



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1995

No. 180

## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Ms. PRYCE].

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
November 14, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable DEBORAH PRYCE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT] for 5 minutes.

### END TO BUSINESS AS USUAL

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, Winston Churchill once observed that sometimes doing our best is not enough. Sometimes we have to do what is required.

A little over 1 year ago the voters of this Nation went to the polls, and I think they sent a very unmistakable message to this Capitol and to the people who were elected to serve them.

I think the message was clear: They wanted an end to business as usual;

they wanted to put the Federal Government on a diet; they wanted to lift the burden of senseless regulation; they wanted to allow families to keep and spend more of their earnings. Finally, and perhaps most important, they wanted us, for the first time in more than two decades, to balance the Federal budget.

Madam Speaker, from the very first day, this Congress, this House, and indeed this majority, has done its best to keep its faith with the American people. We have done what is required.

We accomplished much in the very first day. We made the Congress live by the same rules as everybody else. We downsized the staff. We have made enormous attempts to open up the process so that the committee meetings are open to the public. We eliminated the process whereby committee chairmen could have all of the votes lined up and no one even showed up for committee meetings. We have opened up this process and changed the way this Congress does business from the very first day.

We have marshaled through smoke screens of the defenders of the status quo, and during the flak from the media elites and the firestorm of special interests. We have been subjected to half truths, distortions, and indeed, bald-faced lies.

For example, we are being accused today of cutting Medicare, of cutting school lunch, of eliminating student loans, when the other folks who say this know that these are not true. As a matter of fact, when one talks about Medicare, we are increasing Medicare by over 45 percent over the next 7 years. The average Medicare recipient will go from \$4,800 this year to \$6,700 in only 7 years.

As a matter of fact, recently a poll came back and when Americans were informed that we are actually talking about increasing Medicare from \$4,800 per recipient to \$6,700 per recipient, 63

percent of the people, when informed of that, said that we are raising Medicare too much. School lunch, and some will recall we had this debate earlier this year, was being cut, but in fact, the truth is school lunch programs will increase, nutrition programs will increase by over 35 percent over the next 7 years.

I wonder how many of our college students actually know that the total appropriations for school loans will increase by 47 percent over the next 7 years.

We are also being accused of doing all of these very mean-spirited things in order to pay for a tax cut for the rich. Again, anyone who has studied the issue more than 10 minutes knows that this is simply not true. As a matter of fact, our \$500 per child tax credit for families will go to benefit mostly families earning under \$75,000 a year. As a matter of fact, 74 percent of the benefits of that tax credit program will go to benefit those earning less than \$75,000 a year.

More important, when they talk about tax cuts for the rich, frequently what they are really talking about is an increase of cutting the capital gains tax rate. But the truth of the matter is, even there, and particularly people back in the Midwest know this, that 44 percent of the people who get stuck paying a capital gains tax are rich for 1 day, the day they sell their farm, the day they sell their business, or the day they sell an investment which they have been holding and paying taxes on, in many cases for a long period of time.

Madam Speaker, 3 years ago our President campaigned promising to downsize the Federal Government, to end welfare as we know it, to reform and save the Medicare system. He promised tax cuts for the middle class, and he promised to balance the budget within 5 years. He has not kept his promises. What is worse than that, and particularly on behalf of many of my

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

H12195