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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHAW).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 17, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable E. CLAY SHAW, Jr., 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:

Our hearts and thoughts and minds praise You, O God, for You have created a world of infinite possibilities and You have created us with hearts with which to love, thoughts with which to create, and minds with which to reason. Yet, may we ever be aware that our thoughts are not Your thoughts and our ideas are not Your ideas and our love not Yours.

Give us wisdom so that we do not equate our limited faith with Your boundless blessings, nor our efforts at justice with Your perfect word. So with humility we pray that Your spirit will lift our spirits and guide us in the way of righteousness and goodwill.

This is our earnest prayer. 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 Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BLILEY 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 passed bills and a concurrent resolution of the following titles, in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2143. An act to amend chapter 45 of title 28, United States Code, to authorize the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice to accept voluntary services, and for other purposes.

S. 2316. An act to require the Secretary of Energy to submit to Congress a plan to ensure that all amounts accrued on the books of the United States Enrichment Corporation for the disposition of depleted uranium hexafluoride will be used to treat and recycle depleted uranium hexafluoride.

S. Con. Res. 88. Concurrent resolution calling on Japan to have an open, competitive market for consumer photographic film and paper and other sectors facing market access barriers in Japan.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain seven 1 minutes from each side.

PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO CHINA

(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, yes, President Clinton is back from his 9-

day, \$50 million, taxpayer-financed road trip to China. I have to give it to him, however; most Americans never get a chance to have an overseas vacation, let alone one where they take 1,200 of their closest friends.

While they did not accomplish much on the road, I think they probably set a record for the cost and size of a presidential delegation traveling abroad. The President's press secretary explained that "this wasn't just the President going to China, but this was the United States Government, and we brought a lot of government with us."

Mr. Speaker, I cannot think of anyone they did not take. But, when questioned, McCurry spilled the beans; "there might be people we shouldn't have included." Well, no kidding.

Now, I do not want to sound too critical. After all, they did cut corners where they could. I am told with only 600 rooms available at the Shanghai Ritz Carlton, our intrepid travelers bit the bullet and doubled up. Thank you, Mr. President, for that, saving what you could where you could.

I yield back the remainder of any pocket change this country may have.

PROTECT AMERICA'S BORDERS FROM DRUG SMUGGLERS

(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 Drug Czar opposes it, the White House opposes it, Immigration opposes it, the Pentagon opposes it. They all oppose the Traficant program that authorizes but not mandates the use of troops to straighten out our border. But they also have some interesting company. The Colombian drug cartel is now reported opposing it. The Mexican drug lords oppose it and fear it. The Golden Triangle heroin bosses for the first time are worried about getting heroin into America.

□ 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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The unusual thing about this program is, the only support I have is a number of Members of Congress and the American people, in growing numbers.

Mr. Speaker, the White House will not get it until there is a six-foot syringe full of heroin shoved up the asset of some bureaucrat at the White House.

Beam me up. What about our children? What about addiction? How many years do we lament the use of narcotics, and we allow it to come across our border?

Only one of every three trucks are searched. I say on the House floor today, a nuclear warhead could cross our border and we would not know it.

I yield back any common sense left in the government of our country.

COMMEMORATION OF 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of an event that dramatically changed the course of history and led to the fundamental right of a woman to elect the people who represent them in this very Chamber, the first Women's Rights Convention.

This celebration gives us the opportunity to recognize outstanding achievements of women who have contributed to the development and the strength of our Nation. Because of the leadership, the tireless efforts and the perseverance of our foremothers, women today are able to soar to greater heights each and every day.

While this is a time to celebrate and express our gratitude to those who came before us, it is also a time to reflect and remind ourselves that each one of us has an enormous responsibility not only to the women of tomorrow but to every single woman who helped pave the way for the rights, the freedom and the boundless opportunities we all now cherish.

As we honor women leaders such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott and Susan B. Anthony, let their work serve as an inspiration to women, young and old, across this great land that we can make a powerful difference when we truly believe in a cause and in ourselves.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues today to underscore the need and the importance for real managed care reform. Today in America, insurance companies are making life-threatening decisions regarding patient care. Those

same insurance companies that denied medical procedures and treatment are immune from suit.

The horror stories are all too familiar: John, a middle-aged man in need of a liver transplant, his doctor contacts the HMO, and the bureaucrats decline coverage. John appeals, and by the time he works his way through a time-consuming process and the HMO agrees to pay, he is too sick to receive the transplant and dies.

The health care choices must be made by patients and their physicians, not the insurance companies. The Democratic Patient's Bill of Rights is a plan that puts people ahead of politics. It holds managed care corporations and companies responsible.

Let us do real reform. Let us do the Democratic reform.

TIME TO PASS A MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUT

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, it is time to remind the American people what the Republican agenda is for the remainder of the 105th Congress.

First, let us recall that last summer this Congress passed an historic balanced budget agreement that contained tax cuts for millions of middle-class taxpayers and middle-class savers. Last summer, Republicans vowed to pass more tax cuts in the year ahead.

So, here we are, back in Washington and on track to pass more tax cuts for the middle class, the middle-class backbone of America that pays the taxes, plays by the rules, and gets up every morning to engage in productive labor.

The tax burden on the middle class is simply too large. The cost of government is too high. It is simply not right that the Federal Government should take between one-fourth and one-third of what a middle-class family earns.

Liberals may disagree, but most Americans do not believe that the middle-class families should work until the month of May before getting to keep what they earn. It is time for this Congress to pass a middle-class tax cut.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRAT HEALTH CARE PLANS

(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, it is very important for the American public to understand the difference between the Democrat's managed care reform proposal, the Patient's Bill of Rights, as opposed to the Republican sham managed care reform proposal which we will be considering most likely next week.

First, we need a national remedy for a national problem. No State has

passed legislation which deals with all the major areas of managed care consumer protection.

Second, the Republican Senate proposal does not apply to most Americans. Many of its provisions will only cover individuals involved in self-insured, employer-sponsored plans.

Third, the Congressional Budget Office has shown that the costs of the Democratic plan are minimal, only \$2 per month for the average person.

In addition, the Republican plans do not prohibit HMOs from offering bonuses to doctors for denying necessary care; the Republican proposals do not guarantee the right of patients to use specialists as their primary care providers; and, most important, the Republican plans do not provide for the enforcement of patient protections. They continue to protect health insurance companies' special interest exemption from legal responsibility; and, as the President said, a right without a remedy is worthless.

CONTINUE IN DIRECTION OF TAX CUTS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, in the remaining months of the 105th Congress, business will be conducted in one of two ways: We will conduct business in the old way it was done for 40 years of Democrat rule, or we can conduct business in a new way, the way business began being conducted in the beginning of January, 1995.

Under the old way, Congress did not hold the line on spending. New goodies were added in the closing days of the session and serious attempts at reform were blocked by the usual special interests.

Under the new way, Congress considers the impact of spending on the family budget first. Instead of asking Washington if Washington can afford new spending, we now ask whether the family can afford it.

It is entirely a new way of thinking. Under the old way, Washington acted like it was doing you a favor by letting you keep more of your own money. Under the new philosophy, the Republicans are pushing to cut taxes as much as possible, because we think middle-class families are paying too much in taxes to a government that is not careful with their money. It is time to continue in this new direction.

AMERICA NEEDS PATIENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Families USA released a report about State-managed care reform laws around the country. The report is entitled "Hit and Miss," because, as the report clearly states, "Unfortunately, for