

beautiful, with the Capitol in the background, suffragettes over here who worked so hard to get that right to vote; and it flows into modern-day women still trying to use that vote to move their fights forward.

This was an incredible time 75 years ago, when you think that the fight for the right to vote started way back when this Republic began, with John Adams' wife begging to have women included in the Constitution, and of course they did not; and then the first national convention in 1848 being held in Seneca Falls where women came together and again asked for the right to vote, and it took until 75 years ago before that really happened. Almost all the people at the 1848 convention were dead by the time the reality of the vote had occurred.

But this was probably one of the most revolutionary things that happened in American society without a revolution. I add, without a revolution, because there was no war to do this. It was all done within the right to petition Government, the right of people who couldn't vote, but they still petitioned Government for that right.

The suffragettes came to Washington. They bought a house; they lived there constantly. They picketed by day, and in their lovely white dresses, they chained themselves to the White House gate because they would not let them in to see the President. They would visit Senators and Congressmen who would see them, and if they were not in jail by night, they would go back to the house where they had all rented, have a piano concerto, tea, dinner, get up and do the same thing the next day, over, and over, and over.

Finally, this Congress and finally all of the States moved to ratify that.

So what happened after that? One of the very first things that happened was then the Congress moved to make motherhood safe. At the time that women were trying to get the right to vote, more women had died in America during childbirth, all throughout World War I, than American soldiers had died in Europe in World War I. Childbirth was very risky and yet the Congress was spending more money on hog cholera than they were spending on maternal child care and infant child care.

So they immediately got those priorities shifted, and today we see childbirth as something that people do not worry about having a huge high mortality rate from.

I think that as we celebrate this stamp, and there will be celebrations all throughout America, and heaven help us if we do not see more of these stamps purchased than the Marilyn Monroe stamp. I don't know what that will say about America, but let us hope that people get these and they talk about that long history and they talk about what a difference women's vote can make and have made many a time.

And I hope if we keep seeing what this extreme new group, the new Republicans, and doing to women as they

have taken over the Congress, I hope women come out one more time and use that vote to straighten it out.

Women still do not get equal pay in this country. They are now getting 72 cents for every dollar a man gets in the same job, and yet nobody gives them that kind of discount on their rent or their food or their public utility bills or anything else. So they are still not getting equal pay, and we are seeing this Congress roll back thing after thing after thing that has affected women.

They have undone Title IX. That is the one that says, in the schools, if they get public funding, they must give women the same opportunity they give men. That may sound irrelevant to a lot of young women today, but when I was growing up, believe me, it was very relevant. We had none of the gym privileges. I was one person who wanted to be an aerodynamic engineer and, of course, the gates were closed, locked and everything else.

There was no way. It was either, get into liberal arts or get out, and there were many other instances of that.

The Federal Government made a huge difference in that and now we see them trying to roll that back. They are trying to roll back student loans. They are rolling back the choice issue all across the board.

Last week in this Congress, we even had a vote saying that women who are incarcerated in prison, even if they were cocaine addicts, could not have an abortion. That is crazy.

So as we get ready to celebrate this, I hope women not only celebrate the stamp, not only know they have the vote. They now, after 75 years, learn how to use the vote and get more respect from this Congress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 12 noon.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.) the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT) at 12 noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We give thanks, gracious God, for the awesome miracles of life, miracles that brighten our world, enrich our lives and testify to Your glory. We are grateful that Your spirit of creation and renewal breaks into history and proclaims to us the riches of Your

grace and even the very purpose for our existence. Bless us, O God, and all Your people and may we be alert to the miracles that bring new life into being and are a witness every day to Your abiding grace. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). 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 Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MONTGOMERY 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 with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1817. An act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendments to the bill (H.R. 1817 "An Act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. BURNS, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. REID, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. BYRD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

IT IS TIME TO END GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY 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, wherever I go in my district I hear the same thing over and over: Uncle Sam is out of control. Regulations are choking the life out of our farmers, bankers, and small businessmen. Agents, regulators, and bureaucrats are crawling all over eastern North Carolina, hounding and penalizing hard-working people who want nothing more than to be left alone by their Government.

Look at what OSHA has done to a small but vital industry in America—roofing. OSHA bureaucrats most of whom have never been out of a classroom can put a small roofing company out of business, if it catches a roofer smoking or chewing gum. OSHA says contractors must provide employees with AIDS exposure training and instruct employees on the hazards of such dangerous chemicals as chalk, lumber, and dishwashing detergent. OSHA even says contractors have to label tar filled roofing kettles, "hot." Can you see why OSHA is draining this industry of millions of dollars and thousands of jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are fed up. They have had enough of bureaucrats with no grasp of reality and no sympathy for the very people who make America work. Mr. Speaker, isn't it time to end Government bureaucracy as we know it.

WE MUST LEARN FROM PAST ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased when this House last week passed the very important Stokes-Boehlert amendment, which did not undo all of the environmental regulations.

There is a reason for environmental regulations. I am sending to every Member a copy of the August Discover magazine. It is about the last days of Easter Island. I totally believe that if we do not learn from history, we are condemned to repeat it. Scientists now, by taking core samples from Easter Island, have been able to document what happened there. As they pointed out, in just a few centuries they can tell that the people of Easter Island wiped out their forest, drove their plants and animals to extinction, and saw their complex society break down into chaos and cannibalism.

It is a very important lesson for all of us on Planet Earth that we do not become an Easter Island "wannabe." If we do not learn from history we are condemned to repeat it. I hope all of my colleagues will have time to look at this over the break, and that we certainly do not undo the progress we made last week by realizing how important some of these environmental gains can be.

THE MEDICARE TRUSTEES REPORT: A DOCUMENT THAT DEMOCRATS WANT TO HIDE FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, it is a mystery that the Democrats would want to hide the truth about Medicare.

They come to the floor and they are literally dripping with concern over Medicare. But they never mention this—the Medicare Trustees Report.

This is the report by the Medicare Board of Trustees. The board is charged with overseeing the financial condition of Medicare, and every year they file a report. This report is like a prospectus that a company is required by law to give to their shareholders.

Mr. Speaker, I think that every American, especially seniors, should have a copy of this report. They should call their Members of Congress at 202-224-3121.

Mr. Speaker, the American people need to learn the truth about Medicare. They need to read for themselves what the Trustees say about the financial condition of their program. They need to read for themselves what the Democrats do not want them to read.

LABOR-HHS APPROPRIATIONS BILL, COULD SEVERELY CURTAIL CITIZENS' RIGHTS

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, all Americans need to be aware that the upcoming Labor-HHS appropriations bill could severely curtail their rights to lobby their elected officials, and silence the voice of a majority of Americans.

The bill limits the amount of private money that Federal grantees may use to lobby, arguing that money is fungible. In other words, the Federal money makes it possible for grantees to use more of their own money to lobby. That argument is not enough to warrant these unprecedented restrictions of our first amendment rights.

Meanwhile, Americans have seen countless newspaper stories about tax-exempt groups paying to fly politicians around the country, for political advertising, or promoting their political agendas—and all this lobbying goes on tax free.

I will be offering an amendment that will end this skirting of the law. Any politician accepting tax-exempt dollars to promote his political agenda loses his Federal salary. That is lobbying reform with teeth.

Let us not silence voices of average Americans and their organizations, and let the high and mighty take a free ride on tax exemptions.

Since the issue is the fungibility of money, we must consider all fungible Government benefits. When we vote on the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, let us look at the whole problem.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following

committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Committee on International Relations, and the Committee on the Judiciary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

ILLINOIS LAND CONSERVATION ACT OF 1995

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on National Security and the Committee on Commerce be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 714), to establish the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON] for the purpose of explanation.

(Mr. EMERSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 714 would establish a tall grass prairie in the former Joliet Arsenal. Also, this legislation would set aside portions of the land for a landfill, portions for economic development, and also a section 4(a) national cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. WELLER].

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. My Speaker, I would like to speak briefly about the importance of this legislation, H.R. 714, the Illinois Land Conservation Act, which has overwhelming bipartisan support from Members on both the Republican and Democrat side of the aisle. This is an innovative land reuse plan which was developed by a citizens planning commission, appointed under the direction of my predecessor, former Congressman George Sangmeister, resulted from thousands of hours of volunteer time from leaders in conservation, veterans' organizations, business and labor, educators, and many civic organizations.

Briefly, the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant, commonly referred to as the Joliet Arsenal, was declared excess Federal property in April 1993. A local citizens commission developed a plan for reuse of the site, which is encompassed in my legislation.

The plan has received broad-based support from Illinois' major media, citizens organizations, veterans'