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House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m.

Rev. Elmer N. Witt, retired Lutheran pastor, Tacoma, WA, offered the following prayer:

God of Sarah and Abraham, whose name is Wonderful, Counselor, You are our nourishing Mother, our compassionate Father. Before the awesome responsibilities of this day and this life, we turn to You for our bearings and Your blessings. We depend on Your commitment to humanity and to creation: to hear our pleadings, to right our wrongs, to heal our failures, to fill our needs, to empower our discussions, and our decisions with Your love. In the midst of increasing hopelessness, enable us to invest our lives in our words and Your strength in our deeds. We ask this for the well-being of all people, in this Nation among nations. Lead us to be the best we can be, Gracious God, in Your holy name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Mr. METCALF 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.

THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states that on the first day of a Republican House we will force Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else, that we will cut one-third of the committee staff, cut the congressional budget, and Mr. President, we have done that.

Mr. President, in the next 79 days, we will vote on the following 10 items: A balanced budget amendment, which begins today, and a line-item veto, a new crime bill to stop violent criminals, welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence, family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and to protect our children, tax cuts for families to lift government's burden from middle-income Americans, national security restoration to protect our freedoms, Senior Citizens' Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without government penalty, government regulation and unfunded mandate reforms, commonsense legal reforms to end frivolous lawsuits; and congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature once again.

This, Mr. Speaker, is our Contract With America.

THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT, A CULMINATION OF LEGISLATION AND WORK BY DEMOCRATIC AS WELL AS REPUBLICAN MEMBERS

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

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, January 4, 1965, my first day in the Congress of the United States as a Democratic Member from Texas, I introduced a balanced budget amendment.

Mr. Speaker, few cared and less listened to me at that time. Through the

years, though, it has evolved into now that every freshman I run into asks me "Do you want to join my balanced budget amendment?"

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that I want to show my colleagues what we have done. In the 12 years in which I was chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, we reduced the budget by \$65 billion. If every committee had done the same way, we would not be talking about balancing the budget today.

I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Texas, CHARLIE STENHOLM, because the years when I was serving as chairman, my time was limited and he took over the job and has done an excellent job. Today will be the culmination of my original legislation and his work through the years.

CONGRESS MUST SPEND TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUNDS TO BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, our transportation needs in America are increasing. Passenger travel on our highways is growing at a rate of about 3 percent a year. By the year 2000, not too far away, we will experience a 30-percent increase in freight travel on our highways.

Also, Mr. Speaker, airline travel continues to grow. It has doubled in the past 12 years, from 250 million passengers a year to 540 million passengers this past year, and at a 4-percent growth rate in the next 17 years, we will experience 1 billion passengers traveling on commercial airlines every year.

We need to spend our highway and aviation trust funds to keep building infrastructure for America. These transportation trust funds are deficit

□ 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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proof. They are the keys to building for the future, for getting ready for the 21st century. Our transportation trust funds are the foundation upon which a more productive and prosperous America can be built.

SOCIAL SECURITY EXEMPTION REDUCED TO SENSE-OF-CONGRESS RESOLUTION

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

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor this morning to expose a caper which will be unfolding later today. A couple days ago I and several of my colleagues went to the Committee on Rules to ask to be made in order a balanced budget amendment which would exempt Social Security.

However, the Committee on Rules did not report favorably on that, and will deny us a very clean vote on exempting Social Security from the balanced budget amendment. What they did was produce a sense-of-Congress resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 17, which would exempt Social Security from any bills coming out of committees.

Know full well, this is the same mechanism, Mr. Speaker, that we declare National Pickle Week around here, so the Republicans are treating the trust fund for Social Security as if it were National Pickle Week. Know full well, it is becoming very clear to me and other people that the \$423 billion surplus that currently is in the trust fund will be on the table once this balanced budget amendment passes.

I support the balanced budget amendment, but let us not take that contract we have made with our seniors and destroy it because of this. The end result, Mr. Speaker, is that once this balanced budget amendment goes to the States, it will be defeated.

TRIBUTE TO THE SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell the Members the disdain I have for some of my colleagues for not supporting the San Diego Chargers. I rise today to pay tribute to the new champions of the American Football Conference, the San Diego Chargers. It is no secret that America's finest city has now America's finest football team.

Mr. Speaker, I want to salute president Alex Spanos and general manager Bobby Beathard, who have defied skeptics and produced a world class team through perseverance, hard work, and a little luck and a little stealth; to coach Bobby Ross and his team of coaches who are proven motivators; and, finally, to the players, the San Diego

team, a team who the Nation's experts picked to finish last.

I would say to the minority, Mr. Speaker, never ever not support your home team, but always take the point spread, and I would say to the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI], the Sees candy is going to taste great.

AMERICANS GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT IN DISPUTES WITH THE IRS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I say to my colleagues, tell me, Congress, when did the IRS waive the Bill of Rights? Check this out. In Colorado, the IRS said that David and Millie Evans owed them \$42,000 in back taxes. Three weeks later they said it was a mistake, it is \$100,000, so they settled it for \$22,000.

Evans sent a check. IRS stamped it, received it, and IRS called them and said, "We don't have your check prove it." They took them to court. They liened their house. They sold their business. They took their retirement account, all their bank accounts.

It went to court, the court said the Evanses were not guilty. The IRS appealed the decision, saying the judge wrongfully instructed the jury by saying the burden of proof was on the IRS. They said, "You must overturn this because the tax code is quite clear, the burden of proof is on the Evanses." The case was overturned.

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Unbelievable, Congress. If there is a Contract With America, the American people do support much of your contract. They support this contract, the basic tenet of our Bill of Rights: you are innocent until proven guilty, and damn it, if it is good enough for the Son of Sam, it is good enough for mom and dad.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). The Chair would advise the gentleman from Ohio that he should avoid profanity in his remarks.

TIME TO KEEP THE PROMISE OF A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, last night in response to President Clinton's State of the Union Message, New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman did not need equal time to get her message across. That message was clear.

Governor Whitman did not just promise change, she delivered.

In New Jersey we cut spending and taxes. In New Jersey we have a balanced budget. In New Jersey we have kept our promises.

Just like New Jersey, Americans want a smaller smarter government. They want us to make the tough decisions here. The time for making excuses is over. The time to act on our promises is now. It has worked in New Jersey and it can work here in Washington.

TRUTH-IN-BUDGETING AMENDMENT

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, last night in the President's State of the Union Message he laid out his challenges for this Congress and for the American people to fulfill in the next year. The President asked that these challenges be met in an open, honest bipartisan debate on all of the issues like the balanced budget amendment.

As the President mentioned in his remarks, we Democrats support a balanced budget amendment, with a full and honest debate, not just between majority and minority Members but with the American people.

The American people want to know, as we begin this debate, how are we to balance this budget by the year 2002.

Today we will have an opportunity as we begin this debate to vote for a truth-in-budgeting amendment by the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS]. I urge all of my colleagues to support the truth-in-budgeting amendment which will tell us how we get to a balanced budget by the year 2002.

How else can we assure the American people they will have a opportunity to participate in this debate, to know whether or not there will be cuts in Medicare, to know whether or not there will be cuts in Social Security? The only way to guarantee it is truth in budgeting.

Support the Conyers amendment.

PASS A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to welcome some young people from my district from the Athens Academy in Georgia who are here in the gallery.

I rise today in support of the balanced budget amendment for young people just like these folks here and young people across the Nation, and my granddaughter.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman should avoid references to those in the gallery.

The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. NORWOOD. We need the balanced budget amendment to force discipline on this body. This Nation is \$5 trillion in debt. It is a debt that we are going to pass on to these young people