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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYER

Rev. Harold Bradley, assistant to the president, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

O loving and gracious God, we offer our thanks to You for Your gifts that brighten our days and give meaning to our lives. We pray for sound minds so that we can contemplate and appreciate the marvels of Your creation, and we pray for good hearts that allow us to do those good works that honor You and serve people whatever their need. May Your spirit, O God, that is with us whatever our circumstance, protect, sustain, and bless us so we will live as You would have us live and be faithful in deeds of justice and mercy. May Your grace be with us this day and every day, 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. The gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. DICKEY] will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DICKEY 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair announces there will be 1-minutes on each side.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states the following:

On the first day of Congress, a Republican House will require Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else; cut committee staffs by one-third; and cut the congressional budget.

We kept our promise.

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

This is our Contract With America.

THIS IS NOT LIVING UNDER THE SAME LAWS AS EVERYONE ELSE

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, with the ink barely dry on the one bill that we passed making Members live under the same laws as everyone else, the Speaker yesterday continued to promote a bill creating a special rule that would make those who bring ethics charges against him or any Member pay his lawyer's fees and the Ethics Committee's costs when no disciplinary action results.

The Speaker claims this rule would not intimidate citizens interested in cleaning up Government. I disagree. It would definitely tend to intimidate. No citizen, and certainly no Member of this House, should be intimidated when the issue is ethics in Government and putting that in first place.

As a former justice of the Texas Supreme Court, as a chair of its ethics task force, I know some with valid ethics complaints would be discouraged, would think twice before blowing the whistle on anyone under the threat of having to pay a Member's lawyer fees with that hanging over their head.

Many will not blow the whistle at all, making the American people the real loser.

Mr. Speaker, this is not living under the same laws as everyone else. It is just plain wrong.

WE CANNOT MORTGAGE OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURES

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the balanced budget amendment is the most important piece of legislation passed by Congress in a long, long time.

By passing this amendment we proved that we are serious about balancing the Federal budget, finally.

We proved we are willing to do what millions of Americans do every day, live within their means. We said to the children of America: You will not have to pay off our debts. We will not mortgage your future. However, we cannot act alone.

If the children of America are to grow up without the burden of our

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