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## House of Representatives

The House met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. HASTINGS of Washington].

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 15, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable DOC HASTINGS 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:

*Let us pray using words from Psalm 107:  
O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
For his steadfast love endures for ever;  
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,  
whom he has redeemed from trouble  
and gathered in from the lands,  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.  
Whoever is wise, let him give heed to these  
things;  
Let all consider the steadfast love of the  
Lord.*

### 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 Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. UNDERWOOD 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 concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following title:

S. Con. Res. 50. Concurrent resolution condemning in the strongest possible terms the bombing in Jerusalem on September 4, 1997.

### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

### GOVERNOR WELD DESERVES A HEARING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LEACH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, while the House of Representatives does not have a role in the process of confirming individuals to high-level Government positions, I feel compelled to object today to Senate intransigence with regard to a particular nomination, both because of the significance of the nomination itself and because of the reflection it casts on Senate procedures and American politics.

First, with regard to the individual involved, it should be stressed that the President of the United States has designated a superbly qualified former Governor to be our Ambassador to Mexico. Bill Weld stands out for his in-

tegrity, his intelligence, and his distinguished public service. In selecting a Republican, the President has wisely determined to act in a bipartisan fashion. He is to be congratulated.

The irony that a Senate controlled by the same political party as a nominee has not even given Governor Weld the courtesy of a public hearing reveals an intolerant aspect of public discourse today. It is an embarrassment to the Republican Party and to the Congress.

In addition, the capacity of a single U.S. Senator to prevent a nomination from being considered underscores the need for the Senate to reform itself.

The Constitution posits within the Senate the power to confirm. The Founding Fathers carefully and prudently crafted this provision to ensure that highly qualified persons would occupy high offices. They did not devolve this power over nominations by the President to an individual Senator. Presidents, under the Constitution, are provided veto authority over legislation. Individual Senators were never provided such authority over nominations.

Indeed, the American Revolution was premised on the notion that democratic decisionmaking involving institutional checks and balances was preferable to kingly dictates and capricious decisions of a landed nobility. Governor Weld deserves a hearing. Senate procedures demand reform. The Constitution requires respect.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are cautioned not to urge action or inaction by the Senate during the confirmation process.

□ 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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