

know what happened to spending and to the deficit over the past 40 years, the 40 years when liberal Democrats controlled the Congress.

Consider the 1980s when President Reagan was President. The Democrats controlled Congress and spent more than Reagan asked for 7 out of 8 of those years, and then turned around and blamed President Reagan for the deficits.

Think of it. Democrats in Congress refused to control spending, adding more and more big government programs each and every year, and then blamed President Reagan for the deficits.

Well, now Republicans control Congress by a slim margin and the "big spender" is down in the White House. We must reject his proposals to spend any projected surpluses and instead let us pay down the national debt and let us cut taxes.

SCHOOL VOUCHERS ARE A DROP IN THE OCEAN OF EDUCATIONAL NEED

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

Mr. GREEN. Madam Speaker, America has a commitment to public education, an education which is a requirement for our country to be competitive in this world. Public education needs to be available to all Americans. It is not designed to educate just a few Americans. We want to educate everyone.

We should not take scarce public education funds and use it to support private institutions that only educate a few. Vouchers are the solution of my Republican colleagues to help education, but it is but a drop in the ocean of need.

Education opportunity, smaller class sizes, more qualified teachers are what America's youth need. Safer schools. We debate national tests today and vouchers. We are not seeing the forest for the trees.

Let us deal with public education with more qualified teachers, safer schools, and make sure we educate everyone and not just a few.

PROHIBITION ON FEDERALLY SPONSORED NATIONAL TESTING

Mr. LINDER. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 348 and ask for its immediate consideration.

□ 1015

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 348

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2846) to pro-

hibit spending Federal education funds on national testing without explicit and specific legislation. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be fifteen minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Madam Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 348 is a completely open rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2846, a bill that will prohibit Federal testing unless specific and explicit statutory authority is given. H. Res. 348 provides for 1 hour of general debate divided equally between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The rule makes in order the Committee on Education and the Workforce amendment in the nature of a substitute as an original bill for the purpose of amendment which shall be considered as read. This rule also accords priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the Congressional RECORD and allows the chairman to postpone re-

corded votes and reduce to 5 minutes the voting time on any postponed question. These provisions will facilitate consideration of amendments. House Resolution 348 also provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Madam Speaker, this is a straightforward open rule for a straightforward bill that ensures that there will be no Federal education testing in the future without specific and explicit statutory authority. This is not the end of the debate on national testing. But simply a reassertion of the fact that any Federal testing measure must go through the proper committee process of the United States Congress first.

I have been asked a number of times, what is so wrong about national testing for America's children? This is a legitimate question. I want to explain why we are so concerned about this nationalized planning concept. First, according to the chairman of the committee and Senator ASHCROFT, the Federal Government's record in Federalized testing is substandard to be generous. In addition I am most fearful that a national testing standard would lead us down a slippery slope toward a national curriculum most certainly designed by some bureaucrat here in Washington. I dread the one-size-fits-all education approach contrived by someone who does not know the first thing about the citizens of Georgia.

This idea also gets to the heart of what we believe. We are committed to providing more freedom and less government for the American people. Education decisions belong with local school districts and families and teachers in their communities. We cannot support additional multimillion-dollar testing mechanisms that waste money and strip local control of education.

As Republicans prepare an education agenda which returns decisionmaking to parents and teachers, gives school districts more flexibility, gives children more opportunity, I grow increasingly frustrated as the President moves in the opposite direction toward a more bloated Washington education bureaucracy. We passed legislation forcing 90 percent of education spending to be spent in the classroom. Now in the President's budget, he has decided to increase the Education Department's bloated administrative budget and add \$143 million in programs that would never send a dime to the classroom.

Madam Speaker, we heard arguments in the Committee on Rules that consideration of this legislation is premature and unnecessary. On the contrary, with only about 86 legislative days in this session of Congress, Chairman Goodling deserves praise for moving this important legislation through the normal authorizing process ahead of the appropriations process. This bill deals very specifically with the issue of Federal testing, and there is no better time for this House to begin consideration of this matter than today.

H.R. 2846 was favorably reported out of the Committee on Education and the