

Madam Speaker, we could send everyone home today if only we in the majority, we Republicans, would bow down and accept every plan, every program every hair brain scheme to spend tax dollars that the Democrats have thrown at us. That is easy. We could finish our business if we would just simply mindlessly say, "Okay, you have got lots of new ideas on how to spend taxpayers' dollars, we'll accept those, all in their entirety, and then we'll go home." But we are not going home without some debate.

The President proposes, the Congress disposes. Right now the Democrats are in the minority in the House and in the minority in the Senate. But, as long as we are in the majority, we have to use our best judgment to deal with the President as we see fit, as we firmly believe our constituents and the American people that sent us here really want us to do. They did not send us here to cave in to the President. They did send us here to ignore the problems that he has encouraged in the last several months. They did not send us here simply to worry that we will be accused of being mean and heartless and thereby fold our cards and go home. They sent us here to use our good judgment and to be those stewards of the Federal Treasury to make sure that the person who is working so hard to feed his family, go to work, be good citizens throughout the community all around America, does not send his or her money to Washington just simply to see it wasted on another well-intentioned program or another run-wild bureaucracy. That is not exactly why the people put us in the position of the majority.

We are against his profligate ways, we are against the wasteful ways of the former majority and now the minority who have said, "We've got another great new program for you, another great new bureaucracy, another great way to spend your money; just give us all your cash and we'll tell you what to do with it." We think that is not the way to approach government. We are standing up for what we believe.

It is taking longer than we wanted it to take, but sooner or later we will end this soap opera. Sooner or later we will tell the American people we are tired of debating philosophy and programs, and we will put a ribbon on this package. It may not be the prettiest or the neatest package, but it will in fact still, after all the dust is settled, result in the first surplus in 30 years, and we will go home with a proud record of accomplishment.

I urge all Members to vote for this continuing resolution.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, this is the fourth Continuing Resolution that has come before us—four times we have delayed the important business of keeping the government running.

Perhaps when we conclude this business, we can get on with the business of the American people.

This Congress has done nothing to help working families, but, while it is too late for some issues, it is not too late for others.

It is too late to pass health reform.

It is too late to reduce teen smoking and reform our campaign finance system.

And, it is too late to enact laws to protect the environment and to truly safeguard the surplus for social security.

But, it is not too late to make responsible budget decisions.

It is not too late to enact laws to hire new teachers, reduce class sizes and modernize schools.

It is not too late to help our small farmers by giving them reasonable access to credit.

And, it is not too late, Mr. Speaker, for voters to note what Congress has done and what it has not done.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). All time for debate has expired.

The joint resolution is considered read for amendment.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on H.J. Res. 135 will be postponed.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4566. An act to make technical corrections to the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 with respect to the courts and court system of the District of Columbia.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1733. An act to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to require food stamp State agencies to take certain actions to ensure that food stamp coupons are not issued for deceased individuals, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study of options for the design, development, implementation, and operation of a national database to track participation in Federal means-tested public assistance programs, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 391) "An Act to provide for the disposition of certain funds appropriated to pay judgment in

favor of the Mississippi Sioux Indians, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 459) "An Act to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to extend certain authorizations, and for other purposes."

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 2 p.m.

□ 1414

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS) at 2 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.

#### SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

□ 1415

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, the Chair will now put the question on H.J. Res. 135, and then on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.J. Res. 135, de novo;  
H.R. 3963, de novo;  
H.R. 4501, de novo;  
H.R. 559, by the yeas and nays; and  
S. 759, de novo.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

#### MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of the passage of the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 135.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CANYON FERRY RESERVOIR LEASEHOLD CONVEYANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question de