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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

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

We know, O gracious God, that You have called all people to do the works of justice in our communities, our Nation, and in our World. On this day, we are especially aware of the contributions of those who have served in Government and have used their abilities and gifts in ways that have strengthened the common good, enhanced the security of every person, and have shown compassion for the neediest among us.

We acknowledge the high honor that the citizens of this Nation have given them, and we pray that Your blessing will be with them now and in all the years to come. 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 gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. COBLE] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COBLE 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of Friday, May 16, 1997, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair to receive the former Members of Congress.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

RECEPTION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

The Speaker of the House presided.

The SPEAKER. On behalf of this Chair and this Chamber, it is a high honor and distinct personal privilege to have the opportunity of welcoming so many of our former Members and colleagues as may be present here for this occasion. We all welcome you.

The Chair at this time would recognize the distinguished majority leader, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], who may well be on the way. We were in session until 4 this morning. Many of you remember with fondness those particular events.

Let the Chair proceed out of order, if he might. Since the distinguished gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER], the Democratic nominee, is here, the Chair will recognize him prior to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY].

The Chair would say after a 4 o'clock session, Mr. HOYER does deserve a small round of applause for being here on time.

Mr. HOYER. I know that all of you lamented the fact that you were not Members of the Congress of the United States last night, and you remember fondly those 3 o'clock in the morning sessions that we had, and you thought to yourself, what a great institution this is.

I want to say that I am pleased to be here. Mr. Speaker, I am certainly pleased to be here with you. Last night was reminiscent of the first 100 days of the Contract With America, where it seemed to me we never stopped meeting.

Mr. Speaker?

He is not listening. That is typical of what we Democrats, the kind of respect we get around this House nowadays.

I was pressed into service by a power even greater than the Speaker's. Charlie Johnson, our Parliamentarian, asked me to be here this morning, and he asked me at 3 o'clock in the morning, a particularly unfriendly request, I thought.

But all of us spend a lot of money not to join your ranks. Senator Beall and my predecessor, Carlton Sickles, who held this seat, and I am so glad to welcome back my good friend and colleague, Bev Byron from Maryland. We have a number of Marylanders. Too many of them are former Members. I am not going to mention all of your names. But Lindy Boggs, I think probably only Bev Byron and Lindy Boggs have known me since long before I went to law school even.

I am pleased to be here with you and welcome all of you back. It must be a great experience to come back and be with your colleagues. This is an incredibly wonderful institution. We kid about it. Obviously, there are tough times. You saw last night, I think, a demonstration of that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate you on your remarks last night, which I thought were very appropriate. The President, the Speaker, the Democrats, and the Republicans in the House, coming together to try to pass a budget that nobody really thought was the budget they would have selected, clearly, but it was a budget that obviously a very large number of folks, indeed, I think only 99 voted against it, felt was in the best interests of our country.

I see Larry Hogan, another one of my predecessors. Unlike Glenn, he is still constrained to sit on that side of the aisle. Old habits die hard, right, Larry?

As a matter of fact, Larry's son ran against me just a few years ago, now that I think of it.

This institution, of course, generates, I think, incredibly strong friendships among us on either side of the aisle, and although there is a great deal of

□ 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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