groups from all walks of life and religions to bring calm with his nonviolent practices. In his fight for peace, justice, respect, and self-determination, he gained the admiration and respect of