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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. PEASE].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.

April 14, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable EDWARD A. PEASE 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 recognize, O gracious God, that we represent our best selves when we see our lives with the perspective of thanksgiving and praise. On this day we voice our gratitude for the freedoms we have to express our faith in differing and divergent ways, each person with the opportunity to believe, each with the opportunity to witness, each with the possibility to worship and pray as You have given us the wisdom so to do. Just as we hold to our own heritage of faith and our own words of belief, so we have been blessed in this Nation by the liberty to believe as we believe, to worship as we worship, and to pray as we pray. For these gifts we offer this prayer of thanksgiving. 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 California [Mr. ROGAN] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROGAN 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 785. An act to designate the J. Phil Campbell, Senior, Natural Resource Conservation Center.

H. Con. Res. 11. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a joint resolution and a concurrent resolution of the following titles:

S.J. Res. 11. Joint resolution commemorating "Juneteenth Independence Day," June 19, 1865, the day on which slavery finally came to an end in the United States.

S. Con. Res. 20. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the status of the investigation of the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires in 1992.

EXTENDING ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF FEBRUARY 12, 1997, THROUGH APRIL 16, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the order of the House of February 12, 1997, be extended through April 16, 1997.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EMERGENCY MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON RULES TODAY

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, this evening at 5 p.m. the Rules Committee will be meeting on other matters, but I would announce that there will be an emergency rules meeting of the Rules Committee for the purposes of establishing a Suspension Calendar for Wednesday and Thursday and I would like to inform the body.

JUSTICE IN RESOLVING THE GINGRICH ETHICS VIOLATION

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, as a former prosecutor and judge, I devoted my life to ensuring that great injustices did not occur; and my concern, Mr. Speaker, is that we are a body about to see a potential injustice done with respect to final resolution against the Speaker of the House in reimbursing the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

There has been a great deal of disinformation spread about his particular case. In fact, Mr. Speaker, there was no finding of any violation of tax law. The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct filed a 22-page report and found there was no evidence of any willful or criminal conduct on behalf of the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH]. There was no violation of law found by this bipartisan committee. And yet, despite that, Mr. Speaker, there is this great urge now to come up with a preordained result as to how the Speaker ought to pay that.

□ 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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