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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. ALLARD].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 29, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable WAYNE ALLARD 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:

Gracious God, from whom we have come and to whom we shall return, we pray for fortitude in our personal lives that our actions will blend with our words and our words will harmonize with our prayers. May we express in our lives an authenticity of spirit that resists the pressures that come from a complicated world and conflicting loyalties. Remind us each day, O God, to follow the road that leads to justice for every person and to hear anew Your words of reconciliation and peace. 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 Jersey [Mr.

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

Mr. PALLONE 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 PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

WHAT DOES A BALANCED BUDGET MEAN TO THE AVERAGE CITIZEN?

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

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, during the next 2 weeks we will make the most serious attempt at balancing the budget that we have had in the last three decades. An average citizen probably says, "What is in it for me? So what if you balance the budget? I am doing OK in many ways." Here is what is in it. It is not just balancing the budget, it is doing fair and compassionate spending levels to meet the basic needs of this country as we have in saving Medicare.

What is in it for the average citizen was well said by Mr. Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, in testimony before a committee of the Senate yesterday. What he said several months ago was in essence; if we can balance the budget, interest rates in America will be reduced 2 percent for the average mortgage on a house, for the average consumer loan, for the average automobile loan.

To summarize, here is what he said yesterday on the subject. It is something we should realize, that if we continue this commitment that we have to balance the budget, we will have the

story of a prolonged growth in our economy versus a spurt that might not last. This is important to get this economy going.

We will keep that commitment to balance the budget, Mr. Speaker. We will keep that commitment.

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, right now the budget negotiations have begun, and I was very pleased to see that President Clinton over the last few weeks specifically identified the environment and protection of the environment as one of the key issues or one of the key priorities that must be maintained and strengthened during these budget negotiations.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity to vote on the appropriations conference report that contains the budget for the EPA. Unfortunately, inconsistent with the President's priorities and concern for the environment, this Republican leadership measure would actually reduce funding for the EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency, by 21 percent over last year. And specifically for enforcement, the amount of money that is appropriated is even less; and for the Superfund Program, very important to my State and many parts of the country, the funding is reduced by 19 percent.

The President has already said that he intends to veto the EPA appropriations bill, and well he should.

THE REPUBLICANS WILL BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

□ 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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