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No. 8

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. GOODLING].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 23, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable WILLIAM F. GOODLING to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 123. Concurrent resolution to provide for the provisional approval of regulations applicable to certain covered employing offices and covered employees and to be issued by the Office of Compliance before January 23, 1996.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leaders limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] for 3 minutes.

KEEP THE CAPITAL IN BUSINESS

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this morning to welcome my colleagues back from the short recess and to say they ought to be glad they were not here for the blizzard of 1996. We were snowed in, and I mean that quite literally.

For 4 days the Federal Government was shut down and this time this body had nothing to do with it, I am pleased to say. The District of Columbia was shut down as well. We do not mind if it is the snow. We do mind when the majority shuts us down.

I am pleased to believe, as I do, that there will not be another shutdown on Friday. I ask that the body recognize when a tool has run its course, and Federal workers I think would be grateful if we would move on with our business.

I do want to remind the body that the District budget is not yet passed, the appropriation is not yet out. Yet, we budgeted \$2.1 million for snow and one blizzard has used it all up, and more. We spent \$3.3 million.

I am grateful that the body approved a continuing resolution to last until September 30, but that allows the District only to spend its own money. We have only \$327 million of the \$712 million that we are due as payment in lieu of taxes. The absence of the cash money meant that the District could not plow the District of Columbia, and we had to call the Federal Government in because vendors would not contract with people who could not pay their bills.

I am pleased that the appropriations subcommittees in the Senate and the House have been working to solve their disagreement on vouchers. It is a disagreement among Republicans that is keeping our budget from coming through. That disagreement, I believe, could be solved and settled given the good faith, good work that has been ensuing during this recess.

I ask that the District get its full appropriation no later than Friday so that the District, 4 months late, can start its government up.

I also ask that the body be at pains not to allow this to happen again. As you know, the District is on its financial knees. Everything had happened to it, it seemed, but being put out of business, and it was put out of business for a week, when the Capital of the United States was shut down.

I ask this body, when the appropriation comes before it, to pass it speedily and to recognize that chief among your constitutional obligations is the obligation to let the Capital City of the United States engage in the business of running the Capital of the United States. Imagine how we look when the Congress looks as though it is not facilitating keeping the Capital of the United States in business. This would be the best way to start and end this week.

HOW BUDGET IS BALANCED A KEY QUESTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I come today to address the budget impasse issue that has been on the minds of us and many Americans for quite some time. We are all very concerned, I know, about why we have not gotten to a balanced budget and what the skinny is on what is going to happen with respect to it.

I think that this needs to be put in perspective. President Clinton took 11 months and four offers before he got a budget proposal to Congress that was balanced according to the Congressional Budget Office, the only objective arbiter of such matters around here. It took him 11 months to do that.

□ 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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