

Roybal-Allard	Stark	Vento
Rush	Stokes	Visclosky
Sabo	Studds	Ward
Sanders	Stupak	Waters
Sawyer	Tanner	Watt (NC)
Schroeder	Tejeda	Williams
Schumer	Thompson	Wise
Scott	Thornton	Woolsey
Serrano	Thurman	Wyden
Sisisky	Torres	Wynn
Skaggs	Torricelli	Yates
Slaughter	Towns	
Spratt	Velazquez	

NOT VOTING—16

Baker (LA)	McCrery	Volkmer
Brewster	McDermott	Waxman
Dornan	Neumann	Weldon (PA)
Fields (LA)	Oxley	Wilson
Hayes	Pryce	
Jacobs	Tucker	

□ 1226

Mr. ENGEL changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. POSHARD, Ms. DANNER, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. BROWDER changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2491, 7-YEAR BALANCED BUDGET RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1995

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-354) on the resolution (H. Res. 379) providing for the consideration of a Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2491) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 105 of concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1996, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of House Resolution 275, the Chair wishes to announce that today the Chair will entertain a motion to suspend the rules and pass House Joint Resolution 123.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2099, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. McINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-355) on the resolution (H. Res. 280) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2099) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and

Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

□ 1230

CONCURRING IN SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2491, SEVEN-YEAR BALANCED BUDGET RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1995

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 279 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 279

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2491) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1996, with a Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House a motion offered by the chairman of the Committee on the Budget or his designee to concur in the Senate amendment. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by proponent and an opponent. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EMERSON). The gentleman will state it.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, my parliamentary inquiry is based on an inability to get an answer yesterday. Is the measure before the House the same measure which excludes the cost-of-living increases for military retirees for fiscal year 1996, 1997, and 1998, under the national security provisions?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot respond to the content of a measure that the resolution before the House would make in order.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, further parliamentary inquiry. Would it be in order, Mr. Speaker, at a time when proponents and opponents of the measure have time, to ask the proponents to yield to such a question? Would that be in order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That would be in order.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Woodland Hills, CA [Mr. BEILEN-SON], and pending that I yield myself such time as I may consume. All time yielded will be for the purposes of debate only.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the rule provides for the consideration of a mo-

tion by the chairman of the Committee on the Budget to concur in the Senate amendment to the Balanced Budget Act. This rule is made necessary by the fact that two small provisions of the Balanced Budget Act were stricken from the legislation as a result of the so-called Byrd rule.

Mr. Speaker, business as usual in Washington is making promises, not keeping them. Business as usual is talking about a balanced budget, but not passing one. Business as usual is higher taxes on families and more spending on Government.

By each of these three criteria, Mr. Speaker, passing the Balanced Budget Act today and sending it to the President is not business as usual.

Instead, this is a truly historic day in congressional history, the day when Congress agrees on a budget plan that places children and tomorrow ahead of politicians. That day is today. This rule will permit us to vote on a real plan, a specific plan that balances the budget in 7 years. It may not be perfect, but it has the support of a majority in the House and Senate. It has the support of those who want larger tax cuts, and those who would rather increase spending a little more. It has supporters who want to balance the budget more rapidly and those who think 7 years is as fast as possible.

Mr. Speaker, because it is a real plan rather than some phony outline, crafting the Balanced Budget Act involved real choices and very tough decisions. The conventional wisdom was that a final package could not be put together. The majorities in the House and Senate would self-destruct, many had said. That was obviously not the case.

Along with tremendous leadership from a number of people in and out of Congress, those who support this bill have come together behind a belief that it is a moral imperative that we put children ahead of politics as usual.

Mr. Speaker, the American people know that balancing the budget is critical to improving standards of living. Lower interest rates from this bill alone are expected to create nearly 500,000 new jobs, private sector jobs in my State of California alone. Cutting the top rate on capital gains and extending the research tax credit will translate directly into more jobs in the companies that are at the heart of my State's transition from a defense-based to an export-based economy.

Mr. Speaker, I know the experience of these new jobs to families in California. I will not apologize for cutting taxes to create more private sector jobs. These growth incentives will also increase wage levels, addressing the problem of stagnant wages that has plagued the economic recovery during the past 3 years. While we balance the Federal budget, we must be sure that clear priorities are addressed. Past Congresses have ignored the cost of failed immigration policies. Billions of

dollars in services to illegal immigrants have been left to State taxpayers. That is wrong. For the first time this bill will create a \$3.5 billion Medicaid fund to assist States with the cost of emergency health care to illegal immigrants.

In tandem with the \$500 million appropriated by the House to reimburse States for the cost of incarcerating illegal immigrant felons, this targeted Medicaid fund places Congress at the forefront of dealing with this very important issue of illegal immigration.

Mr. Speaker, we are approaching the time to put partisanship aside. We must unite behind a fundamental desire of families all across this country. We know we must balance the Federal budget. They elected the President and Congress both to accomplish that goal. The President said he was going to do it in 5 years when he ran in 1992, and this Congress, this new majority in the Congress said we would do it. The Balanced Budget Act embodies a number of the President's election promises. Along with that balanced budget, he promised to end welfare as we know it. That is exactly what happens in this bill. He promised a middle-class tax cut when he ran in 1992; that is exactly what we are doing in this bill.

We should come together. This rule will permit us to send a balanced budget to the President for the first time in three decades. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEILENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad my friend has stopped talking so we can come together.

Mr. Speaker, this rule allows for a motion to dispose of the Senate amendment to the budget reconciliation bill, and allows for 1 hour of debate on that motion. The Senate amendment consists of the reconciliation bill we did yesterday minus two items as the gentleman explained that were dropped in the other body yesterday afternoon. It waives all points of order against the motion.

The rule we are considering is a perfectly acceptable rule for an, unfortunately, unacceptable bill. Since the President has already said he will veto this bill, and we think he should, we think we ought to debate it quickly and get it to his desk as quickly as possible.

We do this body no justice by spending hours debating a bill that is sure to be vetoed. We believe we should concentrate our energies on working out a continuing resolution and a reconciliation bill that the President will sign.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this rule.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Appleton, WI [Mr. ROTH], my friend.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a couple of short observations. Basically, when we hear debate that has been going on, not only this past couple of hours, but also yesterday and for the last number of days, it is basically the debate on this side of the aisle. As I see it, it is the debate about the old paradigm, the old liberal welfare state. If my colleagues analyze the debate basically coming from this side of the aisle, it is in the paradigm is that we are moving into an opportunity society.

Basically, what we are saying when we analyze it, is that the liberal welfare State is dead, that more and more government, more and more regulations are not the answer. What we are looking for in our society is that we are looking for less government, less regulation. Why? Because the jobs that are coming are not going to be produced by Government. The jobs that are coming are jobs that are being produced by entrepreneurs, and entrepreneurs cannot have a lot of regulation.

The world is moving ahead too fast. We have got to have less government so that the private sector can move and create the jobs that are needed today. So basically what we are debating here is really a very philosophical issue of where the country and where the world is heading.

We are saying basically that the liberal welfare state is dead and that it is being replaced by the Information Act, what we call the opportunity society.

That is why it is difficult to get these groups basically to see eye to eye. But the American people instinctively know that we cannot continue the liberal welfare state. That is basically why everyone is so much in favor of a balanced budget. It is not only the dollars that are involved, but it is the direction that our country is going in.

When we have our town hall meetings, people are always talking about let us balance the budget. Let us do what the American people are demanding. The American people are demanding a balanced budget. Basically what the American people really are saying is that our Government has gotten too big and our government costs too much.

□ 1245

Mr. BEILENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I urge an aye vote on this rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EMERSON). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House will stand in recess subject

to the call of the Chair or until approximately 1:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1329

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. EMERSON] at 1 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 440, NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM DESIGNATION ACT OF 1995

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of both the majority and the minority, I ask unanimous consent that the conference report to accompany the Senate bill (S. 440) to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for the designation of the National Highway System, and for other purposes, be considered as agreed to.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of November 15, 1995, at page H12459.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

Mr. OBERSTAR. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I do not object to the gentleman's request.

Mr. Speaker, I first want to take this opportunity to thank all of the conferees, particularly my good friend from Pennsylvania, Chairman SHUSTER, my distinguished colleague and friend from West Virginia, Mr. RAHALL, and the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. PETRI, and all of our committee members for their long, hard work on this important legislation. All have worked hard to make the necessary compromises to move this critical legislation forward on a bipartisan basis. The result of all of our efforts is a better conference report.

Mr. Speaker, most importantly, the conference report that we consider today designates the National Highway System, or NHS. The NHS is the backbone of our Nation's transportation system. It consists of 161,000 miles of Interstate highways and other heavily traveled roads. Although the NHS comprises only four percent of our Nation's total highway mileage, 9 out of 10 Americans live within 5 miles of an NHS road and it carries 40 percent of all highway travel and 75 percent of all trucking commerce.

With passage of this conference report and designation of the NHS, \$5.4 billion of critical transportation funds will now be released to the States. In the next fiscal year, an additional \$6.5 billion of NHS funds will be distributed nationwide. At a time when our infrastructure is crumbling, this legislation provides critical funds for badly needed transportation projects.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report also includes several other important changes to the landmark Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act and other transportation laws. It provides additional funding through rescissions to address the section 1003 budget problem,