in Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution, Thomas Jefferson could have predicted that we would have to do a census next year, but not the Republican leadership. No.

This is the second of at least three emergencies they are going to declare this year: The war in Kosovo, with a whole lot of things added in; the drought, a real emergency; and now, the census; more than $27 billion.

The emergency is, they want to deny the reality of the budget. That reality is, we now have a deficit looming next year and for years to come because of faulty assumptions and emergency spending and other needs of the government.

The emperor has no clothes, and the Republicans have no surplus to spend on tax cuts for the wealthy. But they continue to deny that reality with shenanigans like emergency spending for routine, constitutionally-required government duties. It is a very bad joke.

TAXES ARE HIGHER THAN THEY NEED TO BE SO WASHINGTON CAN SPEND MORE

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, the pollsters and political consultants tell us not to use statistics in our speeches. They tell us that peoples' eyes just glaze over at hearing the numbers. No matter. Honest statistics, facts, do matter.

For instance, when Bill Clinton became president in 1993, the Federal Government took 17.8 percent of our productivity. Today that share is 20.7 percent, nearly 3 percent higher. Let us hear those numbers again, because they are important in discussing whether or not tax cuts are a good idea. They are also numbers that we will never, ever hear the other side refer to, ever.

In 1993 when Bill Clinton became president, Federal taxes were 17.8 percent of our economy. Today Federal taxes are 20.7 percent of the economy. In other words, the Federal tax burden is at a record peacetime level. Taxes are higher than they need to be so that Washington can spend more and more money, creating new programs, expanding old ones, and giving us less power and control over our own lives.

One-fifth of the economy in Federal taxes is just too much.

URGING A NO VOTE ON THE AMERICAN INVENTORS PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would urge Members to vote no this morning on H.R. 1907, the so-called American Inventors Protection Act of 1999. This bill is being brought up under suspension. It should be brought up under regular order. It is a very consequential bill.

Last night the bill was brought on this floor at 9:17 p.m. as the last item of business. Those who had concerns about the bill and did not even have a chance to read it were limited to 10 minutes on a bill with constitutional consequences.

This is not the bill that cleared the Committee on the Judiciary on May 26, 1999. I think our U.S. patent system deserves more than this cursory treatment by the leadership of this institution.

At stake are the constitutional rights of our inventors, intellectual property rights into the next millennium, the rights to sue that are inherent in our legal system, and in fact, the independence of the Patent Office itself.

I would urge my colleagues to vote no on H.R. 1907 until they have had a chance to read it. Bring it up under regular order.

HANDS OFF THE INTERNET FOR THE U.N.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, the United Nations is an organization of sovereign states funded with voluntary contributions. It lacks any authority to impose taxes on its member states. Yet, the U.N.'s development program has proposed $70 billion in taxes on e-mail, 35 times more than it currently receives in contributions. Why has it done this? Because it believes countries are poor because they lack the Internet.

The U.N. should be more concerned about real problems in developing countries, like political mismanagement and repressive economic policies. Giving away computers does nothing for the poor if their countries lack the economic fundamentals to take advantage of the Internet.

The Internet offers tremendous potential to small businesses seeking an efficient way to gain new markets. Internet taxes and the bureaucracy needed to administer them would cripple this commerce. Congress has had a hands off policy when it comes to Internet taxes, and the U.N. should do the same. Hands off the Internet for the U.N.

AMERICAN FAMILIES DESERVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE

(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, our families deserve health care that is affordable and accessible. They deserve to have their medical decisions made by their doctors and not by insurance company bureaucrats.

For the past 2 years the American public has consistently asked for reforms that put medical decisions back into the hands of doctors and patients. What do they want? Simply to choose their own doctor, to have access to the nearest emergency room, to be able to see a specialist when necessary, to be free from an HMO gag rule that prevents doctors from discussing their treatment options, and yes, they want to hold HMOs accountable.

The fact is that HMOs are making medical decisions for people today, and when something goes terribly wrong, the American individual has to have the opportunity to seek some redress and to have these HMOs be accountable.

There are Members in this body who are doctors, Democrats and Republicans. They agree that these measures benefit patients, make our health care system stronger. We need to pass a meaningful Patients' Bill of Rights that reflects our values in this country for quality health care. Let us put patients ahead of profits.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). The Chair asks all Members to please abide by the 1-minute rule during 1-minute speeches.

DEMOCRATS ARE WRITING OFF RURAL AMERICA

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

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, things are tough in rural America these days. Commodity prices, wheat, corn, soybeans, livestock, including cattle and hogs, are at near Depression level prices.

The head of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has said that Democrats are writing off rural America. That is evidenced by their vote this week against tax relief for American farmers and ranchers.

Republicans have not written off rural communities. We are going to fight for them, because we know that these rural communities and the people who live in them represent bedrock American values of traditional family and hard work and individual responsibility.

Our Republican tax bill eliminates the death tax. If we do not act, this could be the last generation of American farms and ranches, and the people that the Democrats say are rich because they may have high development values on their lands would qualify on their income for food stamps.

Listen to the Democrats. They will put welfare over work. They will put government over taxpayers. They will put foreign markets over our domestic producers.