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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EWING).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 23, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable THOMAS W. EWING to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

### PRAYER

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

Of all Your wonderful gifts to us, and of all Your blessings so freely given, we offer our thanks and praise to You, O God, for the gifts of wisdom and discernment. We recognize that knowing only the details and facts of our circumstances is not enough, not enough to make good judgments, or to understand decisions. Teach us again, Gracious God, those values and ideals that have strengthened our Nation in days past, and which values and ideals will illumine our minds and help us to see more clearly the meaning and purpose of life. For wisdom in our decisions and for discernment in our judgments, we pray this day. 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 Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BEREUTER 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 BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minute speeches on each side.

### IN NEVADA EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remind my colleagues and our guests that yesterday was Earth Day. Interestingly enough, as I look back, last week Chicago residents protested and stopped a shipment of napalm from coming through their area. I am so pleased to know that the Federal Government is so committed to preserving and maintaining the environment that they have dedicated a whole 24 hours in its honor.

Well, Mr. Speaker, in Nevada every day is Earth Day, and the hard-working men and women of Nevada are so dedicated to maintaining the environment that they fight each and every day to stop 70,000 tons of high-level nuclear waste from being shoved down their throats.

I was encouraged by the overwhelming demonstration of support for Earth Day from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Consequently, I greatly anticipate their support in our effort to

keep the environment safe from the dangers of transporting high-level nuclear waste through their communities.

What better way to celebrate every day as Earth Day than to stop the needless transportation through our communities of the deadliest material on earth.

I urge my colleagues to use science, not the politics of emotion, in supporting Earth Day.

### COMMANDOS FINALLY RECEIVING JUSTICE

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, for the past year, I have been working to ensure that the United States Government honor a 30-year-old debt to former South Vietnamese Army commandos, who worked for the U.S. Government during the Vietnam War. And these individuals were recruited by the United States to cross enemy lines and fight the Communists on behalf of the Americans.

Last year, Congress unanimously approved legislation to finally pay the 30-year-old debt, and I am very happy to announce that the long wait for recognition and compensation may be finally over for the commandos.

To date, the Commando Compensation Board has processed 266 claims. One hundred forty-two commando cases have been approved, and these individuals are finally receiving their compensation.

I am pleased that the U.S. Government is finally honoring their contracts for their years of service and for their bravery in service to the United States. The least we must do is keep our word.

□ 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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I look forward to the day that all of these cases are closed and every single commando receives his justice.

#### JAPAN'S ROLE IN THE ASIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the world is closely watching Japan to determine if that country's leaders can steer the world's second largest economy clear of recession. The implications of their action or inaction is enormous for Japan itself, for the regional and global economy, and for the United States. Today at 1:30, in 2172 Rayburn, the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, and the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade hear testimony on this subject, and on the legislation offered by this Member, the gentleman from California, Representative BERMAN and others, from four experts on Japan's role in the Asian financial crisis.

This Member urges interested Members to send their staff and to read the summary in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on this important and timely hearing so that we can all learn more about Japan's enormous role in our own future, and to review the suggestions of what Japan must do to ensure that the future is bright for all of us.

#### REAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate my Democratic colleagues and the Democratic leadership for a successful effort to push Speaker GINGRICH and the Republicans, and force them to bring up real campaign finance reform.

Speaker GINGRICH tried to get around his promise to bring up campaign finance reform by posting a phony bill with a sham procedure just before the April Congressional recess. Democrats responded by signing a discharge petition, and forcing the Republican leadership's hand.

Our Democratic leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), was right when he said yesterday this was not a conversion, but a retreat by Speaker GINGRICH. He now promises to bring up campaign finance reform again in May.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats have to be vigilant and hold Speaker GINGRICH to his promise. Campaign finance reform needs to be brought up with an open rule so that Members have an opportunity to vote on proposals that will limit the amount of money in political campaigns, and not allow more money from wealthy special interests, and that is, of course, the position favored

by Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican leadership.

#### TIME TO REIGN IN THE IRS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, although the Liberals just hate to bash the IRS, ordinary Americans who pay taxes have no other choice.

Consider this: In Fortune Magazine recently it says that there were 119 million returns filed in the tax year 1996. Those returns triggered 28 million error notices. It turns out that one in 11 of those error notices was itself in error. So the IRS is routinely wrong about your being wrong.

Now, I did not learn arithmetic using "whole math" like our lucky kids today, but I come up with about 2.5 million IRS errors, 2.5 million times when the IRS is accusing you of being a tax cheat, when, in fact, you are just one more falsely accused taxpayer by the IRS.

The IRS is a place that does not operate under the same rules as society does. The IRS can accuse, make demands, confiscate, shut down, and make you prove that the IRS is wrong. And when the IRS is wrong, well, tough luck.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to rein in the IRS.

#### COMMON SENSE LACKING IN POLITICIANS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in America, Communists can work in our defense plants, illegal immigrants who jump the fence can get citizenship, there are law libraries for mass murderers; some want free condoms for school children, and some now want free needles for drug addicts. Think about it. Free condoms, free needles, but in America, no school prayer. Is it any wonder the streets of America are full of narcotics and blood?

The founders believed that a Nation without prayer would be a Nation without God. I agree. The Congress should pass school prayer.

I yield back the balance of any common sense left in any of the politicians in Washington, D.C.

#### OUTRAGE OVER WHITE HOUSE HIRING OF PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on February 22, 1998, White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry denied that any

of President Clinton's private attorneys have hired or authorized any private investigator to look into the background of prosecutors or reporters.

Now, let us listen to that quote again, and let us think about whether we should keep on doing our business and ignore the White House deception and deceit, because, hey, the stock market is doing just great.

The President's press secretary denied any of President Clinton's private attorneys have hired or authorized any private investigators to look into the backgrounds of prosecutors or reporters. But it turns out that the private investigator himself, Terry Lenzner, admitted that he had, indeed, been hired by the White House to look into the private lives of journalists, Federal investigators and anyone else the White House wants to smear.

Finally, someone in the employ of the White House has the integrity to tell the truth. I guess the 900 FBI files illegally obtained were not enough dirt for them to dig up.

Mr. Speaker, we have a President hiring private investigators and then having his spokesman misrepresent the truth about it. I think when the American people understand this, both Republicans and Democrats alike will be outraged.

#### ENSURE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM OCCURS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the millions of Americans who want some real change in the way our campaign finance system works and want to reduce the corrupting influence of money on our political system can be encouraged by the sudden reversal yesterday of Speaker GINGRICH and his announcement that we would, within the next 3 weeks, act on this floor in a fair, bipartisan way to address the problems that are so critical in this system.

However, I think all of us have to wonder whether this represents only another New Hampshire handshake. Americans will remember that it was back in 1995 in New Hampshire that Speaker GINGRICH promised President Clinton there would be action then on campaign finance reform.

We have had one broken promise, one bit of double talk, doublecrossing after another on this issue since then. So we must remain vigilant and involved to ensure that real reform occurs here, and not more talk and doubletalk.

#### EL PASO QUADRICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL

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

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, beginning tomorrow, April 24 through April 26,