



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1995

No. 55

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 24, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM 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:

For the sun to brighten the day, for the rains to nurture the land, for challenges to be confronted and responsibilities to be accepted, for sacrifices to be endured and for all of life to be fully lived, for friends to accompany and for family to love, we offer these words, O God, of thanksgiving and praise. We earnestly pray that we will be faithful to the opportunities and the tasks that are before us, so that in all things, we will do Your will and serve people according to their need. 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 Pennsylvania [Mr.

FOX] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that there will be 20 1-minute speeches on each side.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, last fall House Republicans entered into a Contract With America, for the first time in American political history a written contract with the American people.

We have done more in the first 80 days of this Congress than was done in the entire 103d Congress. We have an opportunity to make more changes of substance than have been made in the past 10 years.

Our contract states the following:

On the first day of Congress, a Republican House will require Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else, cut committee staffs by one-third, and cut the congressional budget. We have done all of that.

It continues that in the first 100 days we will vote on the following items:

A balanced budget amendment. We kept our promise. We passed it.

Unfunded mandates legislation. We kept our promise, with your help, and we passed it.

Line-item veto. We kept our promise.

A crime package. We kept our promise.

National security restoration to protect our freedoms. We kept our promise.

Government regulatory reform. We kept our promise.

Commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits. We kept our promise.

Welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence. We are doing it right now. We will pass it.

Family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads, tax cuts for middle-income families, congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature.

This is our Contract With America.

GEJDENSON ELECTION STILL NOT SETTLED

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

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, as a former secretary of the state of Connecticut, I have every reason to be proud of my State's tradition of honest elections and a revered court system. So it was with chagrin that I learned yesterday of a decision not to dismiss the challenge of our seated Congressman, SAM GEJDENSON, from the Second District, a decision in stark contrast to precedents established in 47 previous cases since 1969.

The facts are clear. Our colleague from Connecticut's Second District was elected and not once, not twice, but three times declared the victor, election night, in an automatic recount, and by the highest court of the State of Connecticut, our supreme court, headed by Chief Justice Peters, a revered court legalist.

"The cloud that Mr. Munster perceives," it was said by the court, "has no basis in fact, law or reason. It simply does not exist."

□ 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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Mr. Speaker, we have laws, precedents, and standards which should govern our actions. The people of Connecticut will have every right not only to be surprised but amazed that these decisions have been set aside.

REAL WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for 40 years the Democrats controlled the Congress. They did nothing but protect and expand to the tune of \$5 trillion a cruel welfare bureaucracy.

For 2 years the Democrats controlled the House, the Senate, and the White House and still promoted this destructive government-run, one-size-fits-all program that perpetuates a cycle of dependency.

For 2 years the President talked and talked and talked about ending welfare as we know it but did nothing, and this year, guess what? He is still silent. But since January 4, the Republican Congress has replaced talk with action, replaced rhetoric with real change.

The Republican welfare bill does not lack compassion. It is born out of compassion. The real lack of compassion was shown by those who stood by and did nothing while more and more Americans were pushed further and further away from the American dream.

Today we will pass real welfare reform and give America back that dream.

PAN AM 103 AND THE CIA

(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, there is a record \$4 million reward out on the heads of two Libyans accused of blowing up Pan Am 103.

I say this is not a reward, this is a diversion. Records show that it was Iran, not Libya, that ordered the destruction of 103. In fact, Iran hired Syria and Ahmed Jabril picked 103 because it was insulated by our own CIA whose operatives were helping them get some of our hostages released. They say "nonsense" at the CIA.

Ladies and gentleman, it is time for the CIA to tell the American people and the families of the victims the truth. As an old sheriff, let me tell you this. If Qadhafi was responsible for 103, these two guys would have choked on a chicken bone by now. The families of victims overseas are demanding a new investigation.

My God, Congress. Let us get to the bottom of 103. This is a diversion.

WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I hear the other side wail and whine that we are hurting the children. Perhaps they are so busy defending the status quo that they fail to see the dismal failure our system has become. Perhaps they think it is compassionate for our system to encourage illegitimacy. Perhaps they think that it is OK for 1 in 3 babies in this Nation to be born out of wedlock. Perhaps they think it is OK that the average length of stay on welfare today is 13 years. But it is not OK, Mr. Speaker. It is unbelievable that we ever allowed the Federal Government to become the caretakers for so many people. Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, the American people know better. They realize that we can do nothing worse than to keep the current system. It is just sad to see that the other side is so wedded to big government, nanny-State programs that they fail to see what is right. * * * What is right is voting to end the current welfare system today.

A BAD REPUBLICAN WELFARE BILL

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was proud last night to join all my Democratic colleagues in voting for real welfare reform. The Deal substitute was real welfare reform—it demands more responsibility by requiring that welfare recipients go to work after 2 years, and it provides more opportunity by making sure that that work pays more than welfare.

But the Republican bill before us today is more intent on punishing our children than in putting welfare recipients to work.

This bill would cut \$2.3 billion from school-based nutrition programs and \$7 billion from all child nutrition programs over the next 5 years. That means 2 million children would be thrown out of the School Lunch Program—20,000 in my home State of Connecticut alone.

This Republican bill punishes children in order to pay for a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans, the richest 1 percent of the people in this Nation. That is what this is all about. Today we can stop this war on kids. Vote against a bad Republican bill.

SAVE THE CHILDREN: END WELFARE AS WE KNOW IT

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, I really feel sorry for the liberal Democrats. They call their \$5 trillion welfare

nightmare compassionate. Their system is not compassionate, their system is obscene.

Today, we have an unprecedented opportunity to save the lives of millions of children who would otherwise be trapped in the system which has ruined previous generations. We cannot be intimidated by the liberals in Congress and in the media who offer no solutions, only scare tactics. They throw out words like "cruel" and "mean" but I ask you, Mr. Speaker, what is more cruel, what is more mean, than to condemn a child to life on the liberal welfare dole. That is the cruelest punishment imaginable. We cannot allow another generation of American children to fall victim to the "compassion" of the American left. We must be strong, we must be bold, and we must act now for H.R. 4. Our children deserve no less.

VOTE AGAINST H.R. 4, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I too voted for real welfare reform under the Deal bill. But the Republican welfare bill, commonly known as the let-the-children-go-hungry-so-the-rich-can-feast bill, cuts \$66 billion from school breakfasts and lunches, food stamps from the elderly retirees and working poor, child care from working mothers, and yet the mean-spirited radical right majority says they are not cutting any of these programs but spending more.

Sorry, folks. They are cutting \$66 billion from the needy, from school lunches and breakfasts, from the Women, Infants and Children Program, from food stamps, from AFDC and from child care, in order to give those billions to large corporations and the wealthy in tax cuts next week.

It is a sad day for our great Nation when this Congress, the people's house, takes food from the mouths of innocent children so that the rich can have pheasant under glass.

Vote against H.R. 4. It only punishes babies and children and it does not reform welfare.

REPUBLICAN WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the average American family has spent over \$50,000 in taxes on the war on poverty since 1965. This is an obscene amount of money, especially since it has gone to an unsuccessful cause. We must reduce this heavy burden which has been placed on the working family.

The Republican welfare proposal will save the American people approximately \$60 billion over a 5-year period. The savings will go to deficit reduction