ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Mr. FILNER. On behalf of the Democratic Caucus, Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 106) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 106

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives: To the Committee on International Relations:

William Luther of Minnesota.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING SPEAKER, MAJORITY LEADER, AND MINORITY LEADER TO ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS AND MAKE APPOINTMENTS, NOTWITHSTANDING ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding any adjournment of the House until Tuesday, April 8, 1997, the Speaker, majority leader, and minority leader be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments authorized by law or by the House.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1997

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, April 19, 1997.

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

There was no objection.

GRANTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE PRIVILEGE TO REVISE AND EXTEND REMARKS AND TO INCLUDE EXTRANEOUS MATERIAL IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD FOR TODAY

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that for today all Members be permitted to extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in that section of the RECORD entitled ''Extension of Remarks.''

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

There was no objection.

DESIGNATION OF HON. CONSTANCE MORELLA OR HON. FRANK WOLF TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 1997

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 21, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable CONSTANCE A. MORELLA or, if not available to perform this duty, the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through Tuesday, April 8, 1997.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the designation is accepted.

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TAXES, BUDGETS, AND SAVING MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take just a few minutes of my colleagues' time to talk about taxes, budgets, and saving Medicare, because this week I seem to make a great deal of news saying something that I thought actually was rather commonsensical and exactly fitting where the Republican Party has been.

I began on Monday by being on this floor for the first time in a long time laying out a Republican agenda which I believe in deeply, which had as one of its items balancing the budget, one of its items cutting taxes so Americans have more take-home pay and more economic growth, and one of its items saving Medicare.

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When I came off the floor I chatted with several reporters and said, I think what is vital is that this year we balance the budget, we save Medicare, and we cut taxes so people have more take home pay, so parents have more money, so we have more economic growth, but that the precise way we do it is less important than getting it done, that the important thing, whether it is all done in one big bundle or whether it is done in a series of steps, is that we get it done. In that conversation I said, we should clearly vote on tax cuts before the end of the year.

Now, let me make clear my position. I began running in the 1970's. I was one of the early cosponsors of the Kemp-Roth bill. I believe in cutting taxes, increasing incentives. I would like to eliminate the capital gains tax so we have the maximum savings and the maximum investment to create the best jobs to have Americans have the best incomes in the world. I would like to eliminate the death taxes because I think they are wrong. I think it is wrong to punish a family financially when they are already in pain. And I think if you have already earned the money and paid taxes on the money, the Government should not revisit it and you should not have to sell your family farm, you should not to have to sell your small business just to pay the IRS. I believe the IRS is too big. I have gone everywhere in America and made a speech that said, when there are 110,000 Internal Revenue agents and there are 5,500 Border Patrol and there are 7,400 Drug Enforcement Administration agents so there are 10 IRS agents for every person guarding the border so we cannot protect you from illegal drugs and we cannot stop illegal immigrants but we can audit every small business in America, there is something wrong. We ought to end the IRS as we know it.

So I am deeply committed to lowering taxes. I favor a big debate between Steve Forbes and Majority Leader DICK ARMEY, who want a flat tax to replace the income tax, and Chairman BILL ARCHER and DICK LUGAR and others who want a sales tax to completely eliminate the income tax. I think the Republican Party should be committed to a 2- or 3-year effort to educate the Nation, have the Nation decide, how do you want to replace the current code, which way do you want to do it. How do we dramatically shrink the IRS.

I led the effort to say that I thought that the Internal Revenue Service proved, when their $4 billion computer program did not work, that maybe the problem is the Internal Revenue Code is so complicated that if the government cannot understand it for $4 billion, you should not expect the average citizen to understand it.

The only question I raised was this. We saw in the last 2 years some people use Medicare as a political tool. It was wrong. We saw some people deliberately scare senior citizens and it was wrong. We saw people say, well, Republicans want to cut taxes and they want to save Medicare and there was promptly, let us link them together.

So my position is simple. I think the best, safest thing we could do for America and for our senior citizens is let us get to an agreement on Medicare. Let us get it done and let us get it off the table so there is no question we did it to save Medicare. We did it to save our parents and grandparents. We did it to save our children and grandchildren so we have a stable, honest, reformed Medicare system that is solid, period.

Then I wanted to challenge the liberals. Do not tell me about tax cuts. Tell me about the size of Government. I am for smaller Government in Washington, fewer bureaucrats, less redtape.