think it is very wrong to suggest that somehow raising the minimum wage is not going to help the average American wage earner who lives on it.

The bottom line is that we have seen over and over again, and most importantly in my home State of New Jersey, where the minimum wage was raised a few years ago to the level that we are now or somewhat close to the level that we are now proposing in Congress, and the result was that minimum wage workers actually had their wages increased, were able to go out and buy more goods, and more services had to be provided to them. Jobs in the State of New Jersey actually increased so that there were more economic opportunities, more work opportunities for jobs created in our State because of the increase in the minimum wage.

So this notion that somehow raising the minimum wage is going to decrease jobs and put people on the street and not help those who are now dependent on the minimum wage, I think is just a false issue. Clearly, the statistics show that that is a false issue.

I think this is important today because on the other side of the Capitol, in the Senate, they will be taking up the minimum wage. I am hopeful that crippling amendments that are being proposed again by various Republicans, that would create huge loopholes in the increase in the minimum wage for certain workers, that these crippling amendments do not pass, because over the last 6 months and over the last year the American people have basically been petitioning Congress and stating over and over again they they want an increase in the minimum wage.

That is the only reason that this is being brought to the floor of the Senate today, not because of the Republican leadership, who consistently opposed it here in the House and in the Senate, but because the American people have spoken out and said they want an increase. They want a livable wage for people who are working at a minimum wage level.

It would be a shame if crippling amendments, mostly coming from big business, were to pass. That would exempt a lot of workers in various categories from this minimum wage increase. I hope that that does not happen.

Madam Speaker, I have been outraged from the very beginning at the constant effort by the Republican leadership here in the House to deny millions of working Americans the opportunity to earn a livable wage. We have had a debate in the House, and now the same debate is happening in the Senate, with two constant themes.

First is that Republicans will do everything they can to fight for big business special interests and try to water down a minimum wage increase. It is the Democrats who continue to fight for the hard-working Americans who need an increase in the minimum wage to provide for their families.

Madam Speaker, the Republican leadership has used many different schemes and ploys to fight an increase in the minimum wage. First was the majority leader in the House who proposed doing away with the minimum wage altogether. Then in March of this year Republicans in the House used a parliamentary procedure to stop a vote calling for a modest increase in the minimum wage.

But gradually, Americans all over the country began to put pressure on the Republican leadership here in the House to at least have a vote on the issue, to let the vote occur. The Republican leadership, however, continued to persist as long as they could in preventing a vote. But finally the so-called moderate wing of the Republican party, many of whom were from my home State or from the Northeast, broke with their leadership and expressed support for the Democratic proposal on the minimum wage.

So we finally did have a vote, but if you listen to some of the dialog on the other side, if you listen to some of the ideology—as I said, some of it was expressed by my colleague from Nebraska today—you hear this constant theme that somehow this is not good for the average American.

According to the majority whip in the House, no one is actually raising a family on the $4.25 an hour that is currently the minimum wage law. The majority whip used the addition of food stamps and the earned income tax credit to show that a single parent with two children could earn much more than the $8,800 a year that is provided for in the minimum wage.

But the bottom line is that even with food stamps, even with the earned income tax credit, which many in the House Republican leadership oppose, it is very, very difficult if not impossible for someone today to live and raise a family on the minimum wage. That is why we need to have a vote on this issue, and that is why we need to have it passed in the Senate today, sent back to the House, and signed into law by the President, who supports the increase.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GREENE of Utah). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House stands in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SHAW] at 2 p.m.

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are grateful, O God, that our prayers can express the essential emotions and ideas of the human spirit, that we are free to call upon You in all the moments of life—for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health. And so we call upon You this day from the secret places of our own hearts asking that You would bless us when we need blessing and forgive us when we need forgiving. Above all else, we pray for Your presence in our lives day by day and for Your spirit that nurtures us with the good graces of life. 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 North Carolina [Mr. JONES] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JONES 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.

## APPOINTMENT OF EMPLOYEE TO REVIEW PANEL OF THE OFFICE OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of rule LI, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment to the review panel of the Office of Fair Employment Practices the following employee of the House of Representatives to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Mr. Alan F. Coffey, Jr., General Counsel and Staff Director of the Committee on the Judiciary.

There was no objection.

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE C.W. BILL YOUNG, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable C.W. BILL YOUNG, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
*Washington, July 8, 1996.*

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
*Speaker of the House, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House, that the office of Congressman BILL YOUNG has been served with a subpoena issued by the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and precedence of the House.

With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

C.W. BILL YOUNG,
*Member of Congress.*

## BILL CLINTON IS AWOL IN WAR ON DRUGS

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, several surveys over the last few months have shown a steep increase in drug use by teenagers over the last 3 years. The Household Survey on Drug Abuse shows a 137-percent increase among 12- and 13-year-olds. LSD and crack cocaine use among teens has also gone through the roof. More children are becoming addicted to drugs earlier and in larger numbers than ever before.

Republicans have responded to this problem. Through appropriations, we have provided law enforcement agencies with the resources to combat the war on drugs. Bill Clinton, on the other hand, has turned a blind eye. In 1993, just days after taking office, Clinton fired 80 percent of the staff at the Office of National Drug Policy; he slashed interdiction efforts by 25 percent; and he appointed left-wing judges far outside the mainstream of American life.

In this election year, Bill Clinton will say anything to hide the fact that he has been AWOL in the war on drugs.

## CABLE'S HIGH SPEED EDUCATION CONNECTION

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

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the cable television industry for its latest educational initiative to provide elementary and secondary schools across the country with access to the Internet using high speed cable modems. Demonstrating its ongoing commitment to education, the industry is providing this extraordinary service free of charge.

Cable modems can provide data transmission up to 1,000 times faster than transmission over ordinary twisted copper phone lines. Information that takes more than one hour to download using a typical modem can be done in just seconds using a cable modem.

This high-speed digital access to the information superhighway will provide enormous benefits to our Nation's schoolchildren. As cable rolls out this technology in communities across the country, your local school library will be electronically transformed into the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and a source of unlimited information—and at no cost to the school or the taxpayer.

In conclusion, I want to commend the cable industry for its efforts to make certain that America's educational system has the benefit of the most advanced telecommunications technology.

## THE WAR ON DRUGS NEEDS MORE THAN A 2-DAY SUMMIT

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues and I are well aware of the danger and tremendous problems that drugs pose on our society.

What America needs is a sound and tough drug policy to fight this threat to society. Mr. Speaker, what America doesn't need is more election-year political posturing.

Today and tomorrow, the Clinton administration is sponsoring a 2-day summit. This is just one way the White House is attempting to fool the American public, that they are committed to the war on drugs.

Mr. Speaker, if the Clinton administration was actually serious about fighting drugs, they would have asked their New York judge to resign after he freed an admitted drug runner and refused to allow 75 pounds of cocaine to be used as evidence.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican commonsense approach to the war on drugs is simple and effective. Give law enforcement the funding for resources necessary to fight this problem, not a 2-day summit on border patrols.

## LEAN AND MEAN RIPOFF

(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, we know there is big money in health care, but this deal breaks the bank. U.S. Healthcare is merging with Aetna, a $9 billion deal that they say will make the company lean and mean and they will be able to pass on huge savings to consumers. Spare me, Mr. Speaker. I do not see any lean and mean in sight. What I see is fat, fat and filthy rich.

Check this out. The new chairman, Len Abramson, will make $1 billion, $1 billion in cash and stocks. If that is not enough to irritate your gallbladder, he will have two copresidents, and they will make millions of dollars more so they make sure the company is lean and mean. Beam me up. These nickel slicks must think that all Americans were born yesterday.

The truth is these big fat cats are simply mean, and the only lean out there will be the downsized laid-off health care workers trying to make a mortgage payment.

I yield back the balance of any more of this ripoff.

## THE PRESIDENT AND THE WAR ON DRUGS

(Mr. FUNDERBURK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton is using tobacco as a politically correct whipping boy while he ignores marijuana, cocaine and heroin trafficking and the crime associated with it. Teenage marijuana use has more than doubled on Bill Clinton's watch, but it is no surprise that kids are inhaling under this administration.

Just days after taking office, the President cut the office of the drug czar by 80 percent. In its first 3 years he eliminated 227 agent positions for the DEA. We all remember his Surgeon General, Joycelyn Elders, who talked about legalizing cocaine.

I would say to the President, Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, you can continue to attack an adult legal product which is the livelihood of thousands of hard-working farmers in North Carolina, but you cannot hide the fact that illegal drug use among teenagers have skyrocketed. You have proven to the Hollywood elite you are serious about stopping smoking. Now, Mr. President, convince the American public you are serious about stopping drugs.

## ONE STEP CLOSER TO INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today millions of working Americans can come one step closer to earning a livable wage. The Senate will finally vote on increasing the minimum wage. After months of blocking Democratic attempts to vote on raising the minimum wage, the Senate Republican leaders will finally allow a vote.

But this vote for working Americans does not come easy. As payment, the Senate Republicans will attempt to attach an amendment that will destroy this minimum wage increase. The Republican amendment would delay the implementation in the increase, freeze the minimum wage for those people who work in restaurants and also exempt millions of people from having any increase.

Republicans have no real interest in helping the millions of working Americans because these exemptions will prevent millions of hard-working Americans from earning a livable wage.

American families are working harder than ever. It is tough to get by when working full time for minimum wage does not put enough money in your pocket to put bread on your table.

I ask my colleagues in the other Chamber not to prevent these hard-working American families from earning a livable wage. Support work, not welfare.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should refrain from making references to proceedings in the other body.