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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. LATOURETTE].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 12, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable STEVEN C. LATOURETTE 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:

With the cluttered agendas of each day and with the demands and duties that mark our time, we pray, O God, that we will also see the glories and the miracles of daily life. With so many obligations that press on every side and the anxieties that mark troubled days, may we experience the abiding peace that Your presence allows. With the temporary fads and the transitory ideas that crowd our existence, we pray, O loving God, that we will cling to the timeless truths and the eternal hopes that are Your gift to us. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SCHUMER 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 will entertain fifteen 1-minute speeches per side.

NBC STORY ON DAVIS-BACON UNCOVERS FRAUD AND ABUSE

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, the Davis-Bacon Act has long outlived any usefulness that it may have had. The rationale for the act has never been very persuasive, but it remains law, adding millions to Federal construction costs.

Last night, NBC news highlighted the Davis-Bacon Act as part of their series entitled "The Fleecing of America." NBC reported on an Oklahoma investigation that has uncovered fraud and abuse in the administration of the Federal Davis-Bacon Act.

In three specific cases, the Oklahoma Department of Labor found instances where survey data on phantom projects was submitted and ghost employees were identified, presumably with the intent of inflating prevailing wage determinations. Basing the wages on inflated and perhaps fraudulent data would drive up costs of Government construction projects, wasting limited taxpayer dollars.

Scandals of this nature only further erode public confidence in the Government procurement process. This type of fraud and abuse must be stopped. Join me and the 119 cosponsors of H.R. 500, in supporting repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act.

INS CASHING THE CHECKS AND NOT PROVIDING THE SERVICE

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, how would you feel if you walked into a McDonalds, paid \$5 for your Big Mac, fries, and a Coke, and were told, "Thanks for your money. We'll give you your food in a year or so."

Would you say, "No problem, I'll wait." No; you would say that is outrageous, unacceptable, scandalous.

Well, today the Immigration and Naturalization Service is currently saying to every citizenship applicant, "Thanks for your \$95 application fee. Now wait 16 months and we will see if we get to you."

The are taking the money. The are cashing the check. They just are not providing the service. Let us be clear, at a time when some Members of Congress want to deny basic Government services to permanent residents, this delay is not merely an inconvenience, it is a threat to the very services many people rely on every day.

We have tried to make clear to the INS how urgent this crisis is. No luck. Maybe they do not understand English.

Ustedes han tomado nuestro dinero. Ahora, cumplan su promesa. Hagan su trabajo.

!Hagan a nuestra gente ciudadanos!

□ 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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