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House of Representatives

The House met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. REGULA].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 5, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable RALPH REGULA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, 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 and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] for 5 minutes.

REGULATORY RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, it was 1 year ago today when during the flurry of activity that accompanied the floor action with respect to the Contract with America that this Chamber passed overwhelmingly several pieces of legislation, all combined to relax the stranglehold that the various agencies have had for generations over our small business community.

These regulations have served over the years to strangle competition, to subdue the freedom to exercise new ideas and innovative ways to bring new products and new services to the marketplace. So, as part of the Contract With America, the House endeavored very early, right at the outset of the new legislative year in 1995, to bring about hearings and examination of the issues involved. As a result we are now poised here in this week of legislative action to put the final touches on some of these relief measures for our small business.

Some of the important features that we have taken into the regulation reform arena are, No. 1, we have strengthened the hand of counsel for the Small Business Administration who before had a role to play, under the original act, in advising, so to speak, the small business community as to the impact of regulations. But now we strengthen his position by giving him additional powers and more flexibility and more actual power to be one of the decisionmakers as to the final texture of a rule or a regulation that would affect small business.

We have done other things with respect to the kinds of analyses that must be accorded to the public and to the small business community by the agencies involved so that they will have a better idea and a more involved undertaking on themselves to deal with the agencies and in a cooperative manner bring about the final product of a regulation. Thus, we would be having a rule or regulation offered in which the small business community, the one that would be affected, would have had a part in creating. That is a new way and a good way to do business in this very important sector of our business activity.

Third, and this, to me, is the most important new feature of what the Contract With America and what my committee and the committee chaired by the gentlewoman from Kansas [Mrs. MEYERS] has been able to accomplish, is to bring about for the first time an opportunity for judicial review. That is, a small business or entity or individual who is adversely impacted by a regulation that says you must do this. Many times the regulation has taken on the form of an edict, a mandate, an unappealable fiat, as it were.

What now we provide for is judicial review. So if in the final analysis, after this joint venture of trying to create a regulation that everyone can live with, if everything else fails, we also give to the disaffected regulatee, if there be such a word, the option to appeal to have a judicial review of that situation.

Now, this is important, of course, in its own right, just to bring about a new set of rules between the business community and the agencies of the Federal Government. But that is not the real reason, the real emphasis that we should be placing on what we are accomplishing here. What we are accomplishing here is creating an additional atmosphere for the creation of new jobs, for the creation of new business activity, for the lifting up of the American business community into a new and better stance for competitive enterprises throughout the world.

This is the importance of what we are about here today and for the remainder of this week. When these provisions become law, we will have fulfilled the Contract With America, that portion of which promised to the American people that we would unsnarl the number of lassos that are thrown around our business communities by the Federal agencies through their regulations and we would loosen them up for the business competition and activity with which they will lead the world.

WOMEN'S HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May

☐ 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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