

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, November 1, 1999

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
November 1, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2303. An act to direct the Librarian of Congress to prepare the history of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1791. An act to authorize the Librarian of Congress to purchase papers of Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior, from Dr. King's estate.

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, 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 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) for 5 minutes.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to represent one of our Nation's most diverse congressional districts. I represent the South Side of Chicago, the south suburbs in Cook and Will Counties, a lot of bedroom communities and a lot of cornfields and farm towns, too. When you represent such a diverse district, city, suburbs,

and country, you have to learn to listen.

I find there is one very common message that I hear back home. I heard it back in 1994 when I was elected and they sent me here to change how Washington works. I continue to hear it. They want us to work together to meet the challenges that we face here in Washington, as well as at home.

I am pretty proud that over the last 4½ years this Republican majority has worked to keep our commitments to change how Washington works. When we think about it, when we came to Washington the Congress, which was controlled by the Democrats at that time, passed the biggest tax increase in the history of our country. It was considering having a government takeover of our health care system. We had massive deficits of \$200 to \$300 billion a year.

When we think about it, there have been fundamental changes that have occurred since then. In fact, in the last 4½ years, this Republican Congress has done some things we were told we could not do.

We have balanced the budget for the first time in 28 years. That is now producing an estimated \$3 trillion surplus of estimated money.

We cut taxes for the middle class for the first time in 16 years. Now 3 million children in my State of Illinois now qualify for that \$500 per child tax credit.

We have reformed welfare for the first time in a generation. The welfare rolls in Illinois have dropped by one-half.

We tamed the tax collector, reforming the IRS, shifting the burden of proof off the backs of the taxpayer and onto the IRS. That is pretty good.

Of course, in this Republican majority we are now committed to moving forward with a better agenda, an agenda to help our local schools, keep the budget balanced, pay down our national debt, strengthen social security and Medicare, and of course, lower the tax burden for working families.

That is our commitment, because we are responding to questions that I hear back at home at the union hall and the VFW, the local Chamber of Commerce. People often ask me, when are you folks going to make another change in Washington? Now that you have balanced the budget, when are you going to stop the raid on social security?

Ever since LBJ needed to finance the Vietnam War effort and grow government with the Great Society, Wash-

ington has dipped into the social security trust fund to spend on other things. In our Republican balanced budget, we want to set aside 100 percent of social security for social security.

I am disappointed to note that in the President's budget, he only wants to set aside 62 percent, meaning that he wants to spend 38 percent of social security on other things. If we add that all up, over 10 years, that raid on social security totals \$340 billion.

I am also asked back home, when are folks going to start talking about paying down the national debt? I am pretty proud that last year we paid down \$50 billion of the national debt, above and beyond what was expected. This year we are going to pay down \$100 billion of the national debt, above and beyond what is expected.

Under the Republican balanced budget, we pay down over \$2.2 trillion of the national debt, over two-thirds of the national debt, over the next 10 years. That is progress, paying down the national debt.

I am also often asked, what about taxes? Taxes are too high. Forty percent of the average family's income goes to government today. Twenty-one percent of our economy is consumed by the Federal Government. That tax burden is too high, too unfair, too complicated.

Unfortunately, the President vetoed our effort to eliminate the marriage tax penalty on married working couples, to eliminate the death tax on family farmers, family businesses, because he wanted to spend the money. Now he says he wants to raise taxes by \$238 billion so he can spend more. That is really what we are getting down to in the last few days of this session of Congress. We are getting down to some real fundamental issues.

If we look at the President's budget and the Democratic budget, as well as the Republican budget, there is a big difference. We had a key vote last week. We chose between government waste and social security. We made a commitment that we are willing to cut waste, fraud, and abuse in government by 1 percent, reducing the Federal budget 1 cent on the dollar in order to stop the raid on social security.

That is a fundamental, key vote, because when we think about it, do we want to waste our dollars, or protect social security? We voted in the Republican majority to save social security.

What I was very concerned about is recently the leader of the Democrats,

□ 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.