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House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 3, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable BOB INGLIS 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:

With this ardent petition, O gracious God, we pray for the gift of wisdom in our hearts and in our actions, that what we ask or think or do will advance the good of the Nation and be to the benefit of every person. May we have perceptive minds and discerning hearts; may we be astute in our judgments and show mercy in our decisions so that the gift of wisdom will be our heritage and our legacy. Bless us and all Your people this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina). 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. The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] will

lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DURBIN 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.

THE PRESIDENT'S RELEVANCE AND MEDICARE

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, Bill Clinton proclaimed he was relevant to the legislative process. Since he is still President of the United States, I certainly hope he is relevant, but as time goes on, I begin to wonder.

The debate on Medicare is just one example of the President's slipping relevance.

Republicans in the House and Senate are taking steps now to save Medicare in the future.

Our plan will preserve, improve, and protect Medicare far into the next century.

But comprehensive Medicare reform will take bipartisanship, statesmanship, and cooperation.

Unfortunately, the President has decided to walk away from this problem. In fact, he has rejected Republican attempts to get the administration involved in solving the Medicare problem.

I urge the President and his advisers to join Republicans in saving Medicare.

Actions speak louder than words, and if the President wants to be relevant, he has to act relevant.

TIME TO BRING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE INTO THE BUDGET DEBATE

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

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority is getting ready to make dramatic changes in the Medicare program. I am concerned that the American people will not be included in this debate.

The Republican majority has already missed the deadline to submit a budget. To balance the budget and save \$1 trillion over 7 years will be a difficult task, I admit. However, the Republican majority should submit a plan which we all can review. The Republican majority makes promises without making the tough choices on how to achieve their goals.

The Republican majority plans to cut Medicare by \$300 billion over 7 years. These cuts will hurt seniors and result in higher costs. It is estimated that this will add \$900 in out-of-pocket expenses for seniors in 2002.

Democrats have been responsible in reforming Medicare. In the 1993 OBRA bill, Democrats voted to strengthen the trust fund and made it solvent for an additional 3 years. No Republican Members supported these important reforms.

I am also concerned that any Medicare cuts will affect the health care industry. In my district, reduction in indirect medical education and direct medical education will have devastating consequences. I represent the Texas Medical Center which has two medical schools. Any Medicare reductions in these payments will negatively impact the Houston area, and I will work vigorously to oppose these reductions.

If we are going to balance the budget, the American people should be involved and we should all contribute fairly to the solution. Without a plan,

□ 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.



I cannot judge whether this goal will be met.

The American people deserve to know the details of a plan and we have the responsibility to ensure that they are included in this debate.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, during the last 3 weeks, I held 11 town meetings, 3 senior citizen conferences, and a very successful agriculture conference. I always ask those in attendance to tell me what they were hearing about the new 104th Congress.

Here is one letter I received last week:

DEAR ANDREA: You asked the question, "What are you hearing?"

Our son said, "The Republicans have a chance to do something, but they will probably drop the ball." A 17-year-old cynic. Now he says, "They did it. The Republicans did it."

My cousin in Santa Barbara said her husband is so excited she was not able to tear him away from the TV coverage for the first 100 days.

In general, people say, "We can depend on the freshmen in the Congress to stand together and do what they said they could do." Congratulations on the Contract With America. Thank you for your very hard work.

Sincerely,

MARY KAY DANA.

NIPOMO, CA.

REPUBLICANS HAVE PROMISED MORE THAN THEY CAN DELIVER

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, the senior citizens of this country should be deeply concerned about the rumblings that they hear on the Republican side of the aisle.

The Republicans have now come to face the fact that they cannot give tax cuts to the wealthy, balance the budget, and preserve Medicare, so now they are devising a plan by which they can make the cuts in Medicare to provide for the tax cuts for the wealthy.

I think we have to ask ourselves, is this really what America expected at the time of election, that we would pass on massive tax cuts to the wealthiest people in this country and we would do it at the expense of the Medicare plan, the health safety net for millions of seniors who have nowhere other to turn for health care in this country? I am saying to the senior citizens of this country, keep your eyes open and your ears tuned to the news waves because what the Republicans have in store is nothing but bad for the Medicare system of this country.

If they do not do that, what they have in store is to add another \$150 bil-

lion in budget cuts to \$1 out of every \$3 that the Federal Government now spends, so they have run up against the cruel facts that they have promised more than they can deliver, and it looks like the beneficiaries of that will be the wealthy of the Nation, and the victims will be the health care of the senior citizens.

THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. Speaker, doubtlessly, we will return in just a moment to the 1-minute handgrenades back and forth. But first this happy birthday greeting.

My colleagues, as chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, we are 175 years old as of today. As we begin our work on the 1995 farm bill, it is appropriate for us to take a brief moment to reflect on the long and distinguished story and history of the committee.

April 29, 1820, Congressman Lewis Williams of North Carolina, introduced a resolution to create a Committee on Agriculture in the House of Representatives. Since that time, we have remained true to the original purpose of the committee that was stated by Congressman Williams, to guard and protect the great and leading substantial interests in this country.

Hey, the House Ag Committee over the break, 16 hearings, 5,000 farmers in attendance, over 600 witnesses. When we are 200, I can assure you we will continue to do our work, to make sure we have the best quality food at the lowest price in the history of the world.

Happy birthday, House Ag Committee.

WHERE IS THE BUDGET?

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, well, the tax cuts got passed, the circus came to the Hill, and, guess what, we still do not have a budget.

We do not have any budget because now they have got to do the tough part, the spending part, and there is nothing really there they can cut except Medicare. They do not want to cut Medicare.

You know, we have tried last year, for the last 2 years, with the President, to reform the whole health care system. Boy, we did not get any help on that side.

They promised they could do this. This was going to be so easy. Now you hear everybody, saying, "Hey, where is the President, where is the President? He ought to do this."

Well, he was here last time. He was trying to do it. We were trying to do it with him. We got no help there.

Let us get this budget out. Let us see what we are going to do to get this thing balanced, and let us stop seeing the whining for help from the White House.

CONTINUING TO WORK FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, while home during the 3-week recess, I traveled 17 of 21 days, visited 15 of 19 counties that I have the privilege to represent, appeared on several radio talk shows, and held numerous town meetings.

Overall, people are optimistic about the direction the new Congress is going. People believe Congress is starting to represent the working man and woman and passing commonsense legislation. I sincerely believe we are in the process of rebuilding the public's trust in Congress which was lost after previous Congresses neglected to listen to the people.

In the next few months we will all have to make difficult choices. But we, as elected officials, must continue to use common sense when drafting, discussing, and voting on legislation. We must continue to work for the American people.

Ultimately, we need to stay focused to the commitment we made with the American people—to again make America a great country.

LEADERSHIP IS TOUGH

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, leadership is tough. During the welfare reform, the Republican majority pulled seniors out of that legislation and I agreed with that decision. And now it appears Medicare is off the table to pay for tax cuts and budget reduction.

The Republican majority, which is attempting to balance the budget by the year 2002, plan to cut \$400 billion out of Medicare. The Republican majority is realizing what President Clinton, and a number of other Democrats, and I said last year, when we were first elected, that to have a balanced budget we must control health care costs.

The Republican majority has promised not to cut Social Security or the military budget, and interest on the national debt, which is 20 percent of our budget, has to be paid.

Guess what? Medicare is 25 percent of everything left. And now they have promised not to tamper with that.

In 1993, the Democrats made Medicare solvent for 3 more years, without