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House of Representatives

The House met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

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

As we naturally look to our own needs, wishes, and petitions, help us to discern, O God, that our faith is not limited only to ourselves and our own concerns, but we are enrolled in the human family and we accept our responsibility in that family. So we should pray for each other, encourage and forgive one another, and live together in a spirit of respect and appreciation. May our prayers bring us a greater awareness of the human family, may our mutual concerns help us grow beyond our own boundaries, and may Your spirit lead us in the paths of peace. 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 Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Mr. TRAFICANT 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 (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair announces there will be fifteen 1-minute speeches on each side.

WHO IS RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT?

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, we have been in a real quandary here. The President asked for a clean continuing resolution; we gave it to him. The President said he wanted to balance the budget; we gave him a commitment, a 7-year commitment to balancing the budget with exactly the scoring from CBO that he asked for.

So we have to ask the question about who is running things? Well, we found out. "I am running the country." We heard this yesterday. Clearly, that must have been the President. Well, maybe the Vice President. Was it Alexander Haig? Could it have been Socks? No.

It was Dick Morris, the President's guru, the President's consultant.

No wonder we give the President exactly what he wants: Put the Federal workers back to work, end this silliness, and we find out it is Dick Morris all along.

TYPICAL TRICKLE-DOWN ECONOMICS

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, day four of the Gingrich gridlock; 800,000 Federal workers sent home without pay while Mr. GINGRICH, the Republican leadership, and Members of Congress continue to draw their own paychecks. That is why we need No Budget, No Pay, a proposal which I put on the books in September which says that if the Government shuts down, Members of Congress stop receiving their paychecks.

Now the Gingrich Republicans want us to take the weekend off, leave Saturday evening, be home on Sunday, come back late on Monday, while the Government is shut down. Frankly, this is a terrible idea. We should stay here and do our work and get this Government running.

Today on the floor you are going to hear what this debate is all about. The Gingrich budget comes up with deep cuts in Medicare to pay for a tax break for the wealthiest people in America.

Listen to this. If you happen to make \$600,000 in income, pay close attention; Mr. GINGRICH wants to give you a \$14,000 tax cut. If you happen to be in the lower 20 percent of Americans making around \$6,000, guess what? You are going to pay more. Typical trickle-down economics.

A GIFT FOR VIRGIL

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, my good friend Virgil Aryers is in the hospital back home, and I have him on my mind today. He is in my thoughts and in my prayers, but I am excited about today for him, because we are going to be able to give him a little present. I know that Virgil is on Medicare, and I know that he wants us to save that program, and he wants us to improve it and make it better, and today we do just that.

For 2 years Virgil has been asking me to balance the budget. Well, today we are going to do that in a 7-year time period with no gimmicks, no tricks, plain balance this budget.

Mr. Speaker, Virgil wants to do that because of his children. He realizes those children must have a good 21st century in which to live and one in which they do not have \$6 trillion worth of debt. I know how hard Virgil's children work, and they are very

□ 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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