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No. 40

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 1, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable JOEL HEFLEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Douglas Tanner, Faith and Politics Institute, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, who created, sustains and redeems us:

On this first day of April, we are aware that however confused this year's seasons may have been, surely spring has arrived, as it always does. Signs of growth and new life surround us. Sunshine warms our faces. Fresh breezes beckon us to leave the walls within which we have lived and worked all winter and come outside.

We pray that Your creative and renewing spirit might come upon us in a similar way. Grant those in this body an openness to new perspectives and possibilities, even as they appropriately adhere to values and traditions that have survived the tests of time. Warm them to the genuine humanity in each other, even as they vehemently disagree in debate and fiercely compete for the public trust. And even as our worst appears evident in children killing children, guide them to call forth the best in us as a Nation. 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 Iowa (Mr. BOSWELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BOSWELL 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 SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3579. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 3579) "An Act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints

Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BOND, Mr. GORTON, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BYRD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. HARKIN, Ms.

MIKULSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DORGAN, and Mrs. BOXER, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 8 one-minutes per side.

STOP WASTING TAXPAYER MONEY

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, since the election, the administration has amassed a team of 84 taxpayer-paid White House attorneys on the Federal payroll. That is 31 more lawyers than the entire squad on the Dallas Cowboy football team.

Now, are these lawyers working on issues that affect the public good? Well, don't bet the farm on that. Since the newest rounds of scandals, the White House Counsel's Office has grown by 43 employees. The non-partisan Congressional Research Service recently reminded us that a Federal employee hired as an attorney is compensated from United States Treasury funds to provide legal advice and assistance or to litigate matters concerning the official business of the United States, its agencies, officers and employees, rather than concerning matters which are purely personal to the employee or to another Federal official.

That is the law.

The time has come for the administration to spend more time on the people's business and less time wasting taxpayer's money stonewalling and invoking executive privilege.

□ 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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H1855

BESTEA IS A GOOD BILL

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives will consider H.R. 2400, the surface transportation bill known as BESTEA. I rise today to simply say that BESTEA is a good, bipartisan bill. It will provide better, safer roads. It will provide new and improved public transit systems. It will improve air quality by reducing traffic congestion and by promoting public transit. It will provide good jobs for middle-class Americans. It will ensure America's future as a world leader by maintaining and improving our world class transportation system.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to vote to invest in America's future and vote in favor of H.R. 2400 today.

TAX REFORM NOW

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, a recent survey asking Americans to rank the least three desirable situations, revealed the following: Number three was being called by your boss and saying you are fired. Number two, well, it was going to lunch at a nice restaurant and finding your spouse dining with an ex-boyfriend or girlfriend. And the first worst nightmare for Americans was going to the mailbox and finding a letter whose return address was the IRS.

These examples, think about it, while graphic, illustrate the growing fear and frustrations the American people have with our tax system. April 1st is a day that brings practical jokes to the minds of many, yet the clock ticks on toward April 15th, a day that brings fear and paralysis to all working men and women.

Mr. Speaker, only a few citizens are left in this country who can do their own taxes, and yet horror stories of IRS abuse are still mounting. The time to act is now. I urge my colleagues to join me in the tax reform effort, to make this the last April 1st where the American taxpayers are made out to be the fools.

HOUSE SHOULD DELAY PROPOSED TRANSPLANT RULES

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

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity this morning to bring forth the perilous condition of one of my youngest constituents, Mckenzie Lee of Ottumwa, Iowa, to your attention.

Little 5-year-old Mckenzie has liver cancer and desperately needs a liver transplant. Perhaps today, there are

going to be proposed rules by HHS to make a major modification to how this system works.

While the stated purpose of the rule is admirable and I strongly support efforts to increase the donations, I fear this rule may in fact result in a number of unintended consequences.

It will take the decisionmaking process away from the physicians, those who are the most skilled and proficient to able to deal with this, who have got the expertise, and put it into the hands of some bureaucrats. Forcing a one-size-fits-all is questionable to me.

I would ask that members join the efforts to save Mckenzie and every transplant patient like her who may be harmed by this proposed rule by becoming a cosponsor, and delaying this process for one year and give us time to review it, to get input from the physicians and the places around the country that do this work, to be in play. So please join me in cosponsoring H.R. 3584.

SUPPORT BESTEA

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

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, it is not every day that we get to vote for legislation that will directly and tangibly improve the quality of life for every single American. That is what BESTEA does. BESTEA will repair and rebuild the highways and roads Americans use every day. BESTEA also restores trust with the American people.

BESTEA does what no highway bill has done in two decades; spends gas taxes for its intended purposes. BESTEA is also fiscally responsible. In fact, it is paid for twice. First, it only spends what the government takes in in gas taxes. Second, much of it will be offset by spending cuts.

Also, and often overlooked, BESTEA will save more lives than any other legislation we will act on this year.

This is a great bill for the future of America, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

NEEDS OF NATIONAL SECURITY BRAIN TRUST

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Pentagon says China and Russia are engaged in a nuclear arms race. They say both China and Russia can hit every city in America with a ballistic missile.

Now, if that is not enough to cause you to fall on your sword, the Pentagon further says Russia and China are doing this with American dollars.

Unbelievable. Let us check this out. China gets \$60 billion in MFN from Uncle Sam. Russia gets \$15 billion in foreign aid from Uncle Sam. In ex-

change, Uncle Sam gets nuclear missiles pointed at our cities, two tape decks and three cases of vodka.

Beam me up. I say our national security brain trust needs a proctologist on staff.

EMERGENCY PHONES FOR EMERGENCIES

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, this morning while reading H.R. 4-1-98, I found hidden deep in the Senate appropriations bill a \$60,000 expenditure to install telephones in the Members-only Congressional bathrooms. That is right, \$60,000 for Members to conduct business while doing their business. Emergency phones for emergencies.

While Members have little time to waste, Mr. Speaker, that does not mean we have any more emergencies than the next guy. And, what is worse, this proposal calls for drilling holes in the historic mahogany shoeshine chair, which was donated to the House of Representatives by the Woodrow Wilson estate.

Mr. Speaker, this is not good waste management. Let us see this proposal, H.R. 4-1-98, for the joke that it is, or we would be a bunch of April fools.

DISARMING DRUNK DRIVERS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened that the Republican leadership, which Monday killed a chance for a vote on meaningful campaign spending reform, breaking Speaker GINGRICH's promise, last night voted to deny the House even the right to vote on the .08 provisions so passionately supported by the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers volunteers.

Fortunately, there is one element to reduce the carnage of repeat drunk drivers on our roads: Taking away their cars. Modeled on a program I started in Portland, which dramatically reduced the rate of repeat drunk drivers and is now used from North Carolina to Anchorage, H.R. 2400 provides incentives for all States to disarm these people who have no right on the road.

Take away the cars of repeat drunk drivers. Use these provisions to save the lives of American families.

GIVING HIGHWAY MONEY BACK TO THE STATES

(Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, each day in every rural