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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 2, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable DAVID DREIER 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:

May the gifts of prayer, O gracious God, be with us and each person; may the petitions of our hearts find satisfaction in our lives; may the longings and yearnings of our very being find fulfillment in that peace that You alone can give; and may the hopes and dreams we place before You, O God, allow us to experience reconciliation and grace with You and with our own destinies. Bless us, O God, this day and every day. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

Mr. SANFORD 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.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states the following: On the first day of Congress, a Republican House will:

Force Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else; cut committee staffs by one-third; and cut the congressional budget.

We have done that.

It goes on to state that in the first 100 days, we will vote on the following items: A balanced budget amendment—we have done this; unfunded mandates legislation—we have done this; line-item veto; a new crime bill to stop violent criminals; welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence; family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and protect our children; tax cuts for families to lift Government's burden from middle-income Americans; national security restoration to protect our freedoms; Senior Citizens' Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without Government penalty; Government regulation and unfunded mandate reforms; commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits; and congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature.

This is our Contract With America.

COUPLE LINE-ITEM VETO WITH ELIMINATION OF TAX GIVEAWAYS

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today we will begin an important bill that once again my friends on the other side of the aisle have almost gotten right. Giving the President the line-item veto authority is important but again the bill we are debating today omits an element critical to making this legislation true and effective. They are more than willing to allow the President to eliminate spending, but they seem to be more than a little nervous about allowing the President to eliminate unfair tax giveaways. I want our President to stand against wasteful spending. But he should also be able to stand up against unfair tax breaks for the wealthy and the privileged.

If the President can eliminate spending with the stroke of a pen, let us give him the authority to eliminate tax giveaways that cheat working people, drain our treasury, and pile up our debt with that very same pen.

If my colleagues are serious about this reform, let us make it a serious reform that addresses our serious problems, not a pretend reform hiding a huge tax loophole for the powerful and the privileged.

REPUBLICANS ARE DELIVERING

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thought you might be interested in some voting statistics from the first month of the 104th Congress. In the month of January, we had 79 rollcall votes. Compare that to last January, when we only had 2 rollcall votes, and in January 1992 when we only had 11 rollcall votes.

What do these statistics mean? They show that the Republican majority is

□ 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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