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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. BLUNT).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 29, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable ROY BLUNT 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:

Our prayer, gracious God, is that Your mercy will be overwhelming and Your grace sufficient for our every need. With our humble petitions and with sincere hearts, we open our very souls to Your spirit and ask that we be filled with Your gifts of truth, honor, joy, perseverance and patience. We admit that when we become too involved in the details of the day, our eyes do not always see the width and breadth and height of our responsibility, a responsibility to express the unity and the wholeness of Your creation. From Your hand, O God, we have been created, and we pray that we will express that unity now and evermore. 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 gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CAPPS 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 15 one-minutes from each side.

VOUCHERS FOR D.C. SCHOOL CHILDREN

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will take up a bill on this floor that would allow \$7 million worth of new money introduced in the D.C. school system for the purpose of providing scholarships to 2,000 low-income families for their children, 2,000 opportunities for a better education for the children of D.C. Today there will be the selection of 1,000 youngsters through a fair and impartial process through private funding sources for these scholarships.

When the people of Washington, D.C. found out the announcement of the availability of these scholarships, almost 8,000 people, families, mothers and fathers, applied for these scholarships, because they wanted something better for their children. By the time we finish this awarding today, there will still be almost 7,000 children and their families that will have had that opportunity unrealized. On Thursday, we could make available another 2,000.

What distresses me is the tone of the debate in the people who oppose this opportunity for these children. They call it a cruel hoax. They say it is a cruel hoax for us to fight for this opportunity for 2,000 children because the President has already said he would veto it. The hoax is not in fighting for the children. The hoax is in making a big deal about putting people first and then pledging to veto the opportunity for the children out of consideration for the teachers union.

There is a cruel hoax going on, ladies and gentlemen, but it is not in the children, it is not in their parents, it is not in all those kind, generous people that have provided private funding for these little boys and girls. It is in those people who pretend they are for the kids, wrap their politics of greed in the language of love, and then betray the kids with a veto pen.

RECOGNIZING INNOVATIVE CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

(Mrs. TAUSCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to three innovative child care programs in the 10th Congressional District of California.

Kimballs Kids Club, in partnership with the Antioch School District, serves over 100 families in East Contra Costa County. They believe that parental involvement is invaluable, so they hold monthly parent education meetings and have established a Parent Advisory Board to guide programs at Kimballs Kids Club.

Kid's Country, located in Danville, offers parents a safe option for after-school child care. Because Kid's Country uses existing school ground facilities, they do not need to put resources into building costs. This enables them to lower child care costs.

□ 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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