

But we have a small business culture in this country, an entrepreneurial culture that we want to continue to promote, and one of the things I think that we can do is encourage the self-sufficiency, the independence that will allow and give those people the environment they need in which to prosper and to continue to succeed in their businesses. Most of the people who are in small business are people of character. They are visionaries. They are people of incredible commitment and dedication, and they have a very, very strong work ethic, and that is something I think we want to continue to encourage.

One of the things in the debate that we are about today, this week and just earlier today approved the budget resolution which includes some tax relief for those who are out there creating the jobs and making the investments and taking the risks that continue to drive this economy forward, and I believe that we need a government that lends them a helping hand, that will be a partner with them and that reinforces those values and those traditions rather than destroying them. And one of the things that we are talking about doing in this budget resolution is bringing estate tax relief, and that is something that I think will encourage the family farms to continue, the small businesses to continue as we allow and make it easier for small business entrepreneurs to pass on that family business to the next generation.

We are talking about lowering the tax burden on savings, investment and job creation, the capital gains tax, and that is something as well that I think will be an enormous benefit to the small businessowners in this country and enable them again to continue to do what they do best, and that is to make those investments that build the economies in those small towns and continue to contribute to the fabric of this Nation and to encourage innovation, entrepreneurship, and many things and many qualities that we look to in this country and the things that I think have for so long defined what we have come to know as the American dream, and that is that when you come to this country, we have the opportunity again to succeed, the freedom to fail. But we have remarkable success stories out there, and I think it is very fitting that this week we pay tribute to those small businesses that continue to drive this economy and renew our commitment to making, creating an environment that is conducive for them to succeed and to prosper.

So I look forward to working toward that end.

THE CENSUS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HELPING FLOOD VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important to bring some light and some sense to the actions of this House just a few minutes ago. Unfortunately, I think that there was more of an eagerness to play politics as opposed to responding to a simple question that my 11-year-old son, Jason Lee, raised with me last evening, and that was a concern for those individuals in South Dakota and other parts who suffered a lot this spring, Americans who we have a great concern for and have really attempted for the past couple of weeks to effectively and through the right way provide funding for their needs. Unfortunately, a political game was played tonight, and in this emergency supplemental appropriations we did not do the right thing. We did not do the right thing because we did not get to the bottom line, and that is to provide the support needed for those in the military who needed training to be able to provide assistance to these communities that have suffered from this terrible flooding and fires. We did not do the right thing by providing the moneys for community development funds for rebuilding of their housing.

Mr. Speaker, what we actually did was play politics. We proceeded to cut the moneys less than what was already included in the budget. We proceeded to cut discretionary funding and defense funding, although there are some who think that that money was included.

We also tried to do damage to a very important aspect of the American psychic and the American responsibility, and that is to count its citizens.

We did tonight something that had nothing to do with helping the citizens in South Dakota and other places that were negatively impacted. We put a straightjacket on the census. We declared Americans uncountable. We said that they are not important to find out who lives in the rural communities and urban centers. In an emergency appropriations bill we put in a straightjacket on taking the census for the year 2000.

I would argue does that make any sense? It certainly does not. Apples and oranges; somebody said mangoes and papayas.

What we did was to deny to American cities and rural communities the right to get their fair share of the tax dollars by denying the procedure of sampling and taking the census. Do you realize that we counted some 6 million people twice in the last census in 1990 and did not count 10 million citizens? It does not make sense when we began to distribute funds that we would find a circumstance where this Congress will straightjacket a function that is so very important to this Nation. In fact, the Constitution said the actual enumeration shall be made within 3 years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, with every subsequent term of 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, the census is written into the Constitution, and yet playing

politics instead of voting and putting forth the response to those citizens in the West who need our help, we now have intermingled and strangled this emergency supplemental appropriations bill so that the President will veto it because what it says is that we are not going to count our citizens and distribute our tax dollars fairly.

I almost wish we could go back to the drawing board and answer the question of my son, age 11: Why can we not simply just give them the money and give them the money fairly and straightly to deal with their problems and stop the politics?

I hope that we will be able to clear the air, if you will, to take this terrible language out of this supplemental appropriations bill so that we do not stranglehold the counting of citizens and we be able to move forward in the year 2000 and use a sampling that gets every one of our citizens. No matter where they are, whether they are homeless or not, they deserve to be counted so that we in America can distribute funds for education, the environment, Medicare and Medicaid, and not use your moneys frivolously, so that States who need more money because there are more people can fairly receive those funds instead of looking into smoke and mirrors and trying to decide who is in our State and who is in our country.

Every child, every senior citizen, every working man and woman, every person in this country deserves to be counted in the census, and yet on this day of June 5, 1997, instead of giving money to the people who need it, we are fooling around and hiding the ball in the census in the year 2000.

Someone said it does not seem to match two things: census and money for the folks who need it. You are right, it does not. Let us do the right thing and make sure that we pass a appropriations bill that serves those folk in South Dakota and other places who just simply ask to be treated like Americans.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the House has finished its legislative business for the week.

The House will meet for pro forma sessions at 9 a.m. tomorrow and 10 a.m. Saturday. Of course there will be no legislative business and no votes on those days.

On Tuesday, June 10, the House will meet at 10:30 a.m. for morning session and 12 noon for legislative business. Members should note that we do expect recorded votes soon after 2 p.m. on Tuesday.

As our first order of business on Tuesday, June 10, the House will consider the following four suspensions: H.R. 848, Extending the Deadline for AuSable Hydroelectric Project in New York; H.R. 1184, Extending the Deadline for Bear Creek Hydroelectric Project in Washington; H.R. 1217, Extending the Deadline for Hydroelectric Project in Washington State; and H. Con. Res. 60—Relating to the 30th Anniversary of the Reunification of the City of Jerusalem.

After suspensions, the House will resume consideration of H.R. 1757, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act. The House will also vote on previously ordered amendments to that bill.

On Wednesday, June 11, and Thursday, June 12, the House will meet at 10 a.m. and on Friday, June 13, the House will meet at 9 a.m. to consider the following bills, all of which will be subject to rules: H.R. 1758, The European Security Act; H.R. 437, The National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act of 1997; and H.J. Res. 54, Proposing an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution Authorizing the Congress to Prohibit the Physical Desecration of the U.S. Flag.

Mr. Speaker, we should finish legislative business and have Members on their way home by 2 p.m. on Friday, June 13.

THE CONTINUING EDUCATION DISASTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, we have had two important pieces of legislation in the past few days, one related to disaster. As the gentlewoman from Texas has just related, we had a bill to deal with the disaster relief. I think the whole bill is about \$8 billion, and \$5 billion of that was for disaster relief for places that are very much in need of help and they need it now. We recognize in this Nation and repeatedly the Congress comes to the aid of any States, any communities that have natural disasters.

Today I want to talk about the continuing education disaster that many of my colleagues, Democrats as well as Republicans, who just do not believe that we have an education disaster raging in our big cities, our inner city communities, and New York is just one, but Chicago, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, all over, you have a problem that cannot be resolved or solved with business as usual.

We have a disaster. It is a man-made disaster, but it is a continuing disaster

in that we are not providing education of the kind that is needed in order for young people to cope with the 20th century demands, let alone to go into the 21st century.

We talk a lot about the need for computer education, computer literacy. We applaud the fact that telecommunications are being introduced, and now at an affordable rate in schools. Recently we had a landmark action by the Federal Communications Commission where they followed the mandate of legislation that we had passed, and they created a universal fund for schools and libraries so the schools and libraries can get at a 90-percent discount in the poorest areas the wiring for telecommunication services, computers, even just more telephones, and they can have a 90-percent discount indefinitely. They will be able to pay a telephone bill that costs \$1 with 10 cents. That is what a 90-percent discount means.

The poorest districts in America will have a 90-percent discount, and even the wealthiest districts in America will have a 20-percent discount. That is a major piece of government action that creates hope. But in the big city school systems there is not enough in place at this point to take advantage of this new revolution in the provision of assistance for telecommunications to schools and libraries.

The education disaster is there now, the education disaster grows worse because of demands on our school systems and the need for education and the complexities of the kind of education needed are increasing while our schools are falling further and further behind.

I want to speak in particular about New York City because we have just returned recently from a recess where I had the opportunity to get closer to problems in my district, problems that I thought I understood very well before. I find that they are even worse than I have imagined, that there are problems with dimensions that shock even myself, and I have been in Congress now for 15 years. Before that I was an elected official in the New York State Senate, and before that I was an official in the New York City government. But the magnitude of these problems in New York City education are staggering, and an experienced observer is shocked by some of the things that happen, and I want to talk about that.

Just first a footnote on the two important pieces of legislation that passed this past few days. One, the budget conference report that passed today where the Senate and the House now agreed on a budget, and basically I think the White House has agreed on most of the elements of that budget too.

□ 2000

It is important to note that that budget agreement does not have to go to the White House for the signature of

the President. Budgets do not have to go to the White House. They are agreements between the Senate and the House.

The President started the process with his budget. In this case, the President sat in with the representatives of both Houses and they reached an agreement. I did not vote for that agreement because there were a lot of things missing there that I felt ought to be there.

One of those things, of course, is the \$5 billion for construction initiatives for schools which was proposed by the President to help stimulate construction of new schools or to renovate existing schools or to rehabilitate existing schools, to remove the danger of safety hazards from schools. If schools have asbestos problems, if they have lead pipe problems, any of those problems could have been taken care of in this \$5 billion initiative.

Now, the President initiated this, and we thought that in the budget agreement this would be a major item that would emerge intact. But unfortunately, Members of Congress, either in the House of Representatives or the other body, insisted that the \$5 billion initiative for school construction be taken out. They were adamant, and the President finally yielded. Many of them insisted it should be taken out because they want to make the argument that local governments, the cities, the States, and the citizens of the States must be fully responsible for school construction.

I want to just quickly note that they would still be mostly responsible, no matter what the Federal Government does. A \$5 billion initiative to help with school construction would be just a tiny portion of the amount of money needed. The General Accounting Office estimates that we need \$135 billion to bring our schools into the 21st century, \$135 billion. So if the Federal Government is responsible for just \$5 billion, it will not begin to solve the problem, but it will be a stimulant, and evidently, because we continue to fail to make the necessary promises at the State and local level, we need this Federal stimulant.

So it is unfortunate that the budget conference report that went forward today does not have that \$5 billion for school construction.

We will not cease the fight, we will not give up. We are not elected to give up, we are not elected to stop the fight. Between now and the time that we adjourn sometime in the fall, we will continue to fight. The members of the Congressional Black Caucus have made this a priority item. We appeal to all of our comrades, all of our colleagues, to make certain that they keep sight of the fact that this is a major item of the budget.

There is a bill that has been introduced by my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. LOWEY], and 190 signatures were on that bill to carry forward the President's \$5 billion construction initiative. So we think