United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 143 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1997 No. 81

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. ROGERS].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 11, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable HAROLD ROGERS 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:

We are ever indebted, O loving God, that Your spirit is with us from the exhilarating moments of gladness through the valley of the shadow of death. When we celebrate the wonders of faith and hope, Your presence surrounds us and makes us whole; when we miss the mark and the shadows close upon us, Your still small voice rescues us, forgives us, and nourishes us along the way. For the gift of Your abiding spirit wherever we are, we offer this prayer of thanksgiving and praise. 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 Kansas [Mr. TIAHRT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TIAHRT 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.

BALANCED BUDGET REPRESENTS A NEW ERA

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

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the liberals are nervous.

The tax-and-spend crowd is outraged.

The big government supporters of the status quo have declared war.

And what is all the fuss about?

The reason for the anxiety is pretty clear. Those who built the welfare state over the past 40 years are about to have their credit card taken away.

What I hold in my hand, Mr. Speaker, is my congressional voting card. It is given to each Member of Congress. For some it is like a credit card. We stick it in the box, we press the button and we spend and spend and spend, and my children and your children are given the bill.

Well, guess what, Mr. Speaker? After 40 years of big government liberalism, the frenzy of credit card madness is about to end.

With nothing to show for it but $5 trillion in debt and thousands of broken liberal promises, Washington is about to act responsibly for the first time in memory. Washington now has the opportunity to pass a balanced budget with tax cuts, an absolute nightmare to those who built the welfare state over the last 40 years.

But their day is past. This balanced budget represents a new era. Mr. Speaker, the era of credit card madness is over.

TIME TO LOOK AT WORKERS' RIGHTS IN AMERICA

(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, since 1888, Reznor heaters were made in Mercer, PA. Yesterday, Reznor executives told their workers if you do not accept the $2.20 an hour cut, we will move the plant to Mexico; take it or leave it. Four hundred dollars a month, $5,200 a year, $15,600 in cuts over the life of a 3-year contract. Take it or leave it, workers. We will go to Mexico.

Shame, Congress. Mr. Speaker, Reznor executives are holding the gun to their workers' heads. The Congress of the United States is pulling the trigger all around America. Shame, Congress. How about some more NAFTA? I think it is time to take a look at the rights of American workers. I yield back any jobs that might be left.

PRESIDENT WANTS TO SHUT THE GOVERNMENT DOWN

(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, the President wants to shut the Government down. The President wants to shut the Government down. That is the reason for his veto on the disaster relief bill.

He said it was not a clean bill, that there are riders. Can any of us name a spending bill that does not have riders? This one went from $4.8 billion at his request up to $8.4 billion. We have forward funding of FEMA, we have Bosnia relief, and we have other things. One rider says that if Congress and the President cannot reach an agreement, we will continue government until, until, we work out our differences. That is a good thing. Certainly no reason for a veto.

Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste