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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. MILLER of Florida].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 20, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable DAN MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Ronald F. Christian, office of the bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, with Your mercy new to us every day irrespective of our nature, and with Your grace provided to each one alike without regard to need, we pray, give to each one of us, O God, Your gift of peace, so that our lives will be an example of Your righteousness.

Give to our Nation, O God, the earnest search for justice, so that our conversations and actions will show a desire for what is right.

Give to those ordained with responsibility for leadership a sense of awe and a spirit of humility that will offer thoughtful and useful commentary on behalf of those without voice.

And give to us all a measure of Your love, so that compassion can be our benchmark for honor, kindness the waterline for friendship, patience the starting pole of brother and sisterhood, and hope the finish line for our lives. 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 Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MONTGOMERY 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 OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2 of rule IX, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a resolution which raises a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas on December 6, 1995, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct agreed to appoint an outside counsel to conduct an independent, nonpartisan investigation of allegations of ethical misconduct by Speaker Newt Gingrich;

Whereas, after an eight-month investigation, that outside counsel has submitted an extensive document containing the results of his inquiry;

Whereas the report of the outside counsel cost the taxpayers \$500,000;

Whereas the public has a right—and Members of Congress have a responsibility—to examine the work of the outside counsel and reach an independent judgment concerning the merits of the charges against the Speaker;

Whereas these charges have been before the Ethics Committee for more than two years;

Whereas a failure of the Committee to release the outside counsel's report before the adjournment of the 104th Congress will seriously undermine the credibility of the Ethics Committee and the integrity of the House of Representatives: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall release to the public the outside counsel's report on Speaker Newt Gingrich—including any conclusions, recommendations, attachments, exhibits or accompanying material—no later than Wednesday, September 25, 1996.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time or place designated by the Chair in the legislative schedule within 2 legislative days. The Chair will announce that designation at a later date.

A determination as to whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege will be made at a later time.

DRUG USE SKYROCKETING UNDER PRESIDENT CLINTON

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

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, America is losing the war against drugs. As a father of two young children, I understand the fear felt by every parent as they send their kids off to school each morning.

Over the past several years, this administration—through its irresponsible actions and indifferent words—has created a world where drug use is not only blatantly ignored but is often the source of careless chuckles and thoughtless jokes. This is not the environment I want my children to grow up in—drug use is not funny.

But worse than the rhetoric is the record. Actions speak louder than words, Mr. Speaker. President Clinton

□ 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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