body of case law that has grown up in this area we are apt to do very serious damage if we let this bill go through without dealing with this issue and trying to educate Members with this issue.

The problem that I have is I am not on the committee so I do not know how I get recognized. There is a whole hour and 45 minutes left with any number of Members on the committee that have not even had their amendments recognized. And when the hour and 45 minutes goes, boom, the hammer comes down, that is it, vote on the bill, it is out of here.

I just am very, very shocked that we have so soon forgotten our pledge to have open rules, and I think in the area of foreign affairs we have had open rules every time I remember. I know the distinguished gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER] has a very critical amendment that he would like to offer that is on the front pages of every newspaper. I probably disagree with him on how I would vote, but I think he has the right to offer it, and I just find it very surprising that we are not going to permit that, and in an hour and 45 minutes tomorrow that is it, we are done.

Maybe on this globe we may have all sorts of global issues discussion, there may be all sorts of different things that were not dealt with; they fall off the table and we adjourn.

I just think the American people should be more than aware that there is a lot of talk about open rules, but I have not seen one in a long time.

I am going to ask the gentleman from Maryland, has he seen any open rules wandering around this Chamber anywhere?

Mr. HOYER. I have not seen any open rules, if the gentlewoman will yield, that really give open debate, and that is the issue. The gentlewoman mentions the 6 hours of debate or the hour and 45 minutes. The tragedy for the American public and for the House of Representatives is that of that hour and 45 minutes, 45 minutes to an hour may be taken up in simply voting, no debate, no consideration, no thoughtful exchange of ideas as to what is good and bad policy.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. The gentleman is absolutely correct. It is a very sad day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

LIFE EXTENDING AND LIFE SAVING DRUG ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as was aptly described by Carl B. Feldbaum, president of the BioTech Industry Organization, ''Life-saving new drugs do take too long to reach the people who need them.''

From my district in Montgomery County, PA, I have heard many a compelling story from constituents with cancer, Lou Gehrig's Disease, epilepsy, or AIDS who speak of the difficulties in accessing the medicines they need because the approval process in our country is so prolonged and, in effect, they have to turn to other countries where the products are available.

Don't get me wrong. The Food and Drug Administration serves a valuable purpose in maintaining high safety and efficacy standards. However, it is important to note that the FDA's actions directly affect the lives of patients and the ability of physicians to provide state-of-the-art care for their patients.

In addition, the FDA regulates businesses that produce 25 percent of America's gross national product, so the Agency's actions also impact our country's economic well-being. The pharmaceutical industry is an excellent example. The United States leads the world in discovering new drugs yet, all too often, these drugs are available overseas first. The United States is far and away the world leader in biotechnology, but many biotechnology firms are moving clinical trials overseas because of red tape imposed on them by the FDA. These are very troubling trends that do not bode well for the economic future of the United States, or for the economic future of Pennsylvania.

In my 13th Congressional District of Pennsylvania alone, we have 10 facilities of 4 major pharmaceutical companies. Together, these facilities employ more than 11,000 people. I would not want to see any of these constituents lose their jobs because FDA regulation is prompting companies to conduct some of their work overseas.

Americans want safe medicines. They want a strong FDA that will keep unsafe products off the market but, I believe, they want to see more emphasis on the value of giving patients quicker access to safe and effective new medicines. That is why, today, I am introducing the Life Extending and Life Saving Drug Act. We need to take action as soon as possible for the great benefit of this Nation's patients, physicians, and our emerging industry. I look forward to working with my colleagues to act quickly on this critical piece of legislation.

THE TIMBER AMENDMENT IN THE RESCISSIONS BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. TAYLOR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today the President of the United States vetoed the rescission bill that had been worked on for many weeks in this Congress by the House and the Senate and then in conference, and in that rescission package were many things that I think are important to the Nation, but one thing that was very important for forest health was the timber salvage amendment. The salvage amendment called for increasing forest health by allowing and actually requiring the Forest Service to get rid of the large portion of the dead and dying and deceased timber in our national forests.

We have several problems in the national forests. First of all there have been billions of board feet, there are somewhere between 20 and 30 billion board feet that are dead and dying in the forest that need to be taken out. The dead trees in the West are accumulating so fast that forest fires are not only burning along the ground as they once did, they are now burning to high degrees because of the buildup of dead and dying timber that has already accumulated in the forests. They reach temperatures of over 2000 degrees. They bake the land, charcoal runs over in the streams, it makes it almost impossible to come back and reforest in those areas. Many thousands of acres have been blown down through wind damage. These are also hard to reforest, to return to forest health.

Insects and disease in our national forests are not only consuming parts of our national forests but they are moving over into private lands. Most silviculturalists recognize the only way to stop the insect-infested movements is to destroy the tree, take out the host tree, either burn it or use it if you can get to it early enough, remove it so that there is not the location for the insects to move on year after year.

We know all of this because we have over 100 years of silviculture at our disposal, both from our best universities that have taught forestry going back almost 100 years when the first school of forestry started in this country. We know it from numerous experimental stations that we have, both private, Federal, and State and at university centers. We know it because silviculture is a science that is taught and studied and is probably one of the best informed sciences that we have because we have been studying for over 100 years in this area now.

With all of this accumulated knowledge we allow special interest groups in Washington to take in hundreds of millions of dollars, scaring people with misinformation, bad science, and pandering to politicians. The President has bought their message, hook, line, and sinker, because according to a Wall Street Journal story about the polling of the environmental organizations in Washington, we find that over 93 percent voted for Mr. Clinton. They are primarily far left. The report also showed that they are contrary in most of the things they report to the actual science that we know in these areas.

What we tried to do with the timber amendment that we had was to give the Forest Service the tools and the responsibility to move into the forests and move out the dead and diseased trees. The President today in his veto message said, and I am quoting, ''I have done more for logging than any other single person in this country.'' Well, the President told us his first term here in 1993 that he was cutting the budget deficit with his $100 billion tax increase; then he came to Congress and said he was increasing the deficit by over $1 trillion in his 4 years in office. He told us that he was working to balance the budget, and he did not. He has told this Congress many things. His story in foreign policy and Bosnia has changed no fewer than six times just in the last few weeks, so when he says that he has done more for helping the forests, the unemployed forest people in the Pacific Northwest or other parts of the country, it should be taken with a grain of salt by now. Certainly if you ask the forest families, the tens of thousands of people who are unemployed because of his misinformation and policy he has put in place in the Pacific Northwest, they will tell you very quickly how much he has done for the resource in this Nation

So, those of us in Congress by a vote of 277 in the House, which is almost two-thirds of this body, spoke out for forest health, and today the President has vetoed that.

It will come back to him. It will be back if there is another rescission package brought forth. It will be back in the Interior appropriations bill, because those of us that recognize the true science in silviculture, the health of our national forests, and recognize the phony misinformation that the President is getting, is wrong, we are going to see that that legislation is put back before him again and again.

His closing statement in his veto message was that we had with our timber amendment abolished all environmental legislation. Clearly, he could not have studied this himself. He took this right out of the radical environmental fringe that houses itself in Washington and puts out so much misinformation. It is ludicrous to think that a timber salvage amendment could abolish all of the environmental legislation that this country has passed in the last 20 years. It boggles the mind to think that we could even do it, much less have done it.

So I would ask the President to go back and reconsider what he has just said and the misinformation, and sign this bill for the families of America and the resources of this country and our forest health.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HUNTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CONSTITUENTS INTERESTED IN A BALANCED BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, during the 10 days that we were home for the break, the many constituents that I met with had concerns on a lot of different subjects, budget matters, they are very concerned about us balancing the budget. I said many, many times over the last 10 days that the third largest expenditure of our national budget is interest on the debt. And in 2 years that interest on the debt will exceed all military spending, all of the expenditures for the Coast Guard, the Army, the Navy, the Marines, and the Air Force and so forth. We will pay more money, more interest money to the bond holders on the national debt than we will for all of the armed services. I think this is absolutely atrocious, and found that most constituents agree. They want us, they are screaming for us to balance this budget. They realize that there will be some reductions in spending, some reductions in projections, and some elimination in consolidations of various programs, and yet what the folks of the First District of Georgia are saying is if you are going to balance the budget and you are going to do it across the board, that is fine. Do not do it on the backs of the veterans, do not do it on the backs of elderly, do not do it on the backs of children, do it across the board.

When I explain to them the Kasich budget proposal, in most cases people said that is a balanced approach, that is the way to handle this tremendous problem, because as we look at spending over a trillion dollars more than the current budget allocation in the next 7 years, people understand that in many cases we are not talking about budget cuts but we are talking about reducing the projected increase.

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And yet people want that budget balanced.

They are also interested in this tax relief. It is a shame that the United States other body on the other side of the hall has not quite caught on the American people are sick and tired of paying taxes.

The average middle-class family paid a 2 percent tax burden in the 1950's as a percentage of Federal income tax. In the 1970's, that 2 percent went to 16 percent. In the 1990's, it is 24 percent.

The middle-class families of America today are paying 40 to 50 percent of their income in taxes, and they are sick and tired of it. they cannot afford it.

And most families, both spouses are working simply because of the economic necessity of paying taxes. It does not get them ahead, it just keeps them standing still and breaking even.

The middle class needs relief. The tax relief bill passed by the House actually benefitted 75 percent of the American people in the middle-class category.

We have got to help the middle class, and our package does that. But more importantly than that, giving the people their own money back, not confiscating it from them in the first place, allows them to buy more hamburgers, more CD players, more cars, more houses. When they do that, businesses expand. They create jobs. New workers create new revenue. History shows, and I went back to 1956, the Treasury Department numbers, and looked at it. Our revenues have increased every time taxes were low; the revenues to the national budget actually increased.

And what is so important about that is that our projection is that if the economy grows over 1 percent more than the current projection, then in the next 7 years we will have another $640 billion of revenue added to the current budget, and if that is the case, it will be a lot easier to balance the budget without further reductions and caps and so forth.

Although many people are saying, ''Do not worry about those cuts,'' because one of the major objectives we want out of the 104th Congress is to reduce the size of government. People are tired of government micromanagement. They are tired of Washington bureaucrats telling them how to run the show. They are saying, ''We can handle our problems just fine on a local basis. Let our local nonprofits or our for-profits handle it. Let our local city councils and county commissions handle it. Let State governments do it. Take things, particularly major decisionmaking, out of Washington.''

Another thing I found that the folks in the First District of Georgia are very concerned about is welfare reform. Simply put, they just do not want people who are able to work paid for not working. The middle-class families are out there working 40, 50, 60 hours a week, breaking their back. They are tired of doing it for the benefit of a huge Washington bureaucracy and able-bodied public assistance recipients. They are tired of it.

If somebody needs a helping hand, we want to help them. But if they are just going to take a free ride, then it is time to tell them to get off the train and help start fueling the engine with the rest of us.

Madam Speaker, I found these things over and over again, not just during the current district work break but all along as I have been in public office, that people are saying this is what we want, this is what we want out of Washington, ''We want less; we want more personal freedom.''

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to: