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## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
July 12, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT B. ADERHOLT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for 5 minutes.

### LEGISLATIVE ARM TWISTING

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday was a bad day for democracy in the House of Representatives. Adding to their laundry list of legislative arm twisting, House Republicans once again bent democracy to fit their needs by holding a vote open for 38 minutes until they were able to change the outcome of the vote. Thursday was not an isolated incidence of arrogant disregard for the political process by Republican leadership in this Congress. It was an example of the modern-day Republican win-at-all-cost style of governance.

This shameful record speaks for itself. Never before, when the Democrats were in control, when Newt Gingrich was Speaker with the Republicans in control, never before until the last year or so has the House of Representatives operated in such secrecy.

At 2:54 a.m. on a Friday in March last year, the House cut veterans benefits by 3 votes.

At 2:39 a.m. on a Friday in April last year, the House slashed education and health care by 5 votes.

At 1:56 a.m. on a Friday in May, the House passed the leave no millionaire behind tax cut bill by a handful of votes.

At 2:33 a.m. on a Friday in June, the House passed the Medicare privatization and prescription drug bill by one vote.

At 12:57 a.m. on a Friday in July last year, the House eviscerated Head Start by one vote.

And then after returning from summer recess at 12:12 a.m. on a Friday in October, the House voted \$87 billion for Iraq. Always in the middle of night, always after the press had passed their deadlines, and always after the American people had turned off the news and gone to bed.

What did the public see? At best, Americans read a small story with a brief explanation of the bill and the vote count in Saturday's papers, understanding that Saturday is the least-read paper of the week; no accident there. But what did the public miss? They did not see the House votes which normally take 17, 18, 19, 20 minutes dragging on for as long as an hour as Members of the Republican leadership trolled for enough votes to cobble together a majority.

They did not see GOP leaders stalking the floor for whoever was not in line. They did not see the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT); the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority leader; and the majority

whip, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) coerce enough Republican Members into switching their votes in the middle of the night to produce their desired results. In other words, the American people did not see the subversion of democracy.

In November, they did it again. The most sweeping change to Medicare in its 38-year history was forced through the House at 5:55 a.m. on a Saturday morning. The debate started at midnight, the rollcall began at 3. Most of us voted within the typical 20 minutes. Normally the Speaker would have gavelled the vote closed, but not this time because the Republican leadership Medicare privatization bill was losing. By 4 a.m., the bill had been defeated 216 to 218. Then the assault began. The gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Committee on Ways and Means chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce (Mr. TAUZIN) all searched the floor, walked around the Chamber looking for House Republicans that had the integrity and the guts to vote against their leadership and to do the right thing.

I watched them surround the gentleman from Cincinnati, Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) trying first a carrot and then a stick; but he, with integrity intact, remained defiant. They then aimed at a retiring Member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) whose son is running to succeed him. They promised support if he changed his vote to "yes." They promised retaliation if he did not change his vote to "yes." He stood his ground.

Many of the two dozen Republicans who voted against the bill simply went home because they did not want to deal with the pressure. I found one Republican Member in the Democratic Cloak

□ 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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