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## House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are reminded by the Psalmist that Your Word, O God, is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. In these times when there are many options available to people in their lives and diverse opinions and ideas, we pray for lamps to lighten our way and show us the course to follow. We recognize that we can communicate with all the authorities from every background and attempt to gain all knowledge, and yet we know that to be touched by Your spirit is the beginning of wisdom. May that spirit, O God, that is new every morning, encourage and lighten our path, now and evermore. 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. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CLAYTON 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 CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES ON AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee is planning to meet on next Tuesday, May 16, to grant a rule which may limit the kind of amendments offered to the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1996.

Members are strongly advised to submit only amendments in the nature of a substitute which provide for a balanced budget not later than the year 2002.

Any Member who is contemplating an amendment to the budget resolution should submit 55 copies and a brief explanation by 5 p.m. on Monday, May 15, to the Rules Committee, room H-312 in the Capitol.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel and the Congressional Budget Office to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

### A FAILURE TO ACT

(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, as we start the budget process today, we will hear many doomsday predictions from liberal Democrats about the Republican approach to balancing the budget.

Sadly, we will not hear a thing about the Democrat approach because there is no Democrat approach to balancing the budget. That failure to act is a monumental decision.

A failure to act on the budget means higher interest rates, slower economic growth, and less job opportunity for working Americans.

A failure to act means higher taxes and more wasteful government spending. A failure to act means less buying power for American families, a heavier burden on our middle class, less stability for our senior citizens.

A failure to act means a bankrupt Medicare system. A failure to act means a less secure future for our children.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats have failed to act, and that failure is completely irresponsible. I urge the American people to keep that in mind as House Democrats come to the floor with their hysterical charges.

### CUTTING MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SO THE WEALTHY GET A TAX BREAK

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, the 126th day of the imperial speakership, to protest the proposed Gingrich Republican budget plan. This plan would cut Medicare and Medicaid Programs by over \$400 billion so that the wealthy can have a tax break.

Two months ago, Mr. Speaker, the Gingrich Republicans voted to cut benefits for children in the School Lunch Program. Then they attacked the Student Loan Program. Now it is the elderly through cuts in Medicare and Social Security. The Republicans have stated time and time again they would not touch the Social Security system, but their proposed fiscal year 1996 budget would decrease cost-of-living increases for Social Security recipients.

□ 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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