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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. SENSENBRENNER].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

January 5, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, Jr., 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 grateful, O God, that Your spirit is with us wherever we are and is sufficient for all our needs. If we are on the mountaintop full of joy and anticipation, You are there in our jubilation, and if we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, You support us with Your strong and abiding grace. May our spirits be open to Your spirit, and our wills to Your will, that we will walk the path of life with confidence and with peace.

In Your name 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The Pledge of Allegiance this morning will be led by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY].

Mr. FOLEY 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.

REPORT ON CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, we have 99 days left in our pledge to the American people with our Contract With America. Yesterday the House fulfilled its promise when we decided to apply all the laws that apply to other Americans to the House itself.

We cut the number of committees and subcommittees, we cut committee staff by one-third, we decided to limit the terms of committee chairmen, we banned proxy voting in committee, we opened committee meetings to the public in all cases except those that involve national security, and we decided to change the rules to require a three-fifths majority to raise taxes. We are going to eliminate baseline budgeting and have real numbers for the first time, and we announced we are going to have a complete, comprehensive audit of the House and its books over the past year.

There are 10 items that we are continued to commit to bring to the floor over these next 99 days. Republicans in the House are committed to doing that. We are committing to the American people to continue to live up to the contract that we made with you.

THE NEED FOR REAL LOBBYING REFORM

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

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, a famous Hartford resident once said that everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.

Well, to paraphrase Mark Twain, some people talk about reform, but they do not always do it.

Yesterday, we considered fundamental reform—a ban on gift giving. Yet, despite the majority's purported commitment to sweeping reform, some of the most zealous congressional reformers opposed this relatively minor change.

That is not right, and the American people deserve better.

Last November, Washington was sent a very strong message that business as usual must stop. That means we should have passed the gift ban.

I urge our friends on the other side of the aisle to follow through on their commitment to reform, and to pass legislation such as the gift ban to crack down on special interests and special influence. There can be no true congressional reform without it.

PROMISES MADE AND KEPT

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a great success. It was an exciting day for this House and for the American people.

Our opening day was about promises made and about promises kept, and we began to keep those promises yesterday. We fulfilled the first part of our Contract With America with a bipartisan coalition, and we thank you on that side of the aisle, because it means we are going to work together. We look forward to continuing to work in a bipartisan fashion with our Democratic colleagues on the other side of the aisle to pass the rest of this contract for

□ 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.



America, which is going to bring back the Reagan revolution once again.

SUPPORT URGED FOR LOBBYIST GIFT BAN

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, Democrats were proud to join Republicans yesterday in passing many necessary procedural reforms. Those reforms continue the work begun by Democrats to make the House more accountable to the people. But, Republicans failed to act on the most important reform, the one central to our ability to restore faith in Government—the ban on gifts from lobbyists.

The American people are fed up with a Congress bought and paid for by the special interests. Perks and privileges betray the public trust. Until Democrats and Republicans unite to end the corrupting influence of the moneyed interests on this body, we have failed to deliver the change that the American people have demanded.

So I ask my Republican counterparts to join Democrats in telling the influence peddlers that this House is not for sale—not for the price of a free meal; not for the price of a junket to a tropical island; not for sale at any price. Let us pass the gift ban and begin restoring the People's House to the people.

A HISTORIC DAY FOR CONGRESS

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, what a proud day for a freshman from Lake Worth, FL, to step on to the floor of the House of Representatives and be sworn in, but, more importantly, pass the promises that I made on the campaign trail; to see Members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike, elected by the people of the United States of America, bring respect and honor to this House of Representatives. We started a historic day, a historic opportunity, to bring trust back to this institution.

There is much to be done in the 104th Congress. We know we will work with our friends on the Democratic aisle on welfare reform, immigration reform, balancing the budget, stopping violent criminals, protecting our children, and restoring hope for American families to achieve the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, with good, continued cooperation and good will, we can continue to keep the promises we made to America. The 104th Congress will truly be successful.

GIVE AND TAKE NEEDED IN HOUSE

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday belonged to the Republican majority, and there were moments of grace and class, and we did pass some needed reforms. But there was an absence of bipartisanship and an absence of openness in the process.

The Republicans were two for two. Out of two bills we considered, there were two closed rules, two gag rules, where the minority was unable to offer alternatives.

The American people voted for less government and more ethics and accountability. They did not vote for arrogant government, for one-party coronations. They voted for bipartisanship and an end to gridlock. We wanted to raise the gift ban, the royalties issues, and the frequent flier issue, but were shut off.

Mr. Speaker, the best contract with America is give and take, compromise, openness, and bipartisanship. Regrettably, yesterday was not a good start.

TRUST AND FAITH IN CONGRESS BEING RESTORED

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my thanks to the American people for the opportunity of allowing me to participate in what clearly was yesterday's congressional revolution.

During 40 years of Democratic control of Congress, this House never saw so much reform in one single day, honoring our promise to the American people. We began our journey by reforming the way Washington works by passing nine congressional reform measures, knowing full well that cleaning up our own House must be a first priority, before we carry America's agenda.

I am particularly pleased of our reform measures that have brought greater accountability to this House. Included in these reforms I am especially pleased with the ordering of a full and thorough audit, which will hopefully restore the public's faith in Congress.

In addition, we have finally ended the arrogance of Congress, by forcing Congress to live by the same laws it imposes on everyone else.

Mr. Speaker, with continued diligence, we can restore America's trust and faith in Congress. I look forward to our continued success, and pledge my unending support to fulfill our promise to the American people.

□ 1010

THEY CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday this House passed bipartisan legislation to reform Congress. Together Democrats and Republicans took the first important step toward restoring faith in this institution, and I applaud the new leadership for that.

But I had one disappointment. There is one thing Americans do not want, and that is a double standard. That is why we applied the laws of this land to the rules of this Congress.

Yet for 2 years our Republican friends criticized the fact that we had closed rules, that we did not allow amendments to be brought forward on this floor. My friends on the Republican side should do one of two things. They should either admit they were wrong over the last 2 years as they attacked Democrats for trying to limit amendments on this floor, or they should admit they were wrong yesterday and today in trying to limit that open process. It is their choice, and I am willing to accept that choice, but they cannot have it both ways.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we can proceed with open rules and the open process, and I look forward to working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to restore faith in this institution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS' EQUITY ACT

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

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I, along with my colleagues, Mr. HASTERT, Mrs. KELLY, and Mrs. THURMAN, and over 125 other Members of Congress, introduced the Senior Citizens' Equity Act aimed at alleviating the financial burdens the Clinton administration has piled on older Americans.

This legislation has four main components. First it will allow our seniors to earn more without losing their Social Security benefits. Many older Americans must continue working to pay for life's necessities. Their Social Security benefits simply do not go far enough.

Next it would repeal the Clinton tax increase on Social Security benefits. This was one of the most outrageous proposals in his tax bill 2 years ago.

Our bill also includes tax incentives for long-term health care and clearly defines the "adult-only" housing under the fair housing amendments so retirement communities can continue and grow without fear of discrimination suits.

I am committed to seeing this legislation enacted. I especially look forward to working with Chairman ARCHER on this bill. He has long supported