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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. THORNBERRY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 21, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Timothy J. O'Brien, Ph.D., Marquette University-Les Aspin Center for Government, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. O Gracious and Loving God, we acknowledge and honor You as the source of life and the reservoir of our hope. Guide the Members of this Congress in the pursuit of Your will for the well-being of this Nation. May Your spirit guide the deliberations of this Chamber, inspiring in all of us a passion for peace and a rigorous desire to labor for what is good and decent. Bless those who commit their lives to serving others, especially to those who are entrusted with public responsibilities. May these elected leaders, as well as their families, experience the joy of knowing that You accompany them on their daily journeys. For this we pray. 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.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALLENGER 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1663. An act to recognize National Medal of Honor sites in California, Indiana, and South Carolina.

The message also announced that Mr. DOMENICI be a conferee, on the part of the Senate, on the bill (H.R. 3064) ''An Act making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes,'' vice Mr. KYL.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

LOCKBOX HELD HOSTAGE

(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, the Democratic leadership in the other body has just gotten caught with both hands stuck in that cookie jar of the Social Security Trust Fund. On May 26 of this year, 147 days ago, I joined with 415 of my colleagues in supporting H.R. 1259. That is the Social Security Lockbox.

The fight to stop the raid on Social Security in this year's budget debate offers the best possible reason for passing the Social Security Lockbox bill. If the lockbox were in place this year, the big spenders would have to think twice before trying to go after the funds that rightly should be set aside for seniors of today and tomorrow.

Unfortunately, the Democratic leadership in the other body has failed to act on this vital legislation. The Democratic leadership refuses to allow this bill to be brought to the floor for a vote. Six times there has been an effort to end their filibuster, and six times, unfortunately, that effort has failed. The Democratic leadership has held the lockbox hostage for 147 days, and 147 days is long enough. It is time for the Democratic leadership in the other body to get its act together.

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