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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 10, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable HENRY BONILLA 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:

We are grateful, O God, for the blessings that have come to us and to our Nation. In good times and in times of trial, Your spirit of creation and renewal and comfort has been our constant guide and encouragement. For all Your gifts, gracious God, we offer our thanksgivings—for liberty and freedom, for opportunity and vision, for healing and help, for family and friends, and for the works of justice and the bounty of Your mercy, we offer these words of prayer. Bless us this day and every day, we pray. 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 North Carolina [Mr.

JONES] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina 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.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, is there a limit on the number of 1-minutes this morning?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There will be a limit of 10 1-minutes on each side.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces there will be a limit of 10 1-minute speeches on each side.

A VICTORY PARTY FOR THE PRIVILEGED FEW

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, for weeks now, Americans have watched in astonishment as House Republicans have voted to ravage our most basic commitments to hard-working families: School lunch for children who would literally go hungry without it; heating assistance for frail elderly who would literally freeze to death without it; a program of food and nutrition for pregnant women that saves more than three times what it costs.

Yesterday, the Republican leadership added outrage to injury, by rolling out the reason behind these budget-shred-

ding atrocities: A capital gains tax cut that is a boon for the privileged, but a bust for working people.

The most affluent Americans do not need a tax cut. That is why Democrats are fighting to give a tax break to the middle-class families who have seen their standard of living slide for the past 16 years.

According to the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation, the Republican tax cut would give \$8,000 to those earning more than \$200,000 a year—but only a meager \$92 to those earning \$30,000 a year.

That would be bad public policy on any day, in any debate. But because it is funded by taking food from the mouths of children and heat from the homes of senior citizens, this tax giveaway is an affront to fundamental fairness and decency.

Mr. Speaker, if there was ever any doubt, there is no doubt today: Elections have consequences. And with this latest assault on working America, the Republican Party is sending a powerful message: For the privileged few, the real party is just about to begin.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Ms. DUNN of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN of Washington. 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

□ 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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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 our freedoms—we kept our promise; Government regulatory reform—we kept our promise; commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits—we are doing this now; welfare reform to increase school lunches for poor people, encourage work, not dependence; family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and protect our children; tax cuts for middle-income families, who have been too long ignored by the Democrats; Senior Citizens' Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without Government penalty; and congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature.

Mr. Speaker, this is our Contract With America.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM NEEDED NOW

(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, I can report today that one part of the Contract With America is working very well: Term limits.

You might say, "LUIS, the Republicans have not even let you vote on term limits yet." You are right. Actually, what is working is a different, very American version of term limits. It is called the ballot box.

American voters have limited plenty of terms. In fact, since 1990, half the Members of this House have been sent home. That is effective term limits.

But we could do even better, by passing a bill that says American elections are not only for millionaires and insiders, that says campaigns are for people—not for the powerful and privileged.

A tough campaign finance reform bill would mean real term limits for all of the career politicians who talk a good game about citizen legislators by supporting the phony Republican term limits bill that are not retroactive. Funny, though, I do not see one word about campaign finance reform in their contract.

I guess that issue will have to wait until the last lobbyists have turned off the lights at a few more thousand-dollar-a-plate Republican fundraisers.

SCORE ANOTHER ONE FOR THE TAXPAYERS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, score another victory for the American consumer. Today this House, after years of failure, will finally bring about common sense legal reform. An-

other promise kept by the new Republican majority, and soon we will keep another promise. We will again honor our Contract With America by passing real welfare reform.

We will pass this legislation with the help of people. People on welfare need to break the bonds of dependency. They need hope, not a handout. We will send a clear message that those who are able to work will work to support themselves and their families. Those who can work but will not will no longer get a free ride at the expense of those who have traditionally footed the bill.

Mr. Speaker, in the coming days we will hear more of the same from our liberal friends. There will be whining and weeping and gnashing of teeth. They will play fast and loose with the truth. But we will fight. We will fight for real welfare reform.

It is time that the hard-working taxpayers of this country finally get a break. It is time for welfare reform. We will finally deliver that to the American people, who have been demanding it for such a long time.

DO NOT FORGET OUR CHILDREN

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as reported yesterday, it appears an overburdened and overworked committee staff person realized that the Republicans forgot to add 57,000 children to the Welfare Reform School Lunch Program for the children of our military personnel. That little mistake could cost an additional \$10 million. To paraphrase Senator Everett Dirksen, "A million here, a million there, pretty soon you're talking real money."

This is often what happens when the Republicans rush like a runaway train to reform our welfare system and include programs like school nutrition programs, which should be dealt with in the education system and not welfare reform.

This runaway train left 57,000 kids of military personnel at the station. But who else is left at the station? I will tell you. Twenty-eight hundred children in my district alone, and thousands in the State of Texas will have no school lunch.

Again, the Republican shell game of promising an increase but cutting appropriations proves that in this shell game our children are going to be the losers. Let us not forget our children, whether it is their school lunches, whether it is their job training, or whether it is their education that they are also cutting next week in the rescissions.

TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT WELFARE

(Mr. FUNDERBURK asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, I was Ambassador to Romania in the 1980's. I watched the Communists manipulate the people through calculated half-truths. We call the method the big lie. To make the big lie work, you tell a lie so big it staggers the listener. Then you repeat it over and over until it is finally accepted as truth.

Mr. Speaker, I have had enough of the big lie about welfare reform. Day after day liberal Democrats come to the floor and repeat that Republicans are waging a war on poor children. That is a monstrous lie. What makes it all the more offensive is that the lie is peddled by the same people who created our welfare nightmare. Their policies led to the disintegration of the family, the highest crime rate in the world, and three generations of Americans who do nothing but wait at home for the next Government check.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats like business as usual. They do not seem to care that their programs have not worked and they are spiritually and financially bankrupting our country. They do not trust the people, they have no faith in the American spirit.

We reject the notion that Washington knows best. We support local control. Why doesn't the Democrat Party tell the truth about welfare. Enough of this big lie.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE TAXED OFF

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if you ever heard about it, but there is a day called Tax Freedom Day. This year it is May 5, which means that every American will work from January 1 through the 5th of May just to pay their taxes.

Disgusting. Ridiculous, Congress. Is it any wonder the American people are taxed off? But if you want to know what they are really taxed off about, when mom and pop go into certain civil tax courts, they are considered guilty and even have to provide themselves innocent.

Ladies and gentlemen of Congress, there can be no tax freedom in America when American taxpayers are treated worse than Jeffrey Dahmer. And let me tell you this: If we are going to have a real Contract With America, that contract should be broadened to provide true tax freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the support of H.R. 390, and I am asking this Congress before the 15th of April to pass a true tax freedom bill. The American people are taxed off.