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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 25, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CONSTANCE A. MORELLA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 441. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the requirements for the admission of nonimmigrant nurses who will practice in health professional shortage areas.

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

S. 1692. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to ban partial-birth abortions.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

URGING REJECTION OF H.R. 2260, PAIN RELIEF PROMOTION ACT

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday the House will consider H.R. 2260, called the Pain Relief Promotion Act. The legislation is seriously misnamed and is designed simply to undercut Oregon's death with dignity law. I find it ironic, because nobody outside the Beltway is interested in criminalizing doctors' decisions that deal with some of the most profound and difficult that they will ever make. In fact, every day in America we see instances where life support is withdrawn; every day in America drugs are administered to alleviate pain which actually hasten the onset of death; every day in America some drugs are withheld which cause a shock to the system and in turn cause death; every day in America there are some very tragic incidents where people are driven to desperate acts because they cannot control their situation, often painful and traumatic for their families, occasionally involving actual suicide. Most of America looks the other way.

My State of Oregon has taken the lead to try and provide a framework for these end-of-life decisions. Oregon voters have not once but twice approved a thoughtful approach to give patients, their doctors and families more control under these most difficult of circumstances. Despite the dire predictions of a tidal wave of assisted suicide, the evidence suggests that when people actually have control in these difficult situations, the knowledge that they have such control means that they are less likely to use assisted suicide. In fact, last year it appears that there were only 15 cases in Oregon.

But with the legislation that is proposed under H.R. 2260, doctors are going to have to fear being second-guessed by prosecutors, police and nonmedical drug enforcement bureaucrats on a case-by-case basis, for the very initial section of that bill points out that prescribing pain medication can often hasten death. But that is okay under this bill, as long as the intent is pure. In essence, it means that the doctors are going to be caught looking over their shoulders, having each and every one of their decisions subject to second-guessing and potentially subjected to life in prison if the intent appears in the judgment of others to be wrong.

This is another sad example of where politicians are out of step with Americans on key personal health issues. I find of great interest one other area that sort of indicates where we are going. The medical use of marijuana was approved by eight States before last year. Six other States had their voters approve it and the District of Columbia. Citizens are indicating that they want more freedom to have pain managed and have personal control. I think it would be sad if this Congress decided to penalize the one State that is trying not to sweep it under the rug but provide a framework for making these decisions.

I strongly urge my colleagues to make a careful examination of H.R. 2260. They will find why the Oregon Medical Association, the associations of eight other States, the American Nurses Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians have all urged its rejection. If you want to outlaw assisted suicide, go ahead and do it if you must, but certainly we should not subject our physicians to criminalization of their basic medical decisions.

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THE CLOCK IS TICKING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, there are only 67 days left before we ring in the new year. Billions of people around the world will start to prepare to celebrate the first day of the year 2000 and, of course, I as many of my colleagues look forward to this day also. But this afternoon I am concerned about this next year with what all of us know as the Y2K problem, or millennium bug, the inability of many computer systems to process dates correctly beyond December 31, 1999. The problem results from computers programmed to process and use only the last two digits for the year field.

Madam Speaker, I am confident that Americans are well prepared and well ahead of the game when it comes to being ready for any possible glitches resulting from the Y2K. Congress has directed the Federal Government to go through billions and billions of lines of computer codes in order to make computers Y2K compliant. It is also Congress that has worked hand in hand with State and local governments to ensure that they have the necessary tools to function properly.

Congress, led by the majority here, is helping the private sector when it comes to the Y2K problem. We fought hard and have signed into law the Small Business Year 2000 Readiness Act, which directs the Small Business Administration to establish a loan guarantee program to address Y2K problems for small businesses. And it was, of course, this Republican Congress which successfully fought and passed the Year 2000 Readiness and Responsibility Act, setting limits on lawsuits against businesses and individuals for Y2K failures. But, Madam Speaker, my concerns are whether the rest of the world is ready.

Hearings within the last several weeks held in both the House and the Senate have raised some serious concerns. Many nations have done little, if anything, to combat the Y2K bug. These nations lack both the expertise and the funds to upgrade and convert their computer systems. Take, for example, the government of Indonesia, which is preparing for the possible Y2K malfunctions. Their National Electricity Board strategy is to watch what happens at midnight on January 1 in Australia and New Zealand, to use those 6 hours to develop and implement suddenly their Y2K plans. Now, this would be comical if it were not so serious and disturbing.

The worldwide ramifications of Y2K disturbances, of course, can have a domino effect. It is just not enough that the United States is prepared. Potential disruptions abroad caused by Y2K problems would impact millions of Americans who are living abroad, or who are traveling overseas. Though the Central Intelligence Agency is confident that the Y2K computer failures overseas will not lead to accidental launch of ballistic missiles by any country, according to the testimony by the Central Intelligence Agency before the House Committee on International Affairs last week, nuclear power plants in nations such as Russia and the Ukraine could be susceptible to year 2000 malfunctions resulting from power grid failures.

Now, this is according to testimony presented by Lawrence Gershwin, National Intelligence Officer for Science and Technology for the CIA, and this is what he said, ''In the worst case this could cause a meltdown and in some cases an accompanying release of radioactive fission gases.'' Furthermore, according to the CIA, Soviet power plants cannot even be tested for Y2K compliancy ''given the age of the computer system and the fact that many of the original manufacturers have all gone out of business.''

If the threat of another Chernobyl-like meltdown is not disturbing enough according to the CIA, there still remains the potential for Russia to misinterpret early warning data of ballistic missile launches resulting from the Y2K problem. That means during an international political crisis where tensions are already heightened, the Russians may misinterpret their missile data, leading them to believe and possibly to respond.

As a result, I am pleased to say the United States and Russia have set up a joint program to share information on their missile and space launches to prevent any misunderstanding resulting from any Y2K malfunctions.

I will not even begin in this short amount of time, Madam Speaker, to discuss all the possible problems with other countries not bringing their Y2K problem into compliance dealing with foreign energy and of course financial markets. I encourage other nations to expedite their conversions and look to the United States for leadership.

Madam Speaker, I encourage other nations to expedite their Y2K conversions before time runs out. Our Y2K compliance and success is not only contingent on the fact that this nation's computer and information systems function properly and smoothly, but also on the fact that we not feel side effects from disruptions in other countries.

REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELLER. Madam Speaker, I have the privilege of representing one of America's most diverse Congressional districts, representing the South Side of Chicago and the South Bushes, Cook and Will Counties, bedroom communities as well as farm towns and corn fields. When you represent such a diverse district as city and suburbs and country, you learn to listen. You listen to the common message. One common message that we are hearing from back home is that we should be working together to solve the challenges that we face. As I look back as one of those who was elected in 1994 to come to Washington to change how Washington works, I am proud to say we have listened to that message and we have held together and we have held firm even those who said that we should not be doing what we are doing, those who opposed our efforts to balance the budget and cut taxes for the middle class, to reform the welfare system and also to restructure the IRS.

I am proud to say in the last 4½ years, this Republican Congress has made a big difference. Balancing the budget for the first time in 28 years, cutting taxes for the middle class for the first time in 16 years, reforming our welfare system for the first time in a generation, and for the first time ever, taming the tax collector by restructuring the IRS. Those are big accomplishments and much appreciated by the folks back home in Illinois but they tell me that's history now, what are you going to do next? They ask us to respond to the questions, the common concerns that we are often asked.

While Republicans are committed to strengthening our schools and strengthening Medicare and Social Security and paying down the national debt and, of course, lowering the tax burden, we also want to respond to some of those big concerns and big questions that I hear, whether at the union hall or the VFW, the Chamber of Commerce or down at a coffee shop on Main Street or a local grain elevator. That is one of those questions that the first question I often hear is a pretty basic one and, that is, when are you folks in Washington going to stop raiding the Social Security trust fund, when are you going to stop dipping into Social Security and spending Social Security on other things?

I am proud to say, Madam Speaker, that the Republicans in this Congress have made a commitment that for the first time since the 1960s when LBJ, President Johnson, began a bad habit that is hard to break in Washington, we are walling off the Social Security trust fund. This year is the first year that our budget has been balanced without dipping into Social Security. We want to continue that. That is why I am proud to say the Congressional Budget Office on September 30 of this year stated in a letter to Speaker HASTERT that the Republican balanced budget does not spend one dime of the Social Security trust fund. We are committed to stopping the raid on the Social Security trust fund.

I would also point out that with the Social Security Medicare lockbox that Republicans are proposing, we set aside $200 billion more for Social Security and Medicare than the President's budget alone.

I would also point out, Madam Speaker, that we are responding to another important question that we hear from folks back home in the south side of Chicago and the south suburbs, and that is how come nobody ever talks about the national debt, how come no one ever talks about the need to pay town that national debt that ran up all those years that Washington had deficit spending? I am proud to say that last year we paid down $50 billion of the national debt, this year we are going to pay down a hundred billion dollars, and under the Republican budget plan we paid down almost $2.2 trillion of the national debt, over two-thirds of our national debt over the next 10 years.

Madam Speaker, the third question that I often hear back home is when are we going to do something about taxes. People tell me their taxes are too high, they are too complicated, they are unfair. They are frustrated that our tax burden on American today is at its highest level in peace time history. Forty percent of the average family's income goes to government. In fact, 21 percent of our gross domestic product, 21 percent of our economy, goes to Federal Government and taxes, and that is too high.

We passed earlier this year a measure to address the need to lower taxes, particularly for the middle class, and we had legislation which would have eliminated the marriage tax penalty for the majority of those who suffer, that would have eliminated the death tax on small businesses and family farmers, that would have rewarded those who save for retirement, those who save for their children's and college education and also would have rewarded providing health care coverage for one's employees as well as their family, and unfortunately President Clinton vetoed that effort to help families by bringing fairness to the Tax Code, and he stated, and he was very blunt; he said he vetoed this tax cut because he wanted to spend that money instead.

That is really what this is all about over the next week or so as we wrap up this legislative session. President Clinton has made it very clear he wants to spend a lot more money than Republicans do, and he says that we can do it if we increase taxes, and the President says we could do it if we raid the Social Security Trust Fund.

Madam Speaker, I very proud last week when this House of Representatives cast a vote 419 to 0, which means that every member who cast a vote voted in opposition to the President's proposal for $238 billion in tax increases. That is a very clear message to the President that we oppose his tax increases, and I also want to point out that this House also went on record in opposition to the President's plan to raid Social Security. We need to oppose his tax increases, we need to stop the raid on Social Security, but we can balance the budget without those.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Robert Dvorak, The Evangelical Church, Middletown, Connecticut, offered the following prayer:

Let the House be in a spirit of prayer.

Lord, our God, we enter into this week's schedule, mindful again of the duty to work hard and well for others. Many are waiting and hoping; even nations observe. You, the living God, see and hear us, too, taking note of all things.

We pray, then, for ourselves that You will sharpen the focus on responsibilities rightly asked of us, keeping us true to our trust. Grant us firmness in thinking, tempered by allowances for honest, contrary thought. Send a few moments our way wherein we may seek true advantage for ones around us, thereby refreshing them and ourselves.

At day's end, encourage us with a sense that life in Washington and the world is better because of the part we have played in things. Now, for this day, keep in Your protecting hand all Members of this House, its leadership, officers, and staff. Make the spirit of each to prosper with new grace the call of this prayer to You, O God. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. 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 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 22, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 22, 1999 at 9:52 a.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2367.

Appointment: Board of Directors of the Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxics Research Center

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 25, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 22, 1999 at 4:50 p.m.

That the Senate agreed to conference report H.R. 2466.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

PAIN RELIEF PROMOTION ACT

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Pain Relief Promotion Act. There is a question currently pending in the country of Holland. It is this: Is the Netherlands ready for the killing of sick children?

There is a bill in their parliament that would allow the killing of seriously ill children, as young as between 12 years old, if they are considered terminal.

A spokeswoman for the Royal Dutch Medical Association said, ''The doctor will do his utmost to try to reach an agreement between the patient and parents. But if the parents do not want to cooperate, it is the doctor's duty to respect the wishes of her patient.'' So much for the Hippocratic Oath for civilized medical institutions.

This situation in the Netherlands gives us all the more reason to pass the Pain Relief Promotion Act. This act will provide doctors with the ability to aggressively treat their patients' pain while prohibiting assisted suicides or euthanasia.

We never want to see the day when our young kids or our elderly parents legally and intentionally die at the hands of a so-called doctor.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to promote pain management and palliative care and positive alternatives to euthanasia.

WACO STILL A BURNING QUESTION

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, after 6 years, Waco is still burning. These fires will not stop until our government tells the truth. Ninety Americans killed, and nobody, nobody has been held accountable to this date, even though the Government used deadly gas, used a bulldozer, and could have arrested David Karesh any morning out jogging.

Now, despite government denial, they find a high caliber shell casing near a position stand of an FBI sniper.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. One can fool some of the people some of the time, but one cannot fool all of the people all of the time. The Government is lying about Waco.

I yield back the fact that the Justice Department, by the way, investigates themselves.

STOP RAIDS ON SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND ONCE AND FOR ALL

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, being a leader means making some tough choices. This year, we have a historic opportunity to lock away 100 percent of the Social Security surplus and put an end to the Democrats' practice of raiding the Social Security Trust Fund.

It means we have to make tough choices between saving Social Security or funding some other goal, like the President's desire to increase foreign aid by approximately 30 percent, taking it all out of Social Security.

The question, Mr. Speaker, is not whether we want to spend more on foreign aid or other programs. The question is whether we want to spend more on these programs if it comes out of the expense of Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, we Republicans have chosen to say no to more government spending and yes to stopping the Democratic leadership's raid on Social Security.

The American people have already made that choice as well. They would rather protect Social Security and Medicare than continue funding the fraud, waste, and abuse that runs rampant in government bureaucracy. Americans have to make tough financial choices every day, and I would encourage the Democratic leadership to stop demagoguing this issue and to join our bipartisan effort to end the raid on Social Security once and for all.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HIT KING

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, last night was a special night for Cincinnatians and for baseball fans across the country. For the first time in over 10 years, the Hit King himself, Cincinnati's own Pete Rose, was back on the baseball field to the ovation of thousands. He had the honor of being selected to baseball's All-Century team by the American people.

Charlie Hustle, who graduated from Western Hills High School in my district, was always known for his hard work, his extra effort, and head-first slides. Pete Rose was one of the greatest ball players of all time, winning three batting titles, three world championships, and setting the all-time major league record for most hits.

Although the night was tainted by the senseless inquisition of an overzealous reporter, it still belonged to baseball fans everywhere.

So congratulations to the Cincinnati Reds' Pete Rose and Johnny Bench, as well as all the other members of the All-Century team. Their accomplishments will be remembered well into the next millennium.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any rollcall votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

EXEMPTING CERTAIN REPORTS FROM AUTOMATIC ELIMINATION AND SUNSET

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3111) to exempt certain reports from automatic elimination and sunset pursuant to the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3111

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN REPORTS FROM AUTOMATIC ELIMINATION AND SUNSET.

Section 3003(a)(1) of the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 (31 U.S.C. 1113 note) does not apply to any report required to be submitted under any of the following provisions of law:

(1) The following sections of title 18, United States Code: sections 2709(e), 3126, and 3525(b), and 3624(f)(6).

(2) The following sections of title 28, United States Code: sections 522, 524(c)(6), 529, 589a(d), and 594.

(3) Section 3718(c) of title 31, United States Code.

(4) Section 9 of the Child Protection Act of 1984 (28 U.S.C. 522 note).

(5) Section 8 of the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (42 U.S.C. 1997f).

(6) The following provisions of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968: sections 102(b) (42 U.S.C. 3712(b)), 520 (42 U.S.C. 3766), 522 (42 U.S.C. 3766b), and 810 (42 U.S.C. 3789e).

(7) The following provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act: sections 103 (8 U.S.C. 1103), 207(c)(3) (8 U.S.C. 1157(c)(3)), 412(b) (8 U.S.C. 1522(b)), and 413 (8 U.S.C. 1523), and subsections (h), (l), (o), (q), and (r) of section 286 (8 U.S.C. 1356).

(8) Section 3 of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 (22 U.S.C. 1622).

(9) Section 9 of the War Claims Act of 1948 (50 U.S.C. App. 2008).

(10) Section 13(c) of the Act of September 11, 1957 (8 U.S.C. 1255b(c)).

(11) Section 203(b) of the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Restitution Act (50 U.S.C. App. 1989c–2(b)).

(12) Section 801(e) of the Immigration Act of 1990 (29 U.S.C. 2920(e)).

(13) Section 401 of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (8 U.S.C. 1364).

(14) Section 707 of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691f).

(15) Section 201(b) of the Privacy Protection Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 2000aa–11(b)).

(16) Section 609U of the Justice Assistance Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10509).

(17) Section 13(a) of the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.).

(18) Section 1004 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964(42 U.S.C. 2000g–3).

(19) Section 1114 of the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. 3414).

(20) Section 11 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 621).

(21) The following provisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978: sections 107 (50 U.S.C. 1807) and 108 (50 U.S.C. 1808).

(22) Section 102(b)(5) of the Department of Justice and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (28 U.S.C. 533 note).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3111, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 provided that all periodic reports provided to Congress will sunset on December 21, 1999, unless reauthorized by Congress. The intent of the act was to spur Congress to reexamine all the periodic reports it receives and eliminate the obsolete reports.

After careful review, the Committee on the Judiciary determined that about 40 reports, out of the thousands of reports subject to subset, are required for the committee to perform its legislative and oversight duties. Examples include the U.S. Department of Justice's annual report on crime statistics and the Immigration and Naturalization Service's annual statistical report.

This bill in its present form is a manager's amendment that includes 16 additional reports requested by my Democratic colleagues. Again, the bill merely continues existing report requirements. It does not authorize any new reports.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims of the Committee on the Judiciary. We have worked out the differences in this measure.

I have to let the RECORD show that it would have been nice to have held hearings on this measure; but, nonetheless, H.R. 3111 is a bill supported by myself, introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary. We think that the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 requires the end of the submission of various periodic reports to Congress by December 21 of this year.

The Act forces Congress to reexamine the usefulness of the various reporting requirements that have been mandated of Federal agencies, including the Department of Justice. This review process is important and a practical exercise in that we must be sure that Federal dollars and personnel time are not being wasted on obsolete reports to Congress.

But all reports are not obsolete. So together we have reviewed and have been able to agree on a reduced list of reports from the Department of Justice that will continue to provide information important to the legislative and oversight process.

One should not minimize the importance of these reports. For example, we have retained reports on pen register orders and wiretap applications to monitor the activities of the Department to ensure that its activities do not invade our society's expected right to privacy.

Other reports help Congress monitor the Department's undercover operations, the conduct of various justice programs in areas including immigration. These should not sunset.

So, again, my commendations to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the subcommittee chair, for the spirit of cooperation in working out this measure. The review process required to produce this bill represents an essential function of good government that we can all support on a bipartisan basis.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the generous comments of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3111, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1415

MADE IN AMERICA INFORMATION ACT

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 754) to establish a toll free number under the Federal Trade Commission to assist consumers in determining if products are American-made, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 754

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Made in America Information Act''.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF TOLL FREE NUMBER PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—If the Secretary of Commerce determines, on the basis of comments submitted in rulemaking under section 3, that—

(1) interest among manufacturers is sufficient to warrant the establishment of a 3-year toll free number pilot program, and

(2) manufacturers will provide fees under section 3(c) so that the program will operate without cost to the Federal Government,

the Secretary shall establish such program solely to help inform consumers whether a product is ''Made in America''. The Secretary shall publish the toll-free number by notice in the Federal Register.

(b) CONTRACT.—The Secretary of Commerce shall enter into a contract for—

(1) the establishment and operation of the toll free number pilot program provided for in subsection (a), and

(2) the registration of products pursuant to regulations issued under section 3,

which shall be funded entirely from fees collected under section 3(c).

(c) USE.—The toll free number shall be used solely to inform consumers as to whether products are registered under section 3 as ''Made in America''. Consumers shall also be informed that registration of a product does not mean—

(1) that the product is endorsed or approved by the Government,

(2) that the Secretary has conducted any investigation to confirm that the product is a product which meets the definition of ''Made in America'' in section 5 of this Act, or

(3) that the product contains 100 percent United States content.

SEC. 3. REGISTRATION.

(a) PROPOSED REGULATION.—The Secretary of Commerce shall propose a regulation—

(1) to establish a procedure under which the manufacturer of a product may voluntarily register such product as complying with the definition of ''Made in America'' in section 5 of this Act and have such product included in the information available through the toll free number established under section 2(a);

(2) to establish, assess, and collect a fee to cover all the costs (including start-up costs) of registering products and including registered products in information provided under the toll-free number;

(3) for the establishment under section 2(a) of the toll-free number pilot program; and

(4) to solicit views from the private sector concerning the level of interest of manufacturers in registering products under the terms and conditions of paragraph (1).

(b) PROMULGATION.—If the Secretary determines based on the comments on the regulation proposed under subsection (a) that the toll-free number pilot program and the registration of products is warranted, the Secretary shall promulgate such regulation.

(c) REGISTRATION FEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Manufacturers of products included in information provided under section 2 shall be subject to a fee imposed by the Secretary of Commerce to pay the cost of registering products and including them in information provided under subsection (a).

(2) AMOUNT.—The amount of fees imposed under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) in the case of a manufacturer, not be greater than the cost of registering the manufacturer's product and providing product information directly attributable to such manufacturer, and

(B) in the case of the total amount of fees, not be greater than the total amount appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for salaries and expenses directly attributable to registration of manufacturers and having products included in the information provided under section 2(a).

(3) CREDITING AND AVAILABILITY OF FEES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Fees collected for a fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be credited to the appropriation account for salaries and expenses of the Secretary of Commerce and shall be available in accordance with appropriation Acts until expended without fiscal year limitation.

(B) COLLECTIONS AND APPROPRIATION ACTS.—The fees imposed under paragraph (1)—

(i) shall be collected in each fiscal year in an amount equal to the amount specified in appropriation Acts for such fiscal year, and

(ii) shall only be collected and available for the costs described in paragraph (2).

SEC. 4. PENALTY.

Any manufacturer of a product who knowingly registers a product under section 3 which is not ''Made in America''—

(1) shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than $7500 which the Secretary of Commerce may assess and collect, and

(2) shall not offer such product for purchase by the Federal Government.

SEC. 5. DEFINITION.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) The term ''Made in America'' has the meaning given unqualified ''Made in U.S.A.'' or ''Made in America'' claims for purposes of laws administered by the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) The term ''product'' means a product with a retail value of at least $250.

SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act or in any regulation promulgated under section 3 shall be construed to alter, amend, modify, or otherwise affect in any way, the Federal Trade Commission Act or the opinions, decisions, rules, or any guidance issued by the Federal Trade Commission regarding the use of unqualified ''Made in U.S.A.'' or ''Made in America'' claims in labels on products introduced, delivered for introduction, sold, advertised, or offered for sale in commerce.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 754, and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

I am pleased today to rise in support of H.R. 754, the Made in America Information Act. The bill's sponsor, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), should be commended for his commitment to American products and the American worker. This bill is a fitting tribute to that commitment.

The legislation is designed to assist consumers when they are thinking about purchasing a major appliance or other product. For instance, a family looking for a new refrigerator could call the number to find out which brands and models of refrigerators are manufactured in the United States. Consumers have consistently demonstrated their desire to purchase products made in America, and I believe that if this information is provided, they will use this as another major factor in their purchasing decisions.

An important feature of this legislation is that the creation of the service is conditional both on market demand and the presence of private sector funding. This toll-free number will only be implemented if there is sufficient interest on the part of manufacturers in listing their products and funding the cost of the program through annual fees. Thus, there is no cost to the taxpayer for implementing this program to promote American-made products.

As my colleagues know, the House has passed this bill on a number of previous occasions, but the other body has repeatedly failed to act. The bill before the House today is essentially the same bill passed by the House during the 105th Congress, and I hope that the other body will take this opportunity to send this important measure to the President. This legislation, as reported by the Committee on Commerce, creates a much-needed consumer service, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 754, the Made in America Information Act. This legislation, introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), is an important step in reversing the damage that unfairly priced imports are wreaking on workers and small businesses in this country. It is supported by three of my Democratic colleagues on the Committee on Commerce as cosponsors, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. Speaker, regardless of what mainstream economists say, regardless of what the media and talk show hosts say, the fact is there is no greater long-term threat to our economic prosperity than our ballooning trade deficit. Just ask the millions of American workers and small businesses that every month are being asked to compete against billions of dollars of goods that roll onto our shores, many of them made in places where trying to form a union or fight for environmental standards will land a person in jail.

In other cases, some of our workers and small businesses are competing against goods that masquerade as American made, especially those from Saipan, where we know that U.S. corporations exploit tens of thousands of, mostly, young women, and most with families in China, and force them to make garments for pennies an hour. We know this happens because of the efforts of their employers on Wall Street and their political allies here in Washington who continue to block our efforts to even give those very young women the minimum wage or provide the working conditions that we give to American teenagers working at a McDonald's.

Mr. Speaker, the premise behind H.R. 754 is very simple. It requires the Commerce Department to establish a toll-free telephone hot line to give the American public, the men and women who vote and pay our salaries, help in determining if the products they are buying are, in fact, made by American workers. This hot line will take the guesswork out of whether or not a product that claims to be made in America is really made here or, conversely, assembled in a sweat shop in Saipan or somewhere else. Only those products that meet the Federal Trade Commission standard for making a claim that its product is made in the USA are eligible to be listed on the registry, which the Commerce Department will use to identify American-made products for consumers.

Mr. Speaker, I would also note that, except for minor differences, H.R. 754 is the same legislation that has passed this Congress in each of the last three sessions. Unfortunately, the other body has never taken action on it, and the bill has not been enacted. I sincerely hope that will not be the situation in this Congress and that the bill finally can be enacted into law.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) for this legislation and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 754 and stop sacrificing fair trade on the alter of free trade.

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

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), the author of the bill.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished chairman, who has done a great job, and I appreciate his helping me on this with all the other issues he has before him on his powerful committee. I also want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), who has worked hard on so many issues on commerce and education.

This is an unusual bill. Both the chairman and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) have mentioned the fact that we have passed it before. I am a little bit frustrated. I would like to talk briefly about that frustration and then talk about mitigating that frustration by the actions of our consumers.

The Congress of the United States has moved in a trade program, in my opinion, that is very flawed. It has produced a negative balance of payments over $300 billion now, and we are now talking about $330 billion next year as a trade deficit for 1 year, which will be a new record. In the last 3 months, an $81 billion trade deficit. Think about that.

China is now taking $7 billion a month out of America. Nearly everything our consumers buy is made in China. If China's is better, fine. But China is not opening up the doors to Uncle Sam. And while we wait for all of these legislative gurus to fashion some remedy, I think it is time to give the American people information and give the consuming public an opportunity

to at least be conscientious about American-made goods.

What this bill says is this: ''Look, if you are buying a refrigerator in Chicago, you can call that 1–800 hot line and say, what refrigerators, if any, are still made in the United States of America.'' And then they would give that inquiring consumer a list. And maybe when they go out to buy, they would say to the retailer, ''Do you have one of these refrigerators on sale? We would like to price them. We would like to look at their quality in comparison to the foreign-made product.''

It is not a sophisticated program, for sure. It is not paid for by the taxpayers. It is paid for by the companies, whom I hope would be proud of still being in America and making and building a product in America. I think it is a straightforward bill.

I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY). He has a tremendous amount of important issues right now facing his committee, but he has always taken the time to give each and every Member an opportunity to appeal to that committee, and I also thank my neighboring colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. Speaker, I would appreciate the support, overwhelming support, on this bill.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 754, the Made in America Information Act, Introduced by Representative TRAFICANT of Ohio.

This important piece of legislation establishes a toll-free hotline consumers can call to determine if a product is ''Made in America.''

The self-financed hotline established by H.R. 754 applies to those products with a sale price of over $250, and the bill imposes a fine of up to $7,500 on any manufacturer who falsely registers a product as ''Made in America.''

The Made in America Act has passed the House the last three Congresses, and enjoys strong bipartisan support.

Many Americans want to ''Buy America,'' and we have an obligation to provide consumers with the information they need to make informed choices about how to spend their money.

Mr. Speaker, this is a win-win proposition, and I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support passage of the Made in America Information Act.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 754, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HISTORY OF THE HOUSE AWARENESS AND PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (2303) to direct the Librarian of Congress to prepare the history of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2303

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act''.

SEC. 2. WRITTEN HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to available funding and in accordance with the requirements of this Act, the Librarian of Congress shall prepare, print, distribute, and arrange for the funding of, a new and complete written history of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Committee on House Administration. In preparing this written history, the Librarian of Congress shall consult, commission, or engage the services or participation of, eminent historians, Members, and former Members of the House of Representatives.

(b) GUIDELINES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Librarian of Congress shall take into account the following:

(1) The history should be an illustrated, narrative history of the House of Representatives, organized chronologically.

(2) The history's intended audience is the general reader, as well as Members of Congress and their staffs.

(3) The history should include a discussion of the First and Second Continental Congresses and the Constitutional Convention, especially with regard to their roles in creating the House of Representatives.

(c) PRINTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Librarian of Congress shall arrange for the printing of the history.

(2) PRINTING ARRANGEMENTS.—The printing may be performed—

(A) by the Public Printer pursuant to the provisions of chapter 5 of title 44, United States Code;

(B) under a cooperative arrangement among the Librarian of Congress, a private funding source obtained pursuant to subsection (e), and a publisher in the private sector; or

(C) under subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(3) INTERNET DISSEMINATION.—Any arrangement under paragraph (2) shall include terms for dissemination of the history over the Internet via facilities maintained by the United States Government.

(4) MEMBER COPIES.—To the extent that the history is printed by the Public Printer, copies of the history provided to the Congress under subsection (d) shall be charged to the Government Printing Office's congressional allotment for printing and binding.

(d) DISTRIBUTION.—The Librarian of Congress shall make the history available for sale to the public, and shall make available, free of charge, 5 copies to each Member of the House of Representatives and 250 copies to the Senate.

(e) PRIVATE FUNDING.—The Librarian of Congress shall solicit and accept funding for the preparation, publication, marketing, and public distribution of the history from private individuals, organizations, or entities.

SEC. 3. ORAL HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Librarian of Congress shall accept for deposit, preserve, maintain, and make accessible an oral history of the House of Representatives, as told by its Members and former Members, compiled and updated (on a voluntary or contract basis) by the United States Association of Former Members of Congress or other private organization. In carrying out this section, the Librarian of Congress may enlist the voluntary aid or assistance of such organization, or may contract with it for such services as may be necessary.

(b) DEFINITION OF ORAL HISTORY.—In this section, the term ''oral history'' means a story or history consisting of personal recollection as recorded by any one or more of the following means:

(1) Interviews.

(2) Transcripts.

(3) Audio recordings.

(4) Video recordings.

(5) Such other form or means as may be suitable for the recording and preservation of such information.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) orientation programs for freshman Members of the House of Representatives should contain a seminar on the history of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Speaker of the House of Representatives should conduct a series of forums on the topic of the history of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

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

Mr. Speaker, this measure would require that there be created a history of the House of Representatives. The intent is to create a popular illustrated and chronologically ordered volume that covers the entire history of the House of Representatives. Notwithstanding the fact that the House has a House historian, this particular history is required in the bill to be prepared with no appropriated funds.

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the chairman for his comments and his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of this important legislation, sponsored by my good friend and our colleague, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON). This legislation has 311 cosponsors, including the Speaker and the minority leader. I understand that a few more have been added even this day.

H.R. 2303 is an extraordinarily timely initiative, given the massive institutional changes which have affected the House over the last few years, and as we move into the 21st century.

Earlier this year, the House recodified its rules for the first time since 1880, another recent useful effort to reexamine and hopefully to improve things which we tend to take for granted. We benefit as Members of the House, and the American people benefit, when Members can take some

time away from the constant pressures of legislating, meeting our constituents, traveling back and forth from our districts and keeping hectic schedules, to think about the environment in which we work and the legacy of all those who came before us. And we have so little time even to do that.

In my earlier career, I was president of the State Senate in Maryland, and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) was president pro tempore of the Senate in Connecticut, roughly equivalent positions in two parliamentary bodies which are older than this House of Representatives. As such, we had some responsibility for managing the work of our legislative institutions and the environment in which State Senators worked, environments rich in history.

Here in Washington it takes real work and effort for Members to learn about the history of the House, however. We rarely think of the historic figures who populate artwork throughout the Capitol as having been persons of great accomplishment in legislation, oratory, and the philosophy of democracy, rather than figures we may notice momentarily as we dart through the corridors from meeting to meeting.

□ 1430

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution requires that Congress assemble to do its work and that we can exercise our priorities only by working collectively. Too often Members can feel isolated managing their individual offices tending to constituent problems in their district and come to the floor only for a few minutes to vote. But it was not always like that in this chamber, and we do well to remember that.

It would benefit this House if the public had a better understanding of not only what we do on a daily basis, but what our predecessors did and how we stand up compared to them. Certainly, the public has more than enough exposure to the politics of the House.

The bill offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) would offer interested citizens a chance to appreciate, in addition to the politics of the House today, the historic role of the House as the representatives of the popular will.

Mr. Speaker, the bill would direct the Librarian of Congress, at no cost to the Government, I might add, and with the ability to accept private funds, to prepare an illustrated narrative history of the House of Representatives.

The Librarian could use the extensive scholarly resources at his command and would be authorized to consult, commission, or engage the services of eminent historians, Members, and former Members of the House to produce a book accessible to the public at large as well as to the House and to the scholarly community.

The Librarian has informed us, Mr. Speaker, that once the bill is enacted into law he intends to appoint a scholarly advisory board to engage an eminent historian or historians who would conduct the principal work of writing the book.

The Librarian will also consult with the House Administration Committee led by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS). The bill would also authorize the Librarian to accept materials relating to an oral history of the House as told by its Members and former Members.

The bill states the sense of the House that orientation programs for freshmen Members of the House should include a seminar on the history of the House and that the Speaker should conduct forums on the history of the House.

As ranking member of the Committee on House Administration, I participate in orientation sessions on many occasions; and I believe that they would be benefited greatly from the inclusion of a big picture view of the House, the Members' place in it, and its historical role.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this legislation and that it has received the strong bipartisan and leadership support needed to give the history of the House project momentum to get it underway quickly and do it thoroughly.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), the former President pro tempore of the Connecticut Senate, now a very, very active and effective leader in the House of Representatives, the sponsor of this legislation.

(Mr. LARSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2303, an act concerning the history of the House Awareness and Preservation Act.

At the outset, Mr. Speaker, let me profoundly and deeply thank the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) and his staff for taking a good concept and making it into a much better bill.

I would also like to thank my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), for his constant advice and mentoring. As a former Senate president, as well, he understands how important it is, especially amongst freshmen Members, to make sure that we receive the appropriate kind of guidance at all times. So I want to thank the staffs, as well, who have labored on this bill.

The bill has over 300 sponsors, Mr. Speaker, and in large part because of two prominent cosponsors on the bill, the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT). So I foster no illusions that my name on the top of this bill attracted so many sponsors, but would point out that at the heart of this bill is a deep and abiding respect for this chamber and its history; and the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) personify all the Members who care deeply about this Chamber and its history.

A special thanks must go, as well, to the staff of the Speaker and Ted VanDerMead as well in our leader's office, DAN BURTON for the tireless work they performed, as well.

I would be remiss if I did not mention George Shevlin and my entire staff who have shepherded this bill to this point.

How fitting, Mr. Speaker, that as it approaches its 200th year that the Library of Congress will undertake this important local legacies project as it reaches out and asks every congressional district in return to report back to it the legacies of the 435-Member body here.

I wanted to thank the Members, especially the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON), who, on a trip to Hershey, talked to me about how important the history of this institution is and reflecting on her husband Bill; and to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), who, also during that sojourn, talked about its importance, talked about his service with Bob Michel. They were enormously helpful.

Also, I want to thank for her constant encouragement the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

This bill had its genesis actually at the John Fitzgerald Kennedy School in Harvard in meetings with Alan Simpson and David Broder, when they challenged the freshmen class of the 106th Congress to return to a time of civility. This charge was further echoed when we went on to Williamsburg by Cokie Roberts, talking about her dad, Hale Boggs and, of course, the beloved Lindy Boggs and the feeling that they had for this great institution. And at a dinner in Virginia with the dean of the House, to be able to hear the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), who has been here since 1954, talk about the Presidents and the speakers that he has served with was incredible.

All of that led me to believe that we deserved a history of our own here. I had observed, having traveled over to the other body to listen to debate, that there appeared a four-volume history of that body written by Senator BYRD. And to my chagrin, I learned that we had no such works for the People's Chamber.

Just a walk through Statuary Hall will indicate to anyone the magnitude of the history of the House of Representatives. In the very short time that I have been here, the number of important speeches that have taken place in this Chamber and the fond memories that were recalled of people like Moe Udall, of people like George Brown, who when I came here was the ranking member of the Committee on Science and had chaired that committee and, as we all know, has passed on.

The richness of the political experience and the governmental experience are the people that come here and the people that serve, and that is why this

history is so important. And yet this seeks to accomplish more than just the writing of history, but the capturing of its membership in oral history, as well.

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) has discussed what the bill proposes and what it actually carries out. First is to have the Librarian of Congress summon both Members of this House, past and present, and eminent historians to decide how to go about and write this great history of this institution, not only including this Congress but the Continental Congress, as well. It also calls on the Library of Congress to become a repository for oral history.

The Former Members of Congress Organization, for example, has already set out on this task. But, in talking to many of them, it has been piecemeal and catch as catch can. And to come under the vast umbrella of the Library of Congress will aid it immensely because there are unique stories to be told by all the Members of this body. It truly is what makes this a representative institution.

And the last, of course, is to provide a sense of the Congress, a sense of the Congress in terms of instructing incoming freshmen about the rich history of the House of Representatives and having our more learned Members and providing them with the opportunity to meet and discuss the great history of the House of Representatives.

It also provides for the Speaker, as he may choose, to conduct forums and to provide the same kind of meetings where dialogue can take place. In discussing this with the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT), he was reflecting, as we are both former school teachers, how interesting it would be to have Bob Michel and Dan Rostenkowski discussing the Congress in Statuary Hall and its importance and significance.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to stand here today as a sponsor of this bill and continue to be humbled every time I walk into this Chamber. I believe that history is important. I believe this bill is important, not so much because it is a bill that I have introduced and care deeply about, but because what it means to this grand institution.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a letter of support from James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress.

THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS,
Washington, DC, June 22, 1999.

Hon. JOHN B. LARSON,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LARSON: I very much appreciate the opportunity to review the final version of your draft bill authorizing the Library of Congress to oversee the preparation of a written history of the House of Representatives. I believe the legislation you have developed allows the Library to bring together a number of necessary elements to produce an authoritative publication that will fill a void in the annals of the Congress, and I support both the bill's goal and substance.

Your legislation will allow the Library's publishing office and curatorial staff to work together to develop the project, identify primary source material in our collections, and explore various options for its publication. As I indicated in my comments on an earlier draft of the legislation, I envisage appointing a scholarly advisory board, including historians as well as current and former Members of Congress, to assist in the selection of one or more historians to provide the text of the book, and to continue to be involved through the publication stage. The legislation provides sufficient discretion for the Library to work out the details of funding, publication, marketing and distribution in a manner consistent with the best interests of the House of Representatives.

The legislation also reflects the appropriate roles of the Library of Congress and the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress in the collection and preservation of oral histories of the Congress. These will undoubtedly prove invaluable to some future historian in continuing the narrative begun by your legislation.

I would like to extend again my offer to hold a lecture series on the history of the House of Representatives in the Members' Room, as a way of both stimulating interest in the published history and drawing together Members, former Members, historians and the Library's incomparable collections for the enjoyment and enlightenment of all.

Sincerely,

JAMES H. BILLINGTON,
The Librarian of Congress.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD).

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time that has been yielded to me, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 2303. I would like to give a couple of observations, primarily as a history teacher I think.

For most of my career before coming to Congress, I taught history both at the university level and at the high school level. Sometimes historians make the wry observation that historians are people who, those who cannot make history, are condemned to teach it.

As a consequence, I think, in trying to meld these two experiences together, those of us who have a unique appreciation of history and also have a unique appreciation and understanding of this institution, I think this kind of legislation is very critical and much needed. I certainly congratulate all the cosponsors and in particular applaud the efforts of our colleague the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) to educate, inform, and ultimately preserve the legacy of this body for future generations.

What we are seeking to preserve here is not so much history but the raw material of history. And there is a little bit of a distinction in the profession of history in understanding that history is really what historians write. It is not the raw data; it is not the raw material, but what we are seeking to do here is provide the historian with an opportunity to sift through the multitude of information which this institution can provide in a more organized fashion.

Like the other Members who support this legislation, I, too, am in awe of the institution.

☐ 1445

I would like to point out, because I know that perhaps this debate, or this discussion that we are having here will be part of the legacy for this legislation which hopefully will get the history of the House awareness and preservation projects under way, that I am not one of those 435 Members alluded to. The official title of the office I hold is Nonvoting Delegate. Sometimes it gets a little bit cumbersome and awkward when people come to the floor and talk about the 435 Members of the House, and you are one of five people who regularly come here and try to do business and represent your constituents and you are not one of those 435 alluded to.

So I would certainly hope that in the course of conducting this project and in the course of writing this history, that certainly those people who were Delegates, and the first Delegate, I believe, was William Henry Harrison, so there is hope for Delegates. They could become President, although they would die 1 month in office. But certainly he was the very first Delegate elected to this office. Since that time there have been a couple of models on how to represent people, in a slightly imperfect way, for those people who are not representatives of various States ranging from the Resident Commissioner model which is used currently for Puerto Rico and previously for the Philippines.

In light of that, I want to take the time to point out that in support of this legislation, we should make every effort to include all of the people who have served here.

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

I want to thank the gentleman from Guam for his contribution. I might want to say, as well, that I had the opportunity of being on the West Coast just a few days ago and there was a former broadcaster on Guam, a journalist with whom I talked, and she said whenever there was a problem from an historical or political perspective that the media had in Guam and wanted some expert information, they would call Dr. Underwood who was a distinguished historian and teacher and get advice and counsel and he always knew the answers. He makes an appropriate point, the 440 Members indeed that make an impact on this body.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to congratulate the gentleman from Connecticut for his leadership.

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

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

As I indicated, I moved to suspend the rules on H.R. 2303 with an amendment, and there was no discussion of

the amendment, so I will briefly for the Members review the amendments. There were three.

One, based upon the number of cosponsors and an indication that we want to extend it to every person who has had an affiliation with the House, whether they be Member or Delegate, that the oral history portion may in fact be of a considerable length, and so in the amendment, one of the items is that ''in consultation with the Committee on House Administration'' was added so that there could be some minimal institutional control over the history in terms of its overall purport and direction.

Secondly, there was a provision of changing ''may'' to ''shall.'' The language was that ''the librarian may use private funds'' and it was changed to ''the librarian shall use private funds.'' One only need pick up current newspapers and examine the way in which ''may'' and ''shall'' will be of significance.

There was to be an event in Lisbon, Portugal which was to be funded by private dollars. It turns out that they became public dollars, including an $18,000 a month apartment for former Member Tony Coelho who headed that operation, and that was one of the reasons we stressed ''shall'' instead of ''may.''

And then finally, based upon the description about what folks thought was important in presenting this legislation to the Members, the third amendment, and probably ultimately the most important amendment, required that on the Internet, not, as the bill originally stated, excerpts of the history would be presented but, in fact, the entire history.

It seems as though as time goes on, people tend to have their own particular view of what was important and what was not, of who was important and who was not. And to ensure that no future majority is able to distort the full history of the House of Representatives, the third item was added, and I think all Americans will be supportive of the fact that the entire history is made available, not someone's version of what the history of the House of Representatives ought to be.

And so with those amendments, I am pleased to support the measure.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2303—The History Of The House Awareness And Preservation Act. I wish to commend my colleague from Connecticut for introducing this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we all know how easy it is to forget our history. In the hectic days and weeks that make up our lives on Capitol Hill, many of us rush from meeting to meeting through this magnificent building, often not even glancing at the beautiful artwork that adorns its walls, or to consider the awesome achievements of the men and women who preceded us.

As a freshman legislator, I am still struck with a sense of awe when I walk in this chamber to cast a vote, representing more than 600,000 Americans in their national legislature. As I walk in Statuary Hall, I am still halted by the serene statue of Wisconsin's Fighting Bob LaFollette, a progressive champion who represented my district nearly a hundred years ago. What I think is great about this institution, and why it is valuable to record its history, is that members who have been here for decades still get those feelings too.

This legislation will help us all take a moment to reflect on the importance of what has been decided here and its context in history. By having the Library of Congress create the first history of the House of Representatives, the Nation will have a resource to remind us of the how and why the 13 colonies came together in something called a Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I know it is not fashionable to praise this body. I know that pundits and critics make healthy livings denigrating Congress and the work we do here. This legislation, this history, may give them pause to consider the underpinnings of this institution, and realize that the nobler calling of the Founding Fathers are still with us, and that all of us—Republican and Democrat—are still trying to do our best to live up to those high standards established more than two centuries ago.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2303, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of H.R. 2303, the legislation just considered.

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

There was no objection.

PERMITTING NON-CONGRESSIONAL FEDERAL EMPLOYEES TO ENROLL THEIR CHILDREN IN THE HOUSE CHILD CARE CENTER

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3122) to permit the enrollment in the House of Representatives Child Care Center of children of Federal employees who are not employees of the legislative branch.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3122

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN OF OTHER FEDERAL EMPLOYEES IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CHILD CARE CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 312(a)(1) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1992 (40 U.S.C. 184g(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (A);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) if places are available after admission of all children who are eligible under subparagraphs (A) or (B), for children of employees of other offices, departments, and agencies of the Federal government.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to children admitted to the House of Representatives Child Care Center on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

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

Mr. Speaker, I have been a supporter of the House Child Care Center since its initiation. Actually the wife of one of our former colleagues, Al Swift, Mrs. Swift, was instrumental along with others, both staff and Members and spouses, in initiating the House Child Care Center. However, today, eligibility for that center is restricted, first to the children of House employees, then to the children of employees of the Senate, and other legislative branch agencies. While clearly the supportive costs were initiated by the House, this has become a self-funding structure. One of the concerns that we have is that this not be in direct competition with the private sector but that it be able to have a broad enough scope to sustain itself.

And so this measure provides for the extension of the House Child Care Center to a third category, which would assume its position below the others in terms of a prioritization of admittance of students, and that would be children of other employees of the Federal Government, i.e., the executive branch. This expansion of eligibility was requested by the board of directors, supported by the chief administrative officer and as evidence of our general support here on the floor of the House today.

As I said, there is no direct subsidy from the House of Representatives today, and, frankly, the budget for the House Child Care Center is one that is very tight. It performs a needed and very useful service to the legislative branch, and we would not just want this useful and needed service to fail because of our failure to extend it to other areas of the Federal Government. When a request for this change was made, the board of directors wrote this: ''If we are allowed to fill vacancies with children of other Federal agencies, our budget will be augmented,

more children and families will get high quality services, and no House family will be worse off. This new policy, then, will produce lots of winners and no losers.''

It seems to me that a Child Care Center closely associated with the place of work is a winner to begin with, but it also must be financially viable. The step that we take with this bill today ensures indeed that we will continue to be winners.

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill, a timely bill, and hopefully every Member will support it. The House is indeed fortunate to have such an excellent Child Care Center. At present, Mr. Speaker, the center is open only to children of employees of the legislative branch, with Members and employees of the House having priority. Numerous Members and staff have entrusted their children to the center over the years. My own granddaughter Judy, as a matter of fact, when my daughter was working here was at the Child Care Center and she was enriched immeasurably by that experience. The House Child Care Center is a wonderful place, and I wish there were many more like it for parents across the country who desperately need safe, reliable, high quality child care.

The House center, which occupies space in the Ford House Office Building, receives no direct appropriations. Except for its space, utilities and benefits for its staff who are House employees, the center must sustain itself through its tuitions. Like many child care centers, the House center has difficulty filling all its places for 3- and 4-year-olds. There is a long waiting list, Mr. Speaker, for infants and strong demand for places for 1- and 2-year-olds. This is because new working parents without family-based child care alternatives often find few options for child care outside the home. However, as children approach the school age, other options become available to many parents. These options may include free or low cost public preschool programs. Parents may enroll in prekindergarten programs that virtually assure later acceptance in a particular school. The arrival of younger siblings may render it more economical for one parent to stay home or to hire a nanny to care for children in the home, if that is financially possible. For child care centers, the loss of 3- and 4-year-olds, who are the most profitable since child-to-adult ratios can be higher, has a great effect on the bottom line.

This legislation will ease this problem for the House center by expanding the population it can serve to include employees of other Federal agencies. The center will continue to give first priority to children of the House, then to other legislative branch children. If places remain, however, available thereafter, it will then be offered to children of other Federal employees. This is a sensible move that will make the House center more efficient. It will ease the upward pressure on the center's tuition rates which are already frankly beyond the reach of many House employees. Equally important, it will make the benefits of the House Child Care Center available to Federal employees throughout the Washington region. There are undoubtedly numerous Federal workers across this area who would appreciate the chance to enroll their children in the House Child Care Center. We should certainly offer them placements in our center that would otherwise go unfilled, and that is the key. We are simply providing for vacant spaces being available. We will not in any way compete with the House employees.

Mr. Speaker, by strengthening the House Child Care Center, this bill is good for the House and other legislative branch employees who need child care. By expanding the eligible population to include all Federal employees, it is good for Federal workers in this area and the government generally. I certainly rise in strong support of this legislation and ask for an affirmative vote.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, H.R. 3122 that allows federal employees who do not work for the legislative branch to enroll their children in the House of Representatives Child Care Center. Every parent that works for the federal government should have access to quality child care.

Child care is critical to the success of working families and to ensuring that every child enters school ready to learn. The need for child care has become a necessity for many parents.

It is estimated that 65 percent of women with children younger than six, and 78 percent of women with children between the ages of six and 17 are in the work force. Almost 60 percent of the women with infants are also in the work force. The majority of working women provide half or more of their family's income.

Every day, 13 million preschoolers, including six million babies and toddlers are in child care. Children enter child care programs as early as six weeks of age.

Quality child care has a lasting impact on children's well-being and ability to learn. Poor quality child care can result in delayed language and reading skills.

Many parents struggle to find affordable, quality child care because of the high costs. Full day care costs as much as $4000 to $10,000 per year—close to the cost of one year of public college tuition.

The Child Care Center that serves the House of Representatives is a high quality center that currently benefits the children of employees of the House. This center offers the quality services that parents need, and this center should be made available for other employees of the Federal government.

I urge my Colleagues to support this measure. All children deserve quality care early in life for a healthy start this bill will make these services available for more working families.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3122.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1500

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of H.R. 3122, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF 4–H CLUBS

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 194) recognizing the contributions of 4–H Clubs and their members to voluntary community service.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 194

Whereas the American people have a tradition of philanthropy and volunteerism;

Whereas 4–H Clubs, an organization originally established by the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture and land-grant colleges, provide young people in the United States with the opportunity to actively participate in volunteer services in their communities that can bridge the differences that separate people and help solve social problems;

Whereas there are more than 6,500,000 youth members of 4–H Clubs in the United States;

Whereas 4–H members touch and enhance the lives of others during the annual National 4–H Week and throughout the year by doing good, by giving where there is a need, by rebuilding what has been torn down, by teaching where there is a desire to learn, and by inspiring those who have lost hope;

Whereas 4–H Clubs and their members, as well as other volunteers and Cooperative Extension staff, have joined to promote the week of October 3 through 9, 1999, as a opportunity for national, collaborated voluntary community service; and

Whereas voluntary community service is an investment in the future all Americans must share: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress commends and recognizes 4–H Clubs and their members in the United States for their contributions to voluntary community service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Georgia (Mr. DEAL) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL).

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, every day we hear more about the challenges currently facing our young people in society. However, today I am proud to bring good news about America's youth by specifically recognizing the 7 million young citizens who are involved in 4–H programs through this resolution.

The roots of 4–H began at the turn of the 20th century when progressive educators started to emphasize the need of young people and to introduce nature study as a basis for a better agricultural education. The 4–H program was founded sometime between 1900 and 1910 to provide local educational clubs for rural youth from ages 9 through 19 years. The program was designed to teach better home economics and agricultural techniques and to foster character development and good citizenship. Boys and girls clubs and leagues were established in schools and churches to meet these needs. Farmers saw the practical benefits, and public support and enthusiasm for 4–H, therefore, grew throughout the Nation.

The program is administered by the Cooperative Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, state land grant universities, and county governments. For nearly a hundred years over 45 million Americans, myself and many other Members of this body included, in some 3,150 counties have subscribed to the 4–H philosophy of learning by doing. In all projects, 4–H members strive to develop and improve the four H's: head, heart, hands, and health that not only make themselves better citizens but, through volunteer service, 4–H members make America's cities, towns, and farms better places to live.

To keep up with the wide range of interests of today's young people, the 4–H program has diversified tremendously. Its agricultural heritage is still alive and well, but today's 4–H members also design Web pages, participate in mock legislatures, organize community clean-ups, and deliver speeches. The 4–H Youth Development Program continues to make great contributions toward the development of well-rounded youth. By this resolution we congratulate them and recognize this ongoing contribution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I have just one question for you and the gentleman from Georgia and all of my colleagues here this afternoon, and that question is: Are they into it?

''Are they into it'' is the current slogan for the 4–H; ''Are they into it'' is the rallying cry for the 4–H clubs of America as they approach 100 years of service to communities and neighborhoods from coast to coast. ''Are they into it'' is the call that over 6 million young people answered last year in 4–H clubs and organizations across the Nation. ''Are they into it'' is the mantra repeated by over a half a million volunteers who donate an average of $200 per year to keep the 4–H clubs strong and vital in their communities. ''Are they into it'' is the question answered by private sector partners of 4–H, Mr. Speaker, who invest almost $100 million into 4–H youth development programs.

I am glad to say that today this body is into it, and I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) for bringing this resolution forward today.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased and proud to be on the floor supporting this important measure introduced by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL). Many people believe we live in an era of unprecedented cynicism and skepticism. That is why it is important for this Congress to take a little time to recognize the outstanding organization like 4–H which brings young people together to do good for their communities and to grow as principled individuals.

In fact, research indicates that volunteerism among young Americans has actually been on the increase. America's youth want to participate in the betterment of their communities and their country. The 4–H is uniquely established to provide opportunity to young people nationwide to learn valuable life skills, work with others toward common goals, and developing into community leaders.

The 4–H is a dynamic organization whose mission is to foster innovation and shared learning for America's youth, ages 6 to 19. Its vision is to draw upon combined power of youth and adults so that we can learn together in order to address the challenges and opportunities critical to youth in our communities.

4–H stresses three fundamental values: first, Mr. Speaker, we must treat others with mutual trust and respect and open and honest communication; second, we must assume personal leadership and responsibility for our actions; and third, we must celebrate our differences as well as our similarities and always realize that working with youth as partners is the key to our success.

Mr. Speaker, last week I met with several young people from my district, from western Wisconsin, who are in Washington on different trips, two of whom were here for the conference Voices Against Violence, and one was here with the National Young Leadership Conference which uses the 4–H facilities here in Washington for mock government sessions throughout the year.

What I found striking about these young people is their commitment to their communities and, whether consciously or unconsciously, to the values and ideals fostered by the 4–H. Andy Slind of Boyceville, Wisconsin, told me he plans to continue working in his community during the last 2 years of his high school and would work to participate in some form of public service after college.

Mr. Speaker, our young people know they have a stake in their communities and want to help shape their futures. 4–H provides opportunities for such involvement, and it hones the values and skills we all cherish as Americans.

I am grateful for the opportunity to commemorate the 4–H today for personal reasons as well. I am a former 4–H club member myself. When I was a boy growing up in western Wisconsin, I loved and appreciated the time that I spent within my 4–H club.

4–H continues to play a central role in communities like mine. In fact, just on Saturday my local paper carried an article describing a man who was being honored for his dedication to 4–H. Bob Fredrick of Viroqua, Wisconsin, has been a 4–H youth development agent for 40 years. He started in 1957 at the age of 25 and decided to make the youth program his sole career. In honor of Bob's lifelong dedication to Vernon County youth, the community is establishing a special fund for youth programs in his name.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, over 6 million young people were involved in 4–H programs last year. In fact, nationwide 1 in 7 Americans have been involved in 4–H at some point during their lives. In fact, in addition to myself, three of my staffers here in Washington were 4–H members in their youth; and I would venture to guess that many others around Capitol Hill have experience with a 4–H club.

4–H was founded in 1902 and established in my home State of Wisconsin in 1914. There are currently over 2,000 4–H clubs in my State alone and almost 190,000 young people from Wisconsin that belong to 4–H clubs. Wisconsin was proud to host the National 4–H Dairy Conference this last September, which drew over 250 young people from around the United States and Canada to learn about new technologies and techniques in dairy farming. While many people associate 4–H with rural communities and agricultural issues, kids from cities and suburbs from all backgrounds belong to 4–H clubs. Through 4–H they study citizenship and civics, communications and arts, consumer and family issues, Earth and environmental science, technology and personal leadership.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to be here today to commemorate 4–H and its contributions to American communities for the past 98 years. By pledging their heads to clearer thinking, their hearts to greater loyalty, their hands to larger service, and their health to better living, our young people, along with the adult volunteers who teach and help them, do work to strengthen their clubs, their communities, their countries and their world.

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

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BARRETT).

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding this time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise also in strong support of the resolution being offered today in honor of the millions of young people who participate in the 4–H program. As my colleagues know, at a time when we are so concerned about youth who act in negative ways, I think it is fitting that we take a moment to honor young people who work to give back to their communities in positive ways through service, education, and leadership. Four-H is a major program in my State, tracing its roots back to the 1890s. In Nebraska more than 325,000 kids participate in the 4–H programs. That is almost 40 percent of the young people in my State.

But 4–H is not only about kids. In Nebraska, nearly 13,000 dedicated parents and group leaders take their time and their energy to work with young people and help kids have fun while they learn. With eight different curriculum areas ranging from the traditional areas such as livestock, livestock, and food preparation to innovative projects in communications arts and environmental stewardship, the 4–H program challenges kids to work together and with adults to learn new skills and develop lifelong interests and contribute to their communities.

The 4–H program offers youth the positive experiences, support, the challenges that they need to be successful and to develop into strong, competent, caring, and responsible citizens. I want to take this moment to especially commend the chapters in Nebraska and all chapters for that matter for their dedication to our communities. These young people and their parents and sponsors deserve our thanks, and they certainly deserve our applause.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe I have any more requests for time on this side, so let me just conclude with a couple of personal notes. I do want to sincerely thank the gentleman from Georgia for giving us this opportunity today to honor the 4–H clubs. It brings back a lot of fond memories for myself.

I, as I indicated, participated in 4–H when I was 8, 9, and 10 years old growing up on the north side of La Crosse. It was not a rural area. It was an urban area. We had a wonderful program, though, that brings back memories of those who participated in it, not only the other kids in the neighborhoods that I was a member with, but the adults and the volunteers who participated in it, adults such as Mary Lou and John Rochester who are no longer with us today; Mrs. Olsen and Mrs. Severson who took over the program to keep it going when the Rochesters could no longer do so; and the countless number of friends, lifelong friends, that I have today because of an organization like 4–H.

Now for those who are familiar with western Wisconsin and La Crosse would know that growing up on the north side of La Crosse was considered growing up on the other side of the railroad tracks. We had some pretty tough neighborhoods back then, and like many youth do today, we were confronted with a lot of choices and a lot of options, some good, some not so good.

At that time in my life I was just starting to get involved in another group called the Kane Street Killers, and we were arch rivals with the North Side Jack Rabbits. I guess according to today's terms they would be considered gang or gang affiliates, and we had rumbles. We would elude police officers with our youthful pranks and childish antics.

But looking back now at my own childhood, I really was at the crossroads of having to decide which way to go, and but for an organization such as 4–H or the Boys and Girls Club of the greater La Crosse area, I think many of us kids who hung out with the Kane Street Killers could have taken decidedly different routes in our lives. It was because of an organization that offered a structured learning environment like 4–H and many of the community activities that we were involved with, annual food drives during the holiday season to collect some food for the food shelters in the area, a community garden where we would grow food and share with senior centers, a softball team that we participated in that gave a lot of us a good outlet for our pent-up energies, those positive activities in our lives kept many of us out of trouble.

□ 1515

I remember participating in the musical ''Oklahoma'' when I was 10 years old. For me that was probably the most frightening moment of my young life, having to stand in front of people and try to carry a tune. It was not a very pretty sight, but, nevertheless, looking back on it now, it was a learning and growing experience for me. Because of that, I can honestly say here today that many of us were channeled into more constructive, more educational-oriented arenas, rather than pursuing different options on the street on the north side of La Crosse.

Again, let me conclude by thanking the gentleman from Georgia, and also thanking the thousands of individuals, the adults, the parents and uncles and aunts, grandparents, the neighbors from across the country, the volunteers, who are giving part of their busy lives to 4–H and to the kids participating in 4–H in order to provide this type of alternative option in young people's lives. I think it does perform a very important and vital role in our society as we try to raise our kids in this Nation with the best opportunities possible.

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

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 194, which deals with the 4–H Clubs and their service to the community. I happen to have the honor of representing the National Headquarters of the 4–H Clubs, and I have seen the kind of work that they have done.

We all know the roots of 4–H began at the turn of the century. Educators began introducing nature study as a way of getting young people interested in agriculture. The four-leaf clover that we know so well, that design with the H's, appeared around 1908. They stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Hustle: Head trained to think, plan and reason; heart trained to be true, kind and sympathetic; hands trained to be useful, helpful and skillful; and the hustle to render ready service to develop health and vitality.

Today, more than 6.5 million youth are involved in 4–H Clubs nationwide. Twenty-seven percent of the young people involved in 4–H are from a minority racial or ethnic group.

These 4–H programs vary from state to state. Some involve after-school activities and tutoring in inner city public housing communities. Others involve teaching youth about the environment, how to develop and implement a project in their community that will help to solve an environmental issue. We see many examples of these projects at an annual agricultural fair that we have in Montgomery County, Maryland, which is typical of what is happening all over the country under the auspices of 4–H direction.

Whether they are fighting poverty in the inner cities, or combating HIV epidemics, 4–H volunteers are making a difference. They want to help others.

Volunteerism is an American tradition. Concern for others, working together to meet the social challenges of American society, embodies the very best of American values.

Every American has the capacity to reach out to others, to enrich his or her community, and to make a difference. In the act of serving, these 4–H volunteers often find that they make a difference in their own lives. Through volunteering, they develop their own knowledge, skills and character, and they build relationships with people they might not have known otherwise.

Again, I reiterate, I am proud of 4–H, I am proud of the 4–H headquarters in Chevy Chase, Maryland, I am proud of the staff at the headquarters. I have been very much involved with many of their activities focused on Citizenship

Washington and other activities where they have brought young people in from all over the country.

There are some people I want to mention. Trina Batte, Janet Hand, Jenna Carter, Loretta Espey, Sylvia Gould, and I could go on and on. These are but a few of the names of the staff members that work at the headquarters. So I am pleased to praise all of the wonderful people who work not only at the headquarters in Chevy Chase, but the volunteers and those people that work for 4–H throughout the country. They do make a difference.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would first of all like to thank my staff person, Peter Dale, for his work in bringing this resolution to the floor. He has been involved in 4–H, as has his family.

As has been reiterated by others, I have been involved in 4–H. My oldest daughter was a National 4–H Citizenship Winner, and in my local community we have people who are volunteering their time through an adult organization sponsoring scholarships through the 4–H program so young people can get a college education. My State is indeed fortunate to have one of the premier State 4–H educational and recreational facilities, known as Rock Eagle, in the State of Georgia. Many young people pass through that facility each year and are enriched by the experiences that they receive.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would simply urge the favorable adoption of this resolution as a recognition of the outstanding contributions that the 4–H Clubs have made to our communities and to our country. I would urge favorable adoption of the resolution.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 194. For nearly a century, 4–H has been helping the children of this Nation ''learn by doing.'' As the largest youth organization in the United States, 4–H educates children through practical, hands-on methods that emphasize life skills. It is difficult to point to another organization that has had a comparable positive impact on America's youth. Since its inception in the early 1900s, more than 45 million Americans have participated in 4–H. In my home state alone, 4–H is currently helping over 252,000 young people improve their self-confidence and learn important skills such as leadership, citizenship, and decision-making that can be applied over a lifetime. Originally founded as an agricultural youth organization, the 4–H program is no longer limited to rural communities. 4–H clubs are thriving in urban centers across the country, teaching inner city kids the same values and self confidence that have helped so many rural youth. Today, kids from all walks of life can learn to design web pages, participate in mock legislatures, and organize community clean-ups. 4–H continues to work toward the development of youth as individuals and as responsible and productive citizens. I urge you to join me in supporting this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 194.

The question was taken.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res 194.

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

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING PAY ADJUSTMENTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 915) to authorize a cost of living adjustment in the pay of administrative law judges, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 915

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PAY OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES.

Section 5372(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''(A)'' after ''(1)'' and by striking all after the first sentence and inserting the following:

''(B) Within level AL–3, there shall be 6 rates of basic pay, designated as AL–3, rates A through F, respectively. Level AL–2 and level AL–1 shall each have 1 rate of basic pay.

''(C) The rate of basic pay for AL–3, rate A, may not be less than 65 percent of the rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule, and the rate of basic pay for AL–1 may not exceed the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule.'';

(2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''upon'' each time it appears and inserting ''at the beginning of the next pay period following''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) Subject to paragraph (1), effective at the beginning of the first applicable pay period commencing on or after the first day of the month in which an adjustment takes effect under section 5303 in the rates of basic pay under the General Schedule, each rate of basic pay for administrative law judges shall be adjusted by an amount determined by the President to be appropriate.''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 915, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 915, sponsored by my esteemed colleague the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS). H.R. 915 is a bipartisan bill to reform the process for setting the pay of the Federal Government's administrative law judges, otherwise known as ALJs. The Federal Government employs over 1,400 administrative law judges. Their work is crucial and very important to the Federal Government's operations. ALJs decide important cases, ranging from the Social Security complaints of senior citizens to complex securities litigation.

In order to recruit and retain qualified administrative law judges, steps must be taken to ensure their pay remains competitive. Regrettably, circumstances are making this difficult. Each grade and step of the current ALJ pay schedule is rigidly set as a fixed percentage of Level IV of the Executive Schedule. As a result, pay increases for ALJs have lagged behind those of their colleagues under the general schedule or in the Senior Executive Service.

This situation creates a disincentive for highly qualified attorneys, both in the Federal Government and in the private sector, to compete and apply for these important positions. The disincentive is particularly acute for private sector attorneys. While they must generally start at the bottom of the ALJ pay scale, government attorneys at least have the option to keep a comparable salary when they become ALJs.

By reforming the pay-setting process, H.R. 915 will make ALJ positions more attractive for attorneys across the board. Although the bill retains the current grade and step structure for ALJs, H.R. 915 provides the President with more flexibility to adjust ALJ pay. Rather than link each grade and step to a specific percentage of Level IV of the Executive Schedule, H.R. 915 simply establishes minimum and maximum rates of pay for ALJs. These are the same as the current minimum of 65 percent of Level IV and the current maximum of 100 percent of Level IV.

H.R. 915 also authorizes the President to adjust ALJ pay rates below the maximum when employees under the general schedule receive an annual pay adjustment. This mirrors the authority the President now has to adjust the pay of the Senior Executive Service.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this chance to offer H.R. 915 for consideration by the House. I encourage the support of all Members.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, Federal administrative law judges, often referred to as the Federal Administrative Trial Judiciary, perform judicial functions within the Executive Branch of Government. In adjudicating cases before them, administrative law judges conduct formal trial-type hearings, make findings of fact and law, apply agency regulations and issue either initial or recommended decisions.

There are over 1,300 ALJs assigned to 31 Federal agencies. The agency employing the largest number of ALJs, over 1,184, is the Social Security Administration, which has its headquarters in my district in Baltimore.

I am pleased that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS), the author of the legislation before us today, was able to work with the Office of Personnel Management to craft a bill that has bipartisan support. H.R. 915, a bill to authorize a cost of living adjustment in the pay of administrative law judges, makes a needed improvement in the ALJ pay system.

Under current law, both Federal judges and ALJs are paid under the Executive Schedule, as are Members of Congress. ALJs are the only executive branch Federal employees whose pay is linked to Members of Congress. From 1993 through 1996, ALJs and Federal judges received no cost of living adjustments because Congress prohibited those subject to the Executive Schedule from receiving a COLA.

When Executive Schedule pay goes unchanged, so does the basic pay for ALJs. Consequently, ALJ pay levels have not kept pace with those of other groups of Federal employees, such as the General Service and the Senior Executive Schedule. Under H.R. 915, the pay adjustment process for ALJs would mirror the process for setting the basic pay rates for the Senior Executive Schedule. The structure of the ALJ pay system would remain unchanged. The bill would retain the minimum and maximum rates for the ALJ pay range, while eliminating the specific linkages to executive pay within that range. The President would be authorized to adjust ALJ pay within that pay range at the same time as SES basic pay rates are adjusted, which is the time of the annual GS pay adjustment. The top ALJ pay rate could still not exceed the statutory maximum, which would remain the rate for the executive Level IV.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and bring the pay of administrative law judges in line with other groups of Federal employees.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support this bill. I think we do need to include the administrative law judges under H.R. 915, and I hope we will be able in the future to look to the Social Security appeals judges also.

I am pleased to also support H.R. 915, which I think is very important. I thank also the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for their support of it.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), one who has been at the forefront of protecting the rights of Federal employees and who has been a mentor to me in regard to those kind of issues and many other issues.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the former Speaker pro tem of the Maryland House for his kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 915, which, as has been stated, is a bill that will provide the President with the authority to provide annual cost of living adjustments to our Nation's more than 1,300 Federal administrative judges, the same authority he now has, frankly, with respect to members of the Senior Executive Service. Currently the pay and step levels for administrative law judges are tied to the Executive Schedule, so they are unable to receive an increase in pay in the years when the Executive Schedule remains unchanged. Since 1991, the basic pay for administrative law judges has increased only three times, in 1992, 1993 and not until 1998, and only one time in the last 5 years, as the figures reflect.

□ 1530

That is in contrast to employees under the General Schedule and the Senior Executive Schedule, who have received a COLA increase in 4 of the last 5 years. This legislation will bring the pay of administrative law judges into line with career employees in the General Schedule and Senior Executive Service.

Mr. Speaker, prior to 1990, administrative law judges fell under the General Schedule and were paid at the GS–15 and 16 rates. In 1990, as part of the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act, a legislation which I had the honor of sponsoring, the judges had their pay linked to the executive schedule.

While this legislation, H.R. 915, will not change the current grade and step structures for administrative law judges, it will tie each grade and step to fixed percentages of the SES.

I support this legislation, and hope this bill will provide increased competition, and draw the highly qualified candidates that these judgeship positions require for the sound administration of the Federal Government and Federal rules and regulations.

I urge my colleagues to join me and the gentlewoman from Illinois and the gentleman from Maryland in supporting this legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would just take a moment to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this very important legislation. As the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) just stated, one of the things we are most concerned about is making sure that we attract the very best to the administrative law judge system.

Certainly, as much as we might not want to think it, pay is very important. It is something that does attract. We want to make sure that they are treated fairly. They do do an outstanding job over and over again, and are sometimes overlooked because they are on the administrative law judge level. The fact is, they do a very important job.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman's comments are very important and relevant. We need to keep focused on that.

Too often we tend to denigrate Federal service at whatever level, from the administrative law judge level to a file clerk. The fact of the matter is they are very important to the fair and proper administration of the people's government. We certainly want to make sure that we have people at these positions who have sound judgment, significant legal ability, and can wisely dispose of the issues that confront them.

I also want to say that I very much appreciate the leadership of my colleague, the gentleman from Maryland, who has been the ranking member of this subcommittee, and as such has worked with the chairman in a very positive way in ensuring that we have a sound, wise public employee policy in this country. I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I thank the gentleman very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding time to me, and I thank him for his leadership. As well, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and also I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Let me offer to say, having worked with administrative law judges, and in particular, serving on the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, where there is an enormous body of administrative law judges that deal with some of the issues that confront immigrants who are seeking legal admission to the United States, I do know of the great value of the service of the administrative law judges.

I wanted to offer my support for this legislation as a way of equalizing the compensation equal to the amount of work and the amount of service that the ALJs participate in.

My first exposure to ALJs was as a lawyer, but also as a member of the

Houston City Council, because many times constituents, not knowing which governmental agency to call, would call with social security issues. Those issues invariably might be addressed at the level of the ALJs.

I realize what a heavy caseload ALJs have had in a variety of areas. Social security happens to be one. I think that many people do not understand the ALJ tasks. They are not Federal judges in terms of not being judges that are appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate, they come through the administrative civil service process. Yet, they serve a very important responsibility.

When I traveled to visit the detention centers, or at least one of the detention centers in New York, I was able to see the work of ALJs as they held court right in the detention centers, to give due process to those individuals who had been detained who might have an explanation or defense for their being detained as an illegal alien or with some other concerns. It was the ALJ who presided over the proceeding, and was considered the first line of defense, or at least the first line of justice for these individuals.

So I say to the gentleman from Maryland, I simply wanted to add that ALJs play an important role in the life of justice in the United States. Although they are called administrative law judges, and they respond to the administrative process and they come through a civil service process, they are competent, they are qualified, they are trained lawyers, and therefore, they are very much a cornerstone to the justice system in this country.

I am delighted that we are now correcting or at least providing adequate compensation in this manner.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise in support of H.R. 915, which authorizes a Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA), in the pay of Administrative Law Judges. Specifically, H.R. 915 reforms the compensation process for Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) by establishing maximum and minimum salaries for Administrative Law Judges.

Currently, Administrative Law Judges are appointed pursuant to Title 5 of the United States Code, establishing the Administrative Law Judge as an independent decision maker who implements the Administrative Procedure Act.

In an age where a good percentage of this country's legal minds are practicing their craft in the private sector, government must do all it can to attract and keep qualified practitioners of the Judiciary. Under current law, both Federal Judges and Administrative Law Judges are paid under the executive Schedule, as are members of Congress.

From 1993 through 1996, Administrative Law Judges and Federal Judges received no Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) because Congress restricted those subject to the Executive Schedule from receiving a COLA. When the Executive Schedule pay remains unchanged, so does the basic pay for Administrative Law Judges. As a result, the pay of Administrative Law Judges has not kept pace with those of other groups of federal employees, such as the General Schedule and the Senior Executive Schedule.

H.R. 915 seeks to address these concerns by adjusting the pay process for Administrative Law Judges to mirror the process for setting the basic pay rates for the Senior Executive Service. This bill would authorize the President to adjust the pay for Administrative Law Judges within the pay range at the same time that Senior Executive Service basic pay rates are adjusted, which is the time of the annual General Service pay adjustment. The top Administrative Law Judge pay rate will still not exceed the statutory maximum, which would remain the rate for Executive Level IV. As a result, instead of adjusting Administrative Law Judges's rates only when there is an increase in executive pay, the President could adjust any Administrative Law Judge pay rate, which had not reached the statutory maximum.

Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues, this is a well-needed bill that will compensate our judges for a job well done. I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for what she had to say. As I was listening to the gentlewoman, I could not help but remember, in law school one of the things we learn early on is before one gets to court, they have to exhaust their administrative process first, so they do play a very important role. Many cases are resolved before they get to the courts. Our courts would certainly be clogged if they were not resolved.

I want to thank the gentlewoman for her comments. I am sure it means a lot to all of our administrative law judges who might be listening or may read this transcript.

Mr. Speaker, again, I would urge all Members to vote in favor of this very important legislation. I also want to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) for her efforts with regard to this, and also the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH), the chairman of our subcommittee, and certainly the chairman of the full committee and the ranking member.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 915 is supported by the administration, the Association of Administrative Law Judges, the Federal Administrative Law Judges Conference, the American Bar Association, and the Federal Bar Association.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 915 is good public policy, and will help attract some of the best and brightest legal minds to serve as administrative law judges. I thank the sponsor of this bill, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) for his work on this important issue. I also applaud the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for his leadership in this legislation. I urge all Members to vote for H.R. 915.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 915 and I am proud to have been a co-sponsor of this important legislation. I would like to thank my good friend and colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. GEKAS, for introducing this important legislation. I would also like to thank the Civil Service Subcommittee and Chairman JOE SCARBOROUGH for acting on this legislation in such a timely manner. It is a fair bill and is sorely needed. With the recent passage of legislation to grant virtually all Federal civilian and military employees a 4.8 percent pay raise, this bill would finally permit a small number of administrative law judges, also career employees, the right to have their pay adjustment determined by the President on an annual basis.

At the present time, ALJs are on the Executive Pay Schedule which includes Members of Congress, Cabinet Secretaries, and Federal District Court Judges. As a result of this classification, ALJs have received only two cost-of-living-adjustments in the past 8 years. Unfortunately, ALJs have been caught in the middle of the controversial political debate surrounding pay raises for Members of Congress and have not received a pay increase. This is despite the fact that their salaries are commensurate with that of the Senior Executive Service (SES), or General Schedule employees. Clearly, it is appropriate to decouple ALJ pay raises from congressional pay raises and not freeze their salaries.

These career employees are among the very few career Federal employees who pay is still tied to congressional salaries. H.R. 915 will place them on the same level as the Senior Executive Service. This change is supported by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and was included in the President's FY 2000 budget request. The President will make the final decision each year as to what, if any pay adjustment these employees will have. This change is critically important to encouraging qualified individuals to serve as ALJs and to begin to adequately compensate those who are currently working as ALJs.

Mr. Speaker, many ALJs live in my congressional district in Northern Virginia. I am glad to see that we are taking action on this legislation before the end of the year. ALJs have had to wait too many years for the appropriate level of compensation. This bill is good public policy and will encourage the best and the brightest to serve their government. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 915 today. Again, I would like to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. GEKAS for introducing this legislation and working tirelessly to shepherd it through the legislative process.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for H.R. 915, a bill that will change the manner in which the approximately 1,300 administrative law judges (ALJs) in Federal agencies receive annual cost of living adjustments. I want to thank Chairman BURTON for his leadership in steering the bill through the Government Reform Committee, along with both the current and former Civil Service Subcommittee Chairmen SCARBOROUGH and MICA for their help in bringing this bill forward, and for their continued efforts to correct the injustice done to ALJ compensation. I would also like to thank OPM for their time and technical expertise in helping to put this bill together.

H.R. 915 is a bipartisan and noncontroversial bill that passed through both the Judiciary Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law and the Civil Service Subcommittee and the full government Reform Committees by unanimous consent on voice votes without objection. The bipartisan cosponsorship of

H.R. 915, as well as the support of the administration, expressed in a May, 1999 hearing in my Judiciary Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, are a testament to the strong support for this legislation.

Administrative law judges serve a vital role as an administrative judiciary to insure agency compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act. In fact, the average citizen is far more likely to appeal to these judges for redress of claims against the government than to the Federal courts.

The ALJ position demands commitment and a high degree of professional legal competence as a senior trial attorney. Therefore, it is important that Federal agencies maintain the ability to attract high quality lawyers to serve as ALJs.

In 1990 in recognition of the ALJ's unique role as independent decision makers, Congress and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) created a judicial pay classification for the ALJs, at 60 percent to 90 percent of level four of the Executive Schedule. The new classification is above the General Schedule 16 classification, and was to compensate ALJs at a level similar to Senior Executive Service (SES) employees.

Unfortunately, according to OPM, ALJ pay has fallen to the level of GS 15 pay and has not maintained the level of SES pay. As a result, OPM, the American Bar Association, and the Federal Bar Association have all expressed concerns that the high quality of ALJ candidates will be diminished if ALJ compensation is not competitive with other senior level Federal employees.

I have sought to correct this erosion in the ALJ pay since the last Congress, when I introduced H.R. 1240 last session to provide ALJs a cost of living adjustment (COLA) when the General Schedule received a COLA. H.R. 1240 passed the full House Judiciary Committee last year by voice vote without any objection, and was included in the draft Civil Service Subcommittee reform package.

OPM proposed some changes to that approach, and I have embodied those changes in the text for H.R. 915 this year, which would treat ALJs the same as SES for COLA purposes. It does not grant an automatic COLA, but instead gives the President the discretion and authority to grant a COLA and the rate.

Additionally, I would like to point out that H.R. 915 would for the first time allow ALJs to have access to the COLA funds already contained in the budgets of the agencies where they sit, requiring no new appropriation of funds. Currently, these already appropriated ALJ COLA funds go to pay additional bonuses for SES personnel.

Enactment of H.R. 915 is a modest step to maintain a competent and independent Federal ALJ corps, and I urge its passage by the House.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 915, legislation to authorize a cost of living adjustment in the pay of administrative law judges. Furthermore, I want to thank the sponsor of this H.R. 915, my friend and colleague the gentleman from Pennsylvania, GEORGE GEKAS and Civil Service Subcommittee chair, JOE SCARBOROUGH for all of their hard work on this important legislation. H.R. 915 will adjust the basic pay for the more than 1,300 administrative law judges employed by the Federal Government and will authorize to the President the same authority to provide annual pay adjustments to ALJs who now serve in the Senior Executive Service.

The pay for ALJs has not kept pace over the years with those in other Federal employee positions, making it extremely difficult to attract and retain qualified and experienced attorneys to serve as ALJs.

Throughout my tenure in Congress I have had the opportunity to work with many of our ALJs and have always found their abilities and commitment to public service second to none. The bill before us today will not only reward our ALJs for their tireless dedicated years of public service, but will insure that the Federal Government will continue to maintain an exceptional ALJ roster.

Accordingly, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 915, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

□ 1802

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska) at 6 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on approving the Journal and 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:

Approval of the Journal, de novo;

H.R. 754, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2303, by the yeas and nays; and

House Concurrent Resolution 194, by the yeas and nays.

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

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. 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. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 341, nays 49, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 42, as follows:

[Roll No. 533]

YEAS—341

Abercrombie
Allen
Andrews
Archer
Armey
Bachus
Baker
Baldwin
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bateman
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bliley
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Bonior
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canady
Cannon
Capps
Cardin
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth-Hage
Clayton
Clement
Coble
Coburn
Collins
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Cooksey
Cox
Coyne
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Danner
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Ewing
Farr
Fattah
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Fowler
Frank (MA)
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gejdenson
Gekas
Gephardt
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Herger
Hill (IN)
Hinchey
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kleczka
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuykendall
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Larson
Latham
LaTourette
Lazio
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lofgren
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Martinez
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCrery
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez

Metcalf
Mica
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Minge
Mink
Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Ose
Owens
Oxley
Packard
Pascrell
Paul
Payne
Pease
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Regula
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogan
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Salmon
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sanford
Sawyer
Saxton
Schakowsky
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simpson
Sisisky
Skeen
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stabenow
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Stump
Sununu
Sweeney
Talent
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tierney
Toomey
Traficant
Turner
Udall (CO)
Upton
Velazquez
Vento
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Wexler
Weygand
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wise
Wolf
Woolsey
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—49

Aderholt
Baird
Bilbray
Borski
Clay
Clyburn
Costello
Crane
Crowley
DeFazio
Dickey
English
Evans
Filner
Gibbons
Gutknecht
Hastings (FL)
Hefley
Hill (MT)
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hooley
Johnson, E. B.
Klink
Kucinich
LoBiondo
McDermott
McNulty
Miller, George
Moore
Oberstar
Pallone
Pastor
Peterson (MN)
Pickett
Ramstad
Sabo
Schaffer
Slaughter
Snyder
Strickland
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Udall (NM)
Visclosky
Waters
Weller
Wu

"PRESENT"—1

Tancredo

NOT VOTING—42

Ackerman
Baldacci
Ballenger
Becerra
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Brady (PA)
Capuano
Carson
Cook
Cramer
Dooley
Emerson
Granger
Hinojosa
Jefferson
Kasich
Kilpatrick
Lantos
Largent
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lowey
Mascara
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McIntosh
Moakley
Myrick
Neal
Nussle
Pelosi
Pickering
Pryce (OH)
Rogers
Rush
Scarborough
Shaw
Stupak
Taylor (NC)
Towns

□ 1830

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the period of time within which a vote by electronic device may be taken on the additional motions to suspend the rules on which the Chair has postponed earlier proceedings.

MADE IN AMERICAN INFORMATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 754, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 754, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 390, nays 2, not voting 41, as follows:

[Roll No. 534]

YEAS—390

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Allen
Andrews
Archer
Armey
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bateman
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bliley
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canady
Cannon
Capps
Cardin
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth-Hage
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Coburn
Collins
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Cooksey
Costello
Cox
Coyne
Crane
Crowley
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Danner
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Ewing
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Fowler
Frank (MA)
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gejdenson
Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill (IN)
Hill (MT)
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kleczka
Klink
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuykendall
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Larson
Latham
LaTourette
Lazio
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Martinez
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Metcalf
Mica
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minge
Mink
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Ose
Owens
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pease
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickett
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogan
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salmon
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Saxton
Schaffer
Schakowsky
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simpson
Sisisky
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stabenow
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stump
Sununu
Sweeney
Talent
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tierney
Toomey
Traficant
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velazquez
Vento
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watkins
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Weygand
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wise
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—2

Paul
Sanford

NOT VOTING—41

Ackerman
Ballenger
Becerra
Bonilla
Bono
Brady (PA)
Capuano
Carson
Cook
Cramer
Dooley
Granger
Hayes
Hinojosa
Jefferson
Johnson, Sam
Kilpatrick
Lantos
Largent
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lowey
Mascara
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McIntosh
Moakley
Myrick
Neal
Nussle
Pelosi
Pickering
Pryce (OH)
Rogers
Roukema
Rush
Scarborough
Stupak
Taylor (NC)
Towns
Visclosky

□ 1839

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to establish a toll free number under the Department of Commerce to assist consumers in determining if products are American-made.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker on rollcall No. 534, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HISTORY OF THE HOUSE AWARENESS AND PRESERVATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 2303, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2303, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 388, nays 7, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 535]

YEAS—388

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Allen
Andrews
Archer
Armey
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bateman
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bliley
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Canady
Cannon
Capps
Cardin
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth-Hage
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Coburn
Collins
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Cooksey
Costello
Cox
Coyne
Crane
Crowley
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Danner
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Ewing
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Fowler
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gejdenson
Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill (IN)
Hill (MT)
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kleczka
Klink
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuykendall
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Larson
Latham
LaTourette
Lazio
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Martinez
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Metcalf
Mica
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minge
Mink
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pease
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickett
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogan
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salmon
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Saxton
Schaffer
Schakowsky
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simpson
Sisisky
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stabenow
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stump
Sununu
Sweeney
Talent
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tierney
Toomey
Traficant
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velazquez
Vento
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watkins
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Weygand
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wise
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—7

Campbell
English
Frank (MA)
Ose
Paul
Sanford
Smith (MI)

NOT VOTING—38

Ackerman
Ballenger
Becerra
Bonilla
Bono
Brady (PA)
Capuano
Carson
Cook
Cramer
Dooley
Granger
Hinojosa
Jefferson
Kilpatrick
Lantos
Largent
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lowey
Mascara
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McIntosh
Moakley
Myrick
Neal
Nussle
Pelosi
Pickering
Pryce (OH)
Rogers
Rush
Scarborough
Stupak
Taylor (NC)
Towns
Visclosky

□ 1848

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended, and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF 4–H CLUBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 194.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 194, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 391, nays 0, not voting 42, as follows:

[Roll No. 536]

YEAS—391

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Allen
Andrews
Archer
Armey
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bateman
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bliley
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canady
Cannon
Capps
Cardin
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth-Hage
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Coburn
Collins
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Costello
Cox
Coyne
Crane
Crowley
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Danner
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Ewing
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Fowler
Frank (MA)
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gejdenson
Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill (IN)
Hill (MT)
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson

Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kleczka
Klink
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuykendall
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Larson
Latham
LaTourette
Lazio
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Martinez
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Metcalf
Mica
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minge
Mink
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Ose
Owens
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pease
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickett
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogan
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salmon
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sanford
Sawyer
Saxton
Schaffer
Schakowsky
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simpson
Sisisky
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stabenow
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stump
Sununu
Sweeney
Talent
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tierney
Toomey
Traficant
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velazquez
Vento
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watkins
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Weygand
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wise
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—42

Ackerman
Ballenger
Becerra
Bonilla
Bono
Brady (PA)
Capuano
Carson
Cook
Cooksey
Cramer
Dooley
Granger
Hinojosa
Jefferson
Jones (OH)
Kilpatrick
Lantos
Largent
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lowey
Mascara
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McIntosh
Moakley
Myrick
Neal
Nussle
Pelosi
Pickering
Pryce (OH)
Rogers
Rush
Scarborough
Stupak
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Towns
Visclosky

□ 1855

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to district business, I was unable to be present at several votes that occurred today. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on the journal vote, ''aye'' on H.R. 754, ''aye'' on H.R. 2303 and ''aye'' on H. Con. Res. 194.

EXPRESSING SADNESS ON THE DEATHS OF THE HONORABLE JOHN H. CHAFEE, WALTER P. KENNEDY AND PAYNE STEWART

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, today is a sad day for a great many people, not the least of whom are our colleagues in the other body for their loss of their colleague, Senator JOHN CHAFEE, and I would like to take a moment and just express the sympathies of the House of Representatives to our colleagues in the other body and to Senator CHAFEE's family and his constituents for that loss.

Today has become even more grim as we hear of the fatal plane crash that took the life of Payne Stewart, a man who has earned the respect of millions of Americans, and we share with America the grief of that loss.

But, Mr. Speaker, it has just come to my attention that we too in our body have suffered a loss yesterday of one of our long-term Congressional employees from the House of Representatives.

Many Members here will remember Walter Kennedy, who was the retired Republican Sergeant at Arms. Walter Kennedy spent 44 years working here in the House of Representatives. He worked for Congressman Gordon Canfield of New Jersey. He served under Charles Haleck, Gerald Ford, John Rhodes and Bob Michel.

Many of us will remember when we first arrived in town, Walter Kennedy was one of the sage advisers that helped us in many ways along the way, always a friendly voice, always an encouraging word, and always a man who put this body, its traditions, its history and its work above other things.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would just like to express to the family of Walter Kennedy, and even to those of us who served in this body with Walter Kennedy, again, the expression of regret from this body to you for our loss of a fine colleague, a good friend, and a dedicated servant to his country.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding. Having the majority leader rise and recognize the long service to this House of Walter Kennedy is most appreciated.

On both sides of the aisle we have people who are working professionals who are willing to give a hand and meet challenges when crises occur, and for years and years around here Walter was one of those people giving advice and counsel, especially to newer Members as we came along. His passing this weekend is a great sadness for his family, I know, but also for all of us who respect him for his work.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join our majority leader in expressing our sympathy to the family of Walter Kennedy. Walter was someone many of us worked with over the years. We had a great deal of affection for Walter and particularly welcomed his sage advice as we first started out in this body, and from time to time he would offer a helping hand whenever there was a problem out on the battlefield.

We will long miss Walter Kennedy. I thank the majority leader for bringing this to our attention this evening.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, for the RECORD I am including the obituary of Walter Kennedy, as well as details on and directions to his funeral.

RETIRED REPUBLICAN SERGEANT-AT-ARMS, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Walter P. Kennedy, retired Republican Sergeant-at-Arms, U.S. House of Representatives (1950–1993) and a 43 year resident of Bethesda, MD, died on Sunday, October 24, 1999 in the Coronary Intensive Care Unit of the Washington Hospital Center. He was 78.

Born to Thomas Kennedy and Mary Stella McElvogue on February 23, 1921, he was an immigrant with them from Ireland in 1924. He was raised in Paterson, New Jersey.

During World War II, he served in the Army from February 1943 to November 1945. In 1943, as his unit was preparing to deploy, he became a naturalized citizen. He saw combat in France, Germany and Austria as a medic in the 63rd Engineer Battalion, 44th Infantry Division.

After his discharge from the service, he completed his studies at Seton Hall College, in New Jersey and went on to receive a law degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

He began a 44 year career in the U.S. Congress in 1950 as the chief administrative assistant for the Hon. Gordon Canfield of New Jersey, retiring in 1993 as the Republican Sergeant-at-Arms for the last couple of decades. In his position with Republican Leadership, he served under Charles Haleck, Gerald Ford, John Rhodes and Bob Michel.

Mr. Kennedy's 44 years of Congressional service is significant inasmuch as it represents more than 25% of all the years Congress has been in existence.

Notably, on the day of his retirement, he was honored by the House of Representatives while it was in session with impromptu speeches by many Members.

Subsequent to his retirement, he logged an additional 6 years on Capital Hill with consulting, political fundraising and public relations through The Kennedy Group Companies of Washington, D.C., for which he was the Chairman and CEO.

Since the death of his father, he had been the patriarch of a big and very close-knit family. He is survived by his wife, Ana Luisa Bou, to whom he was married for more than 53 years, 7 childen, Walter P. Kennedy, Jr., Ana L. Kennedy, Thomas F. Kennedy, Dennis

M. Kennedy, Stella M. Kennedy-Dail, Kevin J. Kennedy and Kathleen P. Kennedy McGovern. 4 daughters-in-law and a son-in-law, 12 grandchildren, all who reside in the greater Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. He, himself, was the oldest of four children and he is survived by a brother, three sisters, their spouses and children. He was also the brother for two sister-in-laws, Ernestina Bou and Marie Isabel Pelalas.

He was active with the Boy Scouts and the Catholic Committee on Scouting for more than 40 years. Since 1956 he was an active member of Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Church in Kensington, Maryland, particularly with the Holy Name Society and the Social Concerns Committee. He was an active member and a Knight of the 4th Degree in the Knights of Columbus.

He was a man of leadership and vision, but also, above all else, a good, honest and kind man. Though never losing focus on the future (which he always maintained as promising), he would consider everyone, yet remain vigilant for the underdog.

He was loved deeply by all and he will be greatly missed.

Viewing for Mr. Kennedy will be on Tuesday, October 26, 1999 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Francis J. Collins Funeral Home, 500 University Blvd W, Silver Spring, MD. A funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday, October 27, 1999 at 12:30 p.m. at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, 9705 Summit Avenue, Kensington, MD. Interment will be at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring, MD following the Mass.

Donations and charitable contributions are urged to the American Diabetes Association on behalf of Mr. Kennedy.

ARRANGEMENTS AND DETAILS (DIRECTIONS BELOW)

A. There will be viewing from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. and from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 26, 1999 at Francis J. Collins Funeral home (directions below);

B. There will be a Mass at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 27, 1999 at Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Church in Kensington, Maryland (directions below);

C. Interment will be at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery following the 12:30 Mass; and,

D. A reception will be held at the Knights of Columbus, Rock Creek Council, 5417 West Cedar Lane, in Bethesda, following interment, until 6:00 p.m.

DIRECTIONS:

Francis J. Collins Funeral Home, 500 University Blvd W, Silver Spring, MD 20901–4625 Phone: (301) 593–9500

From the East on the Capitol Beltway/I–495 (in Montgomery County):

1: Take MD–193 WEST/UNIVERSITY BLVD exit towards WHEATON (US–29 N). 0.2 miles

2: Merge onto MD–193 W. 1.1 miles

3: MD–193 W becomes UNIVERSITY BLVD W. 0.1 miles

From the West on the Capitol Beltway/I–495 (in Montgomery County):

1: Take the US–29 NORTH/COLESVILLE RD exit, exit number 30A, toward COLUMBIA. 0.1 miles (Note: Those coming from downtown Silver Spring, Take the US–29 NORTH/COLESVILLE RD exit, exit number 30A, towards COLUMBIA. crossing over I–495/Capitol Beltway)

2: Merge onto COLESVILLE RD. 0.3 miles

3: Turn RIGHT onto MD–193 E. AND GET INTO LEFT U–TURN LANE IMMEDIATELY

4: Make U–Turn at light onto WESTBOUND MD–193 and cross Colesville Rd 0.8 miles

5: MD–193 E becomes UNIVERSITY BLVD W. 0.1 miles

DIRECTIONS:

Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Church, 9705 Summit Avenue, Kensington, Maryland 20895, (301) 942–2333 (Rectory)

From the Capitol Beltway/I–495 (in Montgomery County):

1: Take the MD–185/CONNECTICUT AVE exit, exit number 33, toward KENSINGTON/CHEVY CHASE.

2: Go North on CONNECTICUT AVE.

3: At the 2nd traffic light, Turn LEFT onto SAUL RD.

4: At the 1st intersection, Turn LEFT onto SUMMIT AVE.

□ 1900

Mr. Speaker, I see the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) is here. I would ask the gentleman from Rhode Island if he wants to speak on behalf of his loss for his State.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do.

Mr. ARMEY. Would the gentleman prefer to have his own time to share with himself and colleagues?

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Yes, sir.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield the floor, and ask the Members of Congress to please give their attention and respect to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY). His words will have meaning in this body, as they will have for the Nation.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JOHN H. CHAFEE, SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 341) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 341

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable John H. Chafee, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed on the part of the House to join a committee appointed on the part of the Senate to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, after my opening remarks, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for many today in saying that it does not please me to be standing here before the House.

We are here today because of the passing of a man of uncommon valor, honor, and integrity. That man is the senior Senator from Rhode Island, JOHN CHAFEE.

It is with great regret and sadness that I offer my condolences to his wife, Virginia, his son, Warwick Mayor Lincoln Chafee, and all the members of the Chafee family. We can only hope that our words today will help to ease the grief that we are experiencing and that they are sure to experience in a very personal, personal way.

While we cannot begin to understand their depth of loss and what they are suffering, we can understand, as many Rhode Islanders will know and as many Americans will know, that the covenant that the people of this Nation have with their government is that much lessened today by the loss of a selfless public servant like Senator CHAFEE.

Mr. Speaker, Senator CHAFEE led the life of an exemplary public servant. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, speaking of the challenges this Nation faced with the economic collapse and war beginning to thunder in Europe, stated ''For the trust reposed in me, I will return the courage and the devotion that befit the time. I can do no less.'' Senator CHAFEE lived this ideal and he lived it until his last days.

He was born in Providence, Rhode Island, the child of one of the State's most storied families. He was still a young student at Yale University when the call went out to mobilize our Nation for war, thrusting America into the furnace of conflict in Europe. The weight of the lives of millions across the globe was placed squarely upon the shoulders of countless young men like Senator CHAFEE, who left his studies at Yale and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

Senator CHAFEE willingly walked into the fire of war, serving in the invasion force that blunted the Japanese advance at a tropical island that is now part of our Nation's collective memory, Guadalcanal. Mr. Speaker, his astounding bravery and willingness to shoulder the burden, placing his very life on the line, speaks far more eloquently than words could ever speak about his dedication and his love for this fine country.

Indeed, he was recalled to active duty in 1951, when he once again risked his life for freedom so that countless people around the world would enjoy the same freedom we enjoy here in this country. He commanded a rifle company of 200 American fighting men in the brutal Korean conflict.

I would like to take a moment to read a few lines from The Coldest War, by James Brady. Jim Brady, who I am told had dinner with Senator CHAFEE just this past week, served with then Captain CHAFEE in the Korean War. As we all know, the Korean war claimed the lives of 54,000 Americans. This book is a first-person account of their experience.

At the outset, Jim Brady states of his book, ''Memoirs are about remembering. I wish I could recall all the

names. If the book has a hero, it is Captain JOHN H. CHAFEE.''

Captain CHAFEE was in charge of the Dog Company in the U.S. Marine Corps' First Division. Of Captain CHAFEE, Jim Brady writes, ''You learn from men like CHAFEE, a Yalie with a law degree from Harvard who came from money, a handsome, patrician man, physically courageous and tireless. From all that could have come arrogance and snobbery. He possessed neither of these traits. He was only calm and vigorous and efficient, usually cheerfully, decent and humane, a good man, a fine officer.''

Mr. Speaker, far too often we use terms like ''going to war'' and ''trench warfare'' when talking about legislative battles which go on in Washington, D.C. We should not throw around these terms so lightly, Mr. Speaker, for we have seen in the actions of Captain CHAFEE a true example of patriotism and self-sacrifice, of a willingness to accept a much more daunting challenge than simply a House or Senate floor vote, an election campaign, or a policy or political debate.

The man that Jim Brady described in this book, Captain CHAFEE, was willing to make what is called the ultimate sacrifice, the giving of one's life for one country.

Mr. Speaker, no one could ask for anything more than what Captain CHAFEE was willing to offer. However, even after risking his life by serving in the frozen tracts of Korea, Senator CHAFEE strove to give even more of himself to his community and to his State, contributing to the quality of life in his home in the State of Rhode Island.

Senator CHAFEE graduated from Yale University and eventually went to Harvard Law School, entering the public arena in 1956 when he was elected to the Rhode Island House of Representatives. He served 6 years in this capacity, where he was also elected the Minority Leader. He was elected Governor of Rhode Island in 1962, handily winning reelection for two additional terms.

In a heady appointment for this former marine, Senator CHAFEE was appointed to be President Nixon's Secretary of the Navy, working with a branch of the Armed Forces he dedicated so much of his life to. Senator CHAFEE entered the United States Senate in 1976, and most recently elected to serve a fourth term in 1994.

Senator CHAFEE was well known across the Nation as a moderate in his party, a Senator who would often place pragmatism above partisan politics. He used his frequently commonsense approach to policy to bring together all kinds of legislative coalitions that keep our Nation moving forward in progressive and steady manner.

His range of accomplishments is staggering, touching on everything from health care to gun control. The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence stated that ''Senator CHAFEE was a national leader on gun control,'' calling him ''one of the most effective voices for gun control in the Congress.''

However, it was as chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee that Senator CHAFEE made a lasting and tangible contribution to all the lives of everyone across this Nation. Senator CHAFEE has been a champion for the environment during his time in the United States Senate. He has worked to improve the air that we breathe with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, and the fight against the pollutants that are causing global warming.

He fought to preserve our natural beauty and environmental safeguards that protect the lands we live in by protecting open space and preserving wetlands from irresponsible development and exploitation. He fought for our world's biodiversity, working hard for the Endangered Species Act and successfully trying to keep the most egregious anti-environmental riders from ever seeing the legislative light of day.

While we honor Senator CHAFEE by looking back on his accomplishments, we also should look at two good things he was still working on at the time of his untimely death last evening.

Two legislative proposals of note were S. 662 and S. 664. S. 662 was Senator CHAFEE's latest effort to assist the fight against breast and cervical cancer. This legislation attempted to make screening for these diseases available to low-income women. S. 664 is the Historic Home Ownership Assistance Act, and as anyone from my State of Rhode Island will tell us, preserving our many historic homes is a means by which we preserve our heritage. This legislation seeks to make historic rehabilitation and restoration a priority in the Tax Code.

On both of these legislative fronts, we should all do well to honor not only Senator CHAFEE's accomplishments, but also his work as well.

Mr. Speaker, Senator CHAFEE and I often engaged in what can be termed ''lively debates'' about issues that we have had differences of opinion on. Senator CHAFEE was indeed a formidable partner in our debates about public policy. However, it is the nature of our government, and I always felt that I had grown as a legislator and as a citizen and even as a person, as a result of our exchanges, to put aside the personal and to underscore the professional in our convictions to our home State.

When I look back at my work with Senator CHAFEE, a quote I heard recently from Thomas Jefferson comes to mind. In his first inaugural address as president of this great Nation, Thomas Jefferson stated that, ''Every difference of opinion is not a difference of principle. We have called by different names brethren of the same principle.''

In many situations we call ourselves Democrats or Republicans, liberals or conservatives, left-wing or right-wing. With Senator CHAFEE, however, it was understood that labels were irrelevant. Whatever he did, you could be sure that it was done for the good of Rhode Island and of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, when all is said and done, when the plaudits and the pundits finish speaking about Senator CHAFEE's chairmanships, his committees, his campaigns, his debates, his bills, and his legislative accomplishments, what will remain is what will always have been there. That is, before the chairmanship of committees in the United States Senate, before overseeing our Nation's fleet as Secretary of the Navy, before sitting as Governor of the State of Rhode Island, even before the minority leadership of the State legislative body, there was a 19-year-old known only as JOHN CHAFEE.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to paint a picture. It was the winter of 1942, and this young man, a college student, made a decision to leave the coziness and the tradition-steeped security of the halls of Yale University for the uncertainty of a position as a private in the United States Marine Corps, a move that would almost certainly lead to his exposure to enemy fire in the heat of combat.

To this young man, the future Senator JOHN H. CHAFEE, there was no thought of the marbled corridors of the United States Senate in Washington, of the imposing office that he would have as Secretary of the Navy at the Pentagon, of the impressive view that he would have as Governor of the State of Rhode Island. There was only one thought in Senator CHAFEE's mind. That was of what was right and what was wrong.

This young man made the right decision to fight for the right freedoms for those who were half-way across the world. He brought his honor and his integrity into the Senate, the courage to vote his convictions, and the integrity to defend his beliefs.

There is no difference between that 19-year-old student who chose conflict over complacency during a world war and the United States Senator whom we mourn today. Both saw the challenges and scorned the path of least resistance. Instead of blazing their trail, they blazed their trail on the shining battlefield. Instead of shirking their responsibilities, they lived up to their responsibilities as citizens of this great country of ours, and that should serve as a shining example that will far outlast even those of us who honor him to this day.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will share my time with some of my colleagues, and I thank the Rhode Island delegation for their love and respect for this great Senator and wonderful human being.

I particularly want to thank the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. WEYGAND), who is going to allow a number of our colleagues to make

short comments before they get on their way.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 1915

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. I rise in very strong support of this resolution to express our sympathy to the Chafee family. Senator CHAFEE had an outstanding record, as the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) expressed, both in the military and as Secretary of Navy and in the Congress. He was a strong, good friend of the State of Virginia.

I had the opportunity to sit with Senator CHAFEE several months ago at the dedication when they named the CIA after former President George Bush. He expressed at that time that he was leaving and very anxious to go back and live in his home State of Rhode Island.

So I wanted to just present myself here and say to the Chafee family and to the United States Senate, we are very, very sorry.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT).

(Mr. BOEHLERT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, the Nation has suffered a great loss with the death of Senator JOHN CHAFEE. I do not say that lightly, for JOHN CHAFEE was the conscience of the Senate. He was an inspiration for literally hundreds of people who have chosen the path of public service.

George Bernard Shaw once said, ''Some men see things, as they are and ask why. I dream things that never were and ask why not.'' That exemplified the manner in which this great American conducted himself every single day that he was privileged to serve in public office.

He saw the environment being ravaged, pollution rampant, and said we must do something about it. He led the way. He saw poverty and squalor and said someone has to do something about it. He led the way. He championed for improving health care delivery in America. He did so many things so well.

He was not one to seek glory but one who constantly worked tirelessly to obtain results. Just a couple of weeks ago, I was privileged to be at a banquet where this very distinguished United States Senator and great American was honored by the League of Conservation Voters. Ted Roosevelt, IV, was presiding. A number of us, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and others, were there that evening.

I think all of us stood a little bit taller when JOHN CHAFEE was honored. The applause seemed never to end because we did not want it to end. We wanted that recognition that was being accorded this fine human being to go on and on. The Nation has, indeed, suffered a great loss. So have many of us in this great institution.

He was an inspiration for me personally. He was a mentor, someone I could constantly call to seek advice, to seek guidance. He never steered me wrong. He always wanted to do what was best for the people in a whole wide range of areas, the environment, health care, housing, assisting the disadvantaged.

Few men of his stature pass our way. We all have been privileged to work with a giant in his time, one whose work will last for generations to come, one who has done so much for so many. I will miss JOHN CHAFEE. The Nation will miss him.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress has lost a true giant of the 20th century last night with the sudden passing of the senior Senator from the State of Rhode Island, the Honorable JOHN CHAFEE.

JOHN CHAFEE's outstanding dedication to public service began half a century ago when he left Yale University to join the Marines after Pearl Harbor. He was a hero at Guadalcanal, and then he was recalled to active duty when the Korean War broke out and commanded a rifle company on the Korean peninsula during that bloody conflict. He was one of the few members of either chamber of Congress to be a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War.

This young attorney, JOHN CHAFEE, became active in Republican politics in his home State of Rhode Island. He was elected to Rhode Island's State legislature in 1956 as a young man of 34. He eventually served as the minority leader in that body and was elected in 1962 to the first of three successful 2-year terms of governor of his State.

Then in 1968, President-elect Richard Nixon appointed JOHN CHAFEE to be our Nation's Secretary of the Navy, in which position he served meritoriously.

Finally, in 1976, JOHN was elected to the first of four terms in our U.S. Senate. In that position, he served his State and Nation in an admirable manner. He was chairman of the Senate's environment and public works committee. In that position, he was a constant reminder to all of us in both bodies of the need to protect the ecology of our planet. Much of the far-reaching environmental legislation in the last quarter century bears his fingerprints.

JOHN CHAFEE is one of the co-founders of the Theodore Roosevelt Fund, which helped remind his fellow Republicans that the most conservation-minded of all Presidents, Theodore Roosevelt, was a member of the Grand Old Party.

JOHN CHAFEE, having previously announced his plans to retire in the year 2000, we knew we would be soon missing his outstanding leadership.

I join with my colleagues in extending our condolences and prayers to JOHN's widow, Virginia, to his family, and to the many who admire JOHN CHAFEE's service to our Nation.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON).

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) for yielding me this time.

United States Senator JOHN CHAFEE. It is hard to believe JOHN's gone. He was a man of extraordinary intellect, of a big warm heart, tremendous patience and tenacity, and a rich sense of human.

Few people have made as much difference in the lives of others as Senator JOHN CHAFEE. When we think of people in the business world, in the academic world, religious leaders, people who dedicate their lives in the social services or in our schools, few have touched so many as deeply as Senator JOHN CHAFEE.

Whether it was in environmental law, in health policy, or in children's services, or in tax and trade law, JOHN was there. He was stalwart. He was principled. He was determined. He understood what it meant to negotiate. He understood why in a democracy as enormously complex as ours one had to come to agreement.

But compromise for JOHN never strayed from certain fundamental principles of the commitments that each of us must hold to one another in a free society that cares for its people.

I have enormous respect for JOHN. I learned from him. I relied on him. The Senate relied on him. New England Republican Members of both the House and Senate relied on him. We will miss him tremendously.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to his wife and his family and hope that the knowledge of his extraordinary gift to this Nation, as well as to their lives, will ease their pain in his loss.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO).

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Connecticut for yielding me the time.

America has lost one of the towering figures in its history in the loss of JOHN CHAFEE. We have heard this evening about the impact that JOHN CHAFEE has had on so many Members of Congress.

If I can, I would like to, for a moment, just touch on how that senior statesman from Rhode Island who in so many ways epitomized the very finest of public service, who is the person that the public ought to be thinking about when they think about the very,

very best that is called to service, what he meant to me.

When I was first elected to Congress, I asked Senator CHAFEE if he would come down to Long Island to participate in a health forum that we had down in Long Island. There was not a single reason, frankly, why somebody of JOHN CHAFEE's statuture or experience and the demands on his time as he had would have accepted that invitation from a freshman who really could do nothing at all for him. But he said, without hesitation, yes.

He came down. He was generous with his time. He did not rush back. He was gracious. He displayed the command over the nuances of health policy that so many have applauded him for.

I think it says a lot to me about the man, JOHN CHAFEE, about his character, about his sense of giving, about his leadership, about his investment in another young legislator, perhaps moving up the ranks.

I have now had the pleasure to work with and work alongside JOHN CHAFEE over my four terms in the House as I have seen him master tax policy, environmental policy, and health policy. This is a legislator who knows the nuances of policy, knows the details of policy as well as any staff member that is in the room. He prides himself in that intellect and in that work ethic of understanding the issue. He felt that the public deserved no less. He called to us a higher standard.

Recently, I was fortunate enough to attend a dinner hosted by the League of Conservation Voters that honored JOHN CHAFEE for a lifetime achievement. What I found remarkable about that event was, as Senator CHAFEE rose to accept the reward, this applause by people from both sides of the aisle, from Members of Congress, from advocates, from so-called ordinary citizens, just grew and grew in warmth and in appreciation and respect.

America mourns the loss of JOHN CHAFEE because he was an outstanding leader, an outstanding citizen, an outstanding man who is an example to us all and for which I think he richly and his family richly deserves the accolades of this body and the American public.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY).

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Connecticut for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today in honor of Senator CHAFEE. Senator CHAFEE is somebody that a lot of my colleagues knew personally and professionally for a long time.

I just happened to have had the privilege over the last few years of working with the Senator on environmental issues. For those of us that have tried to work on bipartisan efforts of environmental issues, Senator CHAFEE was the cornerstone in the Senate to make sure that we did get that kind of cooperation.

I have to say that this body is going to be less without Senator CHAFEE. The Senate actually was an integral part of our working in a bipartisan effort to try to improve environmental law and actually get the outcome.

The Senator was somebody who understood how essential it was that those of us who were working on environmental issues recognize that there is not only a right, but a responsibility to make sure that, at the time we try to save our environment, there is not any need at all to trash our economy.

In fact, I think he said quite clearly that the balance between economic and environmental issues was not only appropriate, it was essential; that a strong economy and a strong environment go hand in hand.

□ 1930

And I think Senator CHAFEE has proven that again and again in his history of working on environmental issues here in the Capitol.

Let me just say, though, that I was privileged to be able to work with this man on certain issues. Our beach bill issues, border pollution issues. He was always at the forefront in wanting to make sure we made our laws here in Washington work in the real world and that the environment would benefit from our intentions.

In fact, I think Senator CHAFEE made a great point in saying that when it comes to environmental issues, caring is not enough, we need to be smart, we need to base it on scientific approaches, and talk about practical outcome. And I think all of us that have worked with him on so many issues understand that maybe coming from a small State like Rhode Island he recognized that lofty ideas must be grounded in reality and that outcome was essential.

A lot of people do not know about the Senator that he was a marine. Some say ex-marine, but those of us that know the marines know there is no such thing as an Ex-marine. One you are a marine, you are always a marine. He was mentioning to me one time that he had done his boot camp at Camp Elliott in San Diego, and he was wondering if he could come out and see the camp and how much it had changed. And, frankly, my office had the privilege of sending him photos of what Camp Elliott looked like when he was there before World War II and what it looks like today. And he was just very, very surprised at what a change had happened to Camp Elliott in San Diego since he had been there.

Well, I think we are all going to remember what changes the Senate and the Capitol have had, and Washington has had since Mr. CHAFEE became Senator CHAFEE and what great changes and positive changes he put through. Be it Democrat or Republican, I would ask us all to remember that Senator CHAFEE always kept his promise to his country. Not just as a Senator, but also as a marine. Semper fi. He was always faithful. He was always faithful to what this country stands for and what this country needs.

He is someone that is going to be sorely missed, Mr. Speaker, and let us always remember to keep forever faithful to his memory as we work on our legislative proposals throughout the year.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY), and wish to thank again the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. WEYGAND) and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) for their graciousness in letting a number of Republicans speak on this incredibly wonderful gentleman. And also to say to my colleagues that the Senator clearly was an American first before he was a Republican, and that is what made him so great. We just appreciate his graciousness and thoughtfulness.

Once again, I thank my colleagues from Rhode Island, and I apologize because we had more speakers than I had thought we would, but that was nice.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleague, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. WEYGAND) and myself, I submit for the RECORD condolences and remarks by the President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton; the Vice President of the United States, ALBERT GORE; the Secretary of Defense, as well as many others, including many of the organizations whose causes Senator CHAFEE dedicated his public service career to.

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM S. COHEN ON THE PASSING OF SEN. JOHN H. CHAFEE

''Senator John Chafee was a valued friend, a talented Navy Secretary, Governor and Senator, a valiant Marine, a New England gentleman, and one of the finest people I've ever known. His death is a great loss to the Senate and to this nation.

He leaves an enduring legacy of moderation, decency, concern for the environment, and love for Rhode Island and America. Many years into the future, his life and career will be a standard against which those who aspire to public service will be measured.

Janet and I extend our most heartfelt sympathy to Virginia and the entire Chafee family at this time of loss.''

STATEMENT OF SARAH BRADY RE: THE DEATH OF SENATOR JOHN CHAFEE

Jim and I were deeply saddened this morning to hear of the passing of our friend, John Chafee. Senator Chafee was a true gentleman and statesman. His leadership in reducing gun violence in our country will be greatly missed in the United States Senate.

This past June, Handgun Control honored Senator Chafee for his leadership and commitment at our 25th anniversary luncheon. As he accepted his ''Celebration of Courage'' award, Senator Chafee was characteristically modest. Jim and I were honored to have known him and to have called him our friend. We will miss him.

SENATOR JOHN CHAFEE (R-RI) WAS GUN CONTROL STALWART

Washington, DC—Senator John Chafee (R-RI) died Sunday, silencing one of the most

effective voices for gun control in Congress. Throughout Senator Chafee's distinguished career, he tirelessly argued for gun control and introduced landmark legislation to ban the possession of handguns.

President of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence Michael Beard lauded Senator Chafee's longstanding commitment to preventing gun violence. ''Senator Chafee was a national leader on gun control. In addition to introducing legislation to ban the possession of handguns, Senator Chafee was a tireless advocate for the Brady Law and a ban on assault weapons. Senator Chafee understood that gun violence was an epidemic, but that it was beatable through tough, restrictive measures on firearms. In 1995, Senator Chafee addressed our national meeting of gun violence prevention activists and spoke movingly about how he came to endorse a ban on handguns. He encouraged the activists to keep up the good fight and to always persevere. In a time when partisan bickering has kept Congress at a standstill on important issues, including gun violence prevention, Senator Chafee could always be counted on to rise above petty squabbles and put the needs of the nation first. He will be sorely missed.''

The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence is comprised of 44 national organizations and over 100,000 individual members. Michael Beard has been President of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence since its inception in 1974.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS MOURN PASSING OF SENATOR JOHN CHAFEE

The League of Conservation Voters is deeply saddened by the unexpected loss of a true environmental hero, Senator John Chafee.

''The passing of Senator Chafee leaves a huge hole in the Senate, and an even bigger hole in our hearts,'' said LCV President Deb Callahan. ''Senator Chafee's courageous leadership made him one of the most important allies the environmental community has ever known. His unwavering environmental commitment will be greatly missed.''

Throughout his 23-year career as U.S. Senator from Rhode Island, Chafee served as both chairman and ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee. Chafee consistently worked to safeguard America's environmental and public health protections. He demonstrated political courage in both large and small conservation battles that were waged over the years in Congress.

Chaffee earned a lifetime environmental score of 70 percent from the League of Conservation Voters. Earlier this month LCV chairman Theodore Roosevelt IV presented Senator Chafee the organization's 1999 Lifetime Achievement Award. Roosevelt noted that Senator Chafee's successful leadership in strengthening the Clean Air and Safe Drinking Water acts and his tireless efforts to preserve open space and conserve America's natural resources made him a true environmental hero.

The League of Conservation Voters is the bipartisan political voice of the national environmental community. LCV is the only national environmental organization dedicated full-time to holding members of Congress accountable for their votes. For each Congress, LCV publishes the National Environmental Scorecard that assigns a percentage rating to each member of Congress based on that year's environmental votes.

SIERRA CLUB MOURNS DEATH OF SENATOR JOHN CHAFEE (R–RI)

Statement of Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope:

''The Sierra Club is deeply saddened by the loss of a true environmental giant, Senator John Chafee. Senator Chafee was at the helm of every major environmental achievement in the past two decades. His leadership steered our nation on a course of environmental conservation and protection. Transcending party lines, Senator Chafee worked to improve our lives by fighting for tough environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act and Superfund clean-ups.

''When others sought to weaken environmental protections, Senator Chafee courageously stood up and demanded that companies clean up the toxic pollution they created. Thanks to Senator Chafee's vision and hard work, our children have a better chance to enjoy a heritage of breathable air, drinkable water, abundant wildlife and clean coasts.

''Because of Senator Chafee's dedication, our nation is a healthier, more beautiful place to raise our children. Like the lands he fought to protect, Senator Chafee is widely admired and completely irreplaceable.''

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S STATEMENT TODAY ON THE DEATH OF JOHN CHAFEE

Before I begin my remarks, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to the family of Senator John Chafee who passed away last night. Rhode Island and America have lost one of the strongest leaders this nation has ever produced. Senator Chafee, who recently announced his retirement from the Senate after 23 years of distinguished service, will be sorely missed. He was a champion of the environment and health care who always put his concern for the American people above partisanship. Known throughout his beloved Rhode Island simply as, ''the man you can trust,'' Senator Chafee was the consummate statesman. For him civility was not simply a matter of personal manners. It was his ideal of how politics should be conducted. I ask all Americans to join me and Hillary in offering our prayers and comfort to his wife, Ginny their five children and 12 grandchildren.

STATEMENT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

Tipper and I were saddened to hear of the passing of Senator John Chafee.

John was one of the friends I most respected and admired in the Senate. And though we came from opposite sides of the political aisle, we saw eye-to-eye on many issues. I will always respect his dedication to serving the people of Rhode Island, his heartfelt commitment to the environment, and his bipartisan approach to the Senate.

I will also remember John as a brave man. For despite the many pressures he faced over the two decades he served in the Senate, he was never a partisan, never an ideologue. He was simply the gentleman from Rhode Island who was never afraid to speak his mind and allow the American people to judge his actions.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Virginia, and his children, Zechariah, Lincoln, John, Jr., Georgia, and Quentin.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. WEYGAND), from the Second District of Rhode Island.

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, let me first begin by thanking my colleague, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) for his very eloquent and heartfelt words about JOHN CHAFEE. It was not only a fitting tribute to a wonderful man but a fitting tribute by a true gentleman from Rhode Island.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) for all of their kind words, because at a time like this, remembrances are very important to the family members, and I do indeed believe that they will hear all of these and I want to thank them personally.

On behalf of the people of Rhode Island, I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to mark the far too sudden passing of my colleague and my constituent JOHN CHAFEE. The senior Senator from Rhode Island was someone that we will never, ever forget because of the great work that he has done on so many different areas. But first and foremost my thoughts, my prayers, are with the family of JOHN, his wife Virginia, his five children, including Mayor Lincoln Chafee from Warwick and their 12 grandchildren. I know it is often difficult to grasp the enormity and the meaning of the loss of this kind, and I offer my sincere condolences to the Senator's family.

Like many Rhode Islanders, we woke up this morning in total shock when we heard that JOHN CHAFEE had passed last evening of heart failure. Although his public career had spanned over 44 years, the Senator still had many gifts to give, and I am sure over these next 13 to 14 months, if he had finished his tenure in office, he would have provided those to the people of America, and particularly to his beloved people of Rhode Island. I know upon his retirement, which he was looking forward to, he would have served us even in greater ways, far beyond what we would have ever expected from this fine gentleman from Rhode Island.

It is indeed a huge loss for all of us. We were blessed to have a committed public servant such as JOHN as a member of our General Assembly back in 1956, as our governor, as Secretary of the Navy, and for the past 23 years as our Senator. The contributions he made to our State, to our Nation, will never be forgotten. And his legacies, particularly with regard to his work on the environment, health care, and to disadvantaged children, will be forever appreciated.

If there was any proof that his death came too soon, it could perhaps be found in the Senator's own words. Not too long ago, in fact just last year, when a reporter from the Providence Journal asked him, ''Senator, what would you like to be remembered for? What would you like to have on your tombstone? What would you like to have as an epitaph?'', JOHN CHAFEE laughed and rolled back in his seat and simply said, ''Here lies.'', and never finished the phrase. Because he knew he had much more work to do. He never felt that he could leave anything undone, and he indeed wanted to be sure that he had that opportunity.

When he announced this past March that he was going to retire, he announced to the State, to much amazement, and to the country as well, ''I will not seek another term as U.S. Senator.'' He said to all of Rhode Island, ''I want to come home.'' JOHN CHAFEE had been a stalwart in Rhode Island politics, but he wanted to go home to his beloved State of Rhode Island; he wanted to share his time with his wife, his family, and his grandchildren.

JOHN was a tireless worker starting back in 1956, when he first ran for the State House of Representatives in Rhode Island from the City of Warwick. Very quickly he emerged as the minority leader in the House of Representatives. And just after 6 years, he ran for Governor of the State of Rhode Island. Winning a very narrow margin of victory in a Republican primary, then going on to win a razor thin victory in 1962 to become the State's Governor.

Quickly, in 1963, as he began his tenure as chief executive, he started working on many of the pressing issues of the State, including their State freeway and transportation systems, but most notably JOHN was known for his work on the environment. I remember very clearly as a landscape architect and as a youngster that JOHN CHAFEE started a program that he dubbed Green Acres. It was one of the first State environmental programs to enhance, to protect, and preserve open spaces and create recreational spaces throughout our State. It was known that JOHN CHAFEE was, first of all, an environmentalist, but, most importantly, he knew how to get such a bill passed in a Democratic General Assembly. He was a craftsman at the very best when it came to the legislature.

JOHN CHAFEE, most notably, led in preservation not only as a member of our General Assembly and as Governor but also as a Senator. As Senator last year, advocating for more open space, he said, ''It is our duty as citizens to preserve for the future generations as much of our State's natural beauty, its green open spaces, sandy beaches, and vibrant wetlands as we possibly can.''

Countless Rhode Islanders, including myself, can personally attest to the beauty of such wonderful places like Colt State Park and many of our beaches. And it was because of JOHN CHAFEE's perseverance that we have these spaces today. It is because of his leadership in those areas that we have these wonderful open spaces today.

In 1969, President Richard Nixon appointed him Secretary of the Navy and he fought through that difficult period of time during the Vietnam War to be the best he possibly could be as Secretary of the Navy. His distinguished military career, including tours in World War II and Korea, and his ties to Rhode Island and the strong naval heritage that we have, provided an invaluable background for that position. In this position, Senator CHAFEE guided the Navy through the final years of the conflict in Vietnam, and until he left that position in 1972.

Then he ran unsuccessfully for Senator, but that did not stop him. He came back again, when an open seat became available in 1976, and won that spot and has been there ever since. And during his 23 years in the U.S. Senate, he has worked on a number of issues important to our Nation but, most notably, protecting and preserving the environment. Most of us know JOHN for that.

In an interview last year, JOHN CHAFEE listed the enactment of the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act as his proudest accomplishments. And Senator CHAFEE, for many reasons, has the right to be proud. The passage of the Clean Air Act has been very successful in cleaning the air and improving public health. The air is indeed cleaner and the public health is indeed improved because of JOHN CHAFEE. We still have a long way to go, and a fitting way to pay our tribute and remember JOHN CHAFEE is to continue the great work he began on improving the quality of the air we breathe, and the water that we drink and that we use for fishing and swimming.

With respect to the Clean Water Act, Senator CHAFEE was a true leader, and we should be especially proud. Approximately 25 years ago, only one-third of the Nation's waters were safe for fishing and swimming according to the EPA. And now that has nearly doubled. Today, two-thirds of the Nation's waters are safe for fishing and swimming. This is especially important because of the vast majority of our population living near or on the coast and near those waters.

Clean water is imperative for our State, in terms of its commercial fishing, its tourism, and its agriculture, but also for the entire country. All of these contribute significantly to our economy, not to mention the vast improvements to the quality of life, and we can thank JOHN CHAFEE for that.

In addition to his leadership on preserving the environment, he has been a leader when it came to health care, the quality of health care, access to health care, but also ensuring that child care is available to all working families in Rhode Island and throughout this country. One of the hallmarks was his recognition of the need to compromise and work with people from both sides of the aisle. Working with both sides was not something that was uncommon to JOHN CHAFEE.

I remember back in 1984, when I was first thinking about running for the State House of Representatives in Rhode Island, I was a Democrat all my life, but JOHN CHAFEE called me up and asked me to consider running as a Republican. He said we need environmentalists and people who have an understanding, like you, of what it takes to get things done. I thanked him very kindly and humbly, because it was truly a tribute to have that Senator call this lowly candidate for a State House office and to be asked to become part of the Republican Party. However, I nodded and told him, ''JOHN, I'm a Democrat. Be happy to work with you, but, indeed, we do have differences of opinion. But we can work together.'' He recognized that, and the 23 years that he served in the Senate, I think, were marked by bipartisanship rather than partisanship.

It is truly an honor to have served with JOHN CHAFEE, to have known him, to have worked with him, and to have helped him in whatever way we could on many of the pieces of legislation he thought was most important. He, and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), and myself worked very hard in opposing casino gambling. We worked together, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY), Senator REED, and myself on improving qualify home health care, and we worked on many things that were important to the citizens of Rhode Island.

His congeniality, his demeanor, his ability to forge a compromise are perhaps the most important hallmarks not only of JOHN CHAFEE himself, but his legacy a legislator. He was a true gentleman, a class act, and in the best possible way, the best possible terms, he was a statesman.

We will miss him dearly, Mr. Speaker. Rhode Island will miss him dearly. Our sympathies, our condolences go out to his family. We have lost a giant in Rhode Island politics and in American politics.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. WEYGAND) will control the balance of the time.

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

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Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I had to come here simply to say that we in Congress and in the United States of America have really lost a great man. He is a man who believed in what Shakespeare said, ''To nature none more bound.'' He believed in the legacy that we must leave our offspring with regard to nature.

I must say I feel like somebody who is bound to JOHN CHAFEE. He was to me a role model. And I do not even think he knew that. But I looked to him as a man who, as has been mentioned, was bipartisan, who was a man of integrity, a man of coalition building, and a man who exemplified great common sense.

He cared about the people that he represented in Rhode Island. He cared about the people of the United States. He cared about the vulnerable people, the children, those who needed health care. And he cared about the environment which, if endangered and if violated, might not be restored.

So we have heard of the great tributes to him in terms of what he did achieve. But, for me, he was a man that I felt would take legislation and

carefully craft it, carefully work with it so it came out as something that we could all agree on.

He is a man who exemplified, I think, the roughrider instinct of Theodore Roosevelt. Because he really was a tough rider. He had some difficult skirmishes that he had to contend and transcended all of it.

So to the family of Senator JOHN CHAFEE, our condolences. He will live on in love.

To all of our colleagues, those from Rhode Island, those from all parts of the country, we will all miss him very deeply. My hope is and my belief is that his inspiration will live on. And so, although he will be lost, he will be with us always.

So I thank so much the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. WEYGAND) for his great tribute to the man that we all loved.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and all the speakers here this evening for their comments. It is a fitting tribute to a gentleman, a statesman, and we thank them for their comments.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Congress has lost a true giant of the 20th Century last night with the sudden passing of the Senior Senator from the State of Rhode Island, the Honorable JOHN H. CHAFEE.

JOHN CHAFEE's outstanding dedication to public service began over a half a century ago when he left Yale University to join the Marine Corps after Pearl Harbor. A hero of Guadalcanal, JOHN CHAFEE was recalled to active duty when the Korean War broke out and commanded a rifle company on the Korean peninsula during that bloody conflict. Accordingly, he was one of the few Members of either Chamber of Congress to be a veteran of both World War II and Korea.

As a young attorney, JOHN CHAFEE became active in Republican politics in his home state of Rhode Island. He was elected to Rhode Island's state legislature in 1956 as a young man of 34. He eventually served as the Minority Leader in that body, and was elected in 1962 to the first of three successful two year terms as Governor of his state.

In 1968, President-elect Nixon appointed JOHN CHAFEE to be our nation's Secretary of the Navy in which position he served meritoriously. Finally, in 1976, JOHN was elected to the first of four terms in the U.S. Senate. In that position, he served his state and nation admirably. He was Chairman of the Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee. In that position, he was a constant reminder to all of us of the need to protect the ecology of our planet, and much of the far-reaching environmental legislation of the last quarter century bears his fingerprints. JOHN CHAFEE was one of the co-founders of the Theodore Roosevelt Fund, which helped remind his fellow Republicans that the most conservation-minded of all Presidents—Theodore Roosevelt—was a member of the Grand Old Party.

JOHN CHAFEE, having previously announced his plans to retire in the year 2000, we knew we would be missing his outstanding leadership. I join with my colleagues in extending our condolences and prayers to JOHN's widow Virginia and to his family and the many who admired JOHN CHAFEE's service to his nation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for the better part of four decades, JOHN H. CHAFEE has served the State of Rhode Island with distinction and honor. As State Representative, Governor, Secretary of the Navy and United States Senator, JOHN CHAFEE has set an unprecedented level of service having an impact on both his state and the nation. His absence will leave a void not only in Rhode Island but on the nation as a whole.

When the United States entered World War II, he left Yale to enlist in the Marine Corps, and then served in the original invasion force at Guadalcanal. He was recalled to active duty in 1951, and commanded a rifle company in Korea.

He served six years in the Rhode Island House of Representatives, where he was elected Minority Leader. Running for Governor in 1962, CHAFEE was elected by 398 votes. He was then reelected in 1964 and 1996—both times by the largest margin in the State's history. In January 1969, he was appointed Secretary of the Navy and served in that post for three-and-a-half years.

JOHN CHAFEE's Senate career began in 1976. He was reelected to a fourth term in 1994, with sixty-five percent of the vote, and is the only Republican to be elected to the U.S. Senate from Rhode Island in the past 68 years.

Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, the Senator was a leading voice in crafting Clean Air Act of 1990 which strengthened pollution emissions legislation, and a bill to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act. Senator CHAFEE is a longtime advocate for wetland conservation and open space preservation, and has been the recipient of every major environmental award.

A senior member of the Finance Committee, Senator CHAFEE has worked successfully to expand health care coverage for women and children, and to improve community services for persons with disabilities. In 1990, Senator CHAFEE spearheaded the Republican Health Care Task Force and became a prominent figure in the national health reform debate. He went on to lead the bipartisan effort to craft a comprehensive health care reform proposal in 1994.

The Senator has received awards and endorsements from such organizations as The National Federation of Independent Business, The American Nurses Association, The League of Conservation Voters, The Sierra Club, Handgun Control Inc., Planned Parenthood, Citizens Against Government Waste, and the National PTA.

Senator JOHN CHAFEE has approached his remarkable career with the single premise to operate through consensus and cooperation wherever possible in order to get the business of the people done. A Republican operating in a heavily Democratic state, Senator CHAFEE understood that partisanship had no place in politics. Today, I express my sincere sympathy to Senator CHAFEE's family, friends and the great people of Rhode Island. America has lost a unique native son and a hero for us all to remember.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues and all Rhode Islanders in mourning the untimely death of Senator CHAFEE.

The Senator was a principled voice who was able to work with both sides of the aisle on the issues close to his heart. He left a lasting imprint in our nation's laws—playing a key role in some of the most important legislation passed by Congress over the last three decades, especially in the areas of health care and the environment.

He proved that a sustained dedication to one's ideals through politics can make a real and lasting difference to our communities and our country. His retirement would have left a void in Congress; his untimely death leaves a void in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing and working with a true statesman and citizen.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in expressing my deepest sympathy to Virginia Chafee and all the members of her family on the loss of her beloved husband, our esteemed colleague Senator JOHN H. CHAFEE.

Last night our nation lost a great American. JOHN CHAFEE saw combat service in both World War II and the Korean War. He served with distinction in the Rhode Island House of Representatives, as Governor of the State of Rhode Island, and as Secretary of the Navy. For the past 23 years, JOHN CHAFEE has served in the U.S. Senate where he was universally respected for his integrity, civility, and deeply held convictions.

Senator CHAFEE's contributions to our nation are many. His legacy includes a cleaner environment, better health care, and a model of true bipartisanship from which we can all learn.

I join in giving thanks for his life.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

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

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 344.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1987, FAIR ACCESS TO INDEMNITY AND REIMBURSEMENT ACT

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106–414) on the resolution (H. Res. 342) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1987) to allow the recovery of attorneys' fees and costs by certain employers and labor organizations who are prevailing parties in proceedings brought against them by the National Labor Relations Board or by the Occupational Safety and Health

Administration, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WILSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I joined the President and Health and Human Services Secretary Shalala today at the White House to call on Congress to approve a prescription drug benefit in Medicare. We also called on private health plans to continue providing coverage for medicine that doctors prescribe.

The problem is twofold. Millions of Americans, young and old, cannot afford the high costs of prescription drugs. And the majority in Congress refuse to lift a finger to reduce these prices and help protect public health.

Unlike other industrialized nations, the U.S. does not regulate drug prices. So drug companies charge us the highest prices of any nation by multiples of two and three and even four times what citizens in other countries pay.

Within the United States, drug companies are charging the highest prices to those with the least bargaining power, the elderly and those without health insurance. Drug companies are diverting also huge sums of money, money that comes from inflated drug prices, into advertising.

From a market perspective, drug companies are doing everything they should be doing. We cannot blame drug companies for maximizing their profits. They make more money than any other industry in America. That is their job. Nor can we blame the President and many of us in Congress for taking steps to protect seniors and the uninsured and to address the ramifications of what drug companies are doing to the disadvantaged. That is our job.

I have introduced an initiative that would bring down prices without taking away the industry's incentive to act like an industry. My bill promotes good old-fashioned American competition.

The Affordable Prescription Drug Act, H.R. 2927, does not use price controls or regulations to bring down prescription drug prices. What my bill does is reduce drug industry power and increase consumer power by subjecting the drug industry to the same competitive forces that other industries bear. It is a means of moderating prices that are too high without inadvertently setting prices too low.

Drawing from intellectual property laws already in place in the U.S. for other products in which access is an issue, pollution control devices as one example, legislation would establish product licensing for essential prescription drugs.

If a drug price is so outrageously high that it bears no semblance to pricing norms for other industries, the Federal Government could require drug manufacturers to license their patent to generic drug companies. The generic companies could sell competing products before the brand name expires, paying the patentholder royalties for that right. The patentholder would still be amply rewarded for being the first on the market, and Americans would benefit from competitively driven prices.

Alternatively, a drug company could lower voluntarily their price, which would preclude the Government from finding cause for product licensing. Either way, Madam Speaker, the price of prescription drugs would go down.

The bill requires drug companies to provide audited, detailed information on drug company expenses. Given that these companies are asking us to accept a status quo that has bankrupt seniors and fueled health care inflation, they have kept us guessing about their true cost for far too long.

We can continue to buy into drug industry threats that R&D will dry up unless we continue to shelter them from competition. That argument, however, Madam Speaker, falls apart when we look at how R&D is funded today.

Long story short, most of research and development dollars are provided by U.S. taxpayers. Get this: fifty percent of all the research and development for drug development in this country are paid for by taxpayers and the National Institutes of Health and other Federal and State agencies; and of the 50 percent that drug companies actually spend, they get tax deductions from Congress for that.

Yet, prescription drug companies reward American taxpayers by charging Americans consumers two times, three times, four times the price for prescription drugs that people in other countries pay.

Madam Speaker, we can do nothing in this body, or we can dare to challenge the drug industry on behalf of seniors and every health care consumer in this country.

I urge my colleagues to support lowering the cost of prescription drugs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. COBURN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ETHERIDGE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. WEYGAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WEYGAND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP: LEAD BY EXAMPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I have introduced today a sense-of-Congress resolution. This sense-of-Congress resolution simply says that if we are going to engage in an across-the-board cut in all the Federal agencies, then Members of Congress should accept a similar cut in their salaries.

I would like to share the contents of my resolution:

''Whereas, Congress may pass an across-the-board funding reduction for Federal agencies to bring closure to the debate on Fiscal Year 2000 funding levels;

Whereas, lawmakers voted themselves a 3.4 percent cost-of-living adjustment this year;

Whereas, salaries of Members of Congress would not be affected by an across-the-board reduction;

Whereas, the rest of the Government's payroll would be affected by the proposed reduction, which would likely result in layoffs and temporary furloughs;

Whereas, it is estimated that the reductions could force layoffs of 39,000 military personnel; and

Whereas, programs at the Department of Education, Department of Labor, and the Department of Health and Human Services, programs such as Meals on Wheels, the National Institutes of Health, Head Start, and the Safe and Drug Free Schools program would be reduced.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that any across-the-board funding reduction for agencies in Fiscal Year 2000 should also include the same reduction for salaries of Members of Congress.''

Why have I introduced this resolution? It is because a 1.4 percent reduction, as is being discussed, would lead to approximately 103,000 fewer women, infants, and children from benefiting from the food assistance and nutrition programs offered under the WIC program.

Title I, which provides educational benefits for disadvantaged students, would be cut by $109 million. Head Start would be cut so that some 6,700 fewer children would be able to benefit from Head Start programs.

The Centers for Disease Control would be cut by approximately $6.7 million. And a reduction of $35.7 million would take place in the area of substance abuse and mental health services, thereby denying over 5,000 American citizens access to mental health treatment and drug abuse services.

Vital programs for our farming community would be cut by $124 million. A 1.4 percent reduction would result in $3.9 billion being cuts from defense. This cut would require that military services make cuts in recruiting and engage in force separations of up to 39,000 military personnel.

Madam Speaker, I think blanket cuts are unwise and unnecessary. But if the leadership of this House is intent on forcing such cuts indiscriminately on good programs as well as bad, then they ought to be willing to bear some of the burden themselves and take a pay cut.

It is unseemly for this Congress to ask the American people to tighten their belts while not doing the same itself. With this sense-of Congress-resolution, I am simply asking that Members of Congress be consistent. If they really think it is wise to make blind cuts, then they should not be exempting their own salaries.

Quite frankly, I am sick and tired of the leadership up here treating themselves as special people while imposing hardships on ordinary Americans.

As we say in southern Ohio, what is good for the goose is good for the gander.

□ 2000

SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WILSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

ON PASSING OF SENATOR CHAFEE

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I would like to begin by expressing my words of recognition and condolences to the family of Senator CHAFEE. He clearly distinguished the legislative branch of government with service that was bipartisan, common sense, moderate, centrist, and simply was a personal example of integrity and honesty and courage, the like of which some suggest we have too little of around here at this time. In any event, he set the bar very high and it would do well for all of us as we mourn his passing to reflect carefully on his example and embrace it in our own lives to the extent we can. Again, that would be a tall order. Senator CHAFEE in my last visit with him was leading a bipartisan discussion on how we might somehow form a breakthrough in a knotty health policy issue that had divided the parties, divided the Chambers. It was just one example I got to see up close and personal the kind of bipartisan, nonideological, let-us-solve-the-problem leadership that Senator CHAFEE brought to his work, and clearly the work of the legislative branch was distinguished as a result of his efforts.

Tonight, I am leading a special order about Social Security. In the course of our discussion, I want to provide background about the nature of the program. I also want to discuss the debate that is waging at the moment relative to the budget discussions between the two political parties, and I want to focus on really the missing element of what has captured much of the present discussion, and that is the steps we must take to preserve the solvency of the program, to make certain that it is there not just for us but for our children and our grandchildren as well.

As will be the course in the course of this hour, as commonly happens during these special orders, I have invited several Members of the Democratic Caucus to join me on the floor this evening, and while many will no longer be available in light of the hour, I am very pleased to see the gentleman from Florida here.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BOYD).

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding so that I might have an opportunity to address the Nation on this very important issue of Social Security.

Madam Speaker, the district that I represent, which is like many other congressional districts across the Nation, has more than 76,000 people over the age of 65 who receive Social Security. Tens of millions of people across the country rely on this important program for their long-term retirement needs. This makes Social Security one of the most important programs administered by the Federal Government. Everybody in Washington has concluded that finally.

Madam Speaker, I am very troubled by much of the rhetoric that we have been hearing on Social Security over the last few weeks. The rhetoric over Social Security basically has been over what we do with surplus dollars. It really has nothing to do with extending the life of the Social Security trust fund, and that is what we should be talking about.

Now, Madam Speaker, the last time I checked, the law says that the only way we can spend surplus dollars or use the surplus dollars is invest them in treasury notes. And this Congress has made no attempt to change that, nor has that been suggested in any of the rhetoric that has been going on for the last several weeks. All of this fighting and rhetoric over the surplus tends to hide the fact that no action has been taken to extend the life of the Social Security trust fund. According to the Social Security trustees, beginning in the year 2014, the Social Security trust fund will take in less taxes than it pays out in benefits. This means that Social Security will need to redeem the treasury notes it holds starting in the year 2014. By the year 2034, all of those treasury notes will have been paid in full, with interest. Once those notes are repaid, the Social Security trust fund will not have any additional revenue coming in other than the payroll taxes paid in that year to pay the promised benefits, and this will result in a significant decrease in the benefit of about 25 percent. Again, that starts under current projections in the year 2034. This long-term crisis is what Congress should be addressing now, not arguing about the surplus dollars of today. Because the longer we wait, the harder it will be to financially address and solve this very serious long-term crisis.

There have been several plans suggested by both Democrats and Republicans to address this crisis, and my Republican colleagues in the majority up to this point have not considered any of them. At the State of the Union address, President Clinton put forward his plan. The Kolbe-Stenholm plan, a Democrat and Republican, has been introduced. It is a bipartisan plan. The Archer-Shaw plan has been proposed, as well as other plans which Congress should be considering. While no action has been taken on any of these plans this year, at a minimum this congressional leadership and the President should work together to set aside funding to enact Social Security reform, meaningful, substantive Social Security reform. This idea was first proposed in the Blue Dog budget back in the spring as a way to provide the funds necessary to ensure the long-term fiscal viability of the Social Security trust fund. That budget, I might say, enjoyed bipartisan support. Under our plan, the Blue Dog plan, we would set aside $83 billion over the next 5 years of non-Social Security surplus to help pay for any reform proposal that Congress might adopt. Again, this does not exclude any reform option. All it does is ensure that we can pay for whatever plan that the Congress and the President ultimately agree upon.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to urge the congressional leadership and President Clinton to include these provisions which will fund substantive Social Security reform in any final budget agreement that they reach. After all of the rhetoric has ended, I believe that laying the groundwork for Social Security reform is the best thing that we can do this year to address the crisis facing the trust fund and ensure that Social Security and its benefits are there for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Mr. POMEROY. Reclaiming my time from the gentleman from Florida, I want to thank him for an excellent discussion which really is reflective of a great deal of work the gentleman has provided and leadership on this issue. I thank him very much for his contribution.

Madam Speaker, as I discussed in the opening, what I want to do over the next few minutes is talk about Social

Security in its full context. I want to do that as a predicate to talk about specifically the very shallow, empty and false rhetoric coming from the majority relative to the stakes regarding Social Security as we discuss the final appropriations bills before this body this session. I then want to get to what I believe is the most important responsibility on all of us, Republican and Democrat alike, and that is lengthening the life of the Social Security trust fund so that it might be there to provide future generations the secure retirement it is presently affording. I want to talk about specifically even in the closing weeks of this session the opportunity that is before us to take this action, to promote the length of Social Security.

Social Security is our Nation's family protection program. It protects all of us. It is really a program of all of us protecting each of us, because it is a program truly that we all have a stake in. It offers us three distinct kinds of protection. First and of course the best known is the retirement income. Retirement income, payable every month, adjusted for inflation, coverage that you cannot outlive no matter how long you may live. You will have just as dependable as the first of the month that Social Security check for support. It has played an enormously important role in the lives of tens of millions of American families.

Just think about the retirement income statistics that follow. It is the primary income for two-thirds of all retirees over age 65; 90 percent of the income for one-third of the retirees. It is all they have got, which underscores how critically important when it comes to safeguarding, protecting and strengthening Social Security, how critical that challenge is. Again, one-third of all Social Security recipients have it for 90 percent or more of all their income.

There are two other benefits I need to mention in addition to the retirement benefit. One is the survivors benefit. This is when the breadwinner dies prematurely, leaving young dependents in the home. They have coverage through the Social Security program. Ninety-eight percent of the children in this country have coverage because of this feature of the Social Security program. When we think of Social Security, we think of an old people's program. Well, it is also a program for America's kids. And make no mistake about that.

Thirdly, it is a disability program, because if someone becomes disabled and unable to work, Social Security will be there. Three out of four workers in the workplace today have no other coverage but for Social Security. It is a vital protection. And without this, if they become banged up, cannot work, that is it, they do not have an income. With Social Security, they have an income. Again, three out of four, it is their only disability insurance policy.

Now, these are kind of black and white, programmatic examples of how Social Security works, but I want to put this in a very personal context, because Social Security has been very important to my family and to me personally. I was a teenager when my father died. I have received Social Security checks personally. Quite frankly, I do not know how I would have gotten through college without the Social Security program. My mother is now 79 years old. Unlike my grandmother who in her last years moved in with our family because she had not the financial resources to live independently, my mom lives independently and hopefully she will live independently for a good many years to come, because she has that Social Security check coming every month. It really makes a difference in our family between my mom living alone, as she prefers, or living with us as she is always welcome, but it is not her preference.

Finally, I have also, like many of us do, friends that have become disabled in one form or another. I have a friend, a good friend, but he has developed a very disabling bipolar mental illness and simply has been unable to work. Without Social Security, I do not know what he would do. He is now in his late 40's, does not have family to support him, and that Social Security check keeps my friend going. Without it, I shudder to think of what might be the consequences. But it has been vital. So when we talk about retirement income, we talk about survivors income, we talk about disability income, we are talking about literally Social Security achieving a miraculous benefit to the families that it touches every day, and across the country, of course, we are talking about millions and millions of families.

Now that we reflect on the program, think about the good it is doing, let us think about the challenges that face it. It is running a surplus now. In fact very healthy surpluses. But if we look at the obligations upon the program going forward, we see the story starts to change. By 2011, the Social Security program will no longer be in surplus. While that is a good ways out, you may think, well, what is the problem, we need to collect and hold the surpluses for Social Security so that the resources will be there as the baby boomers move into retirement and the draw on the program starts to accelerate. By the year 2021, we are not just paying Social Security benefits based on the FICA tax revenue, the interest of the Social Security trust fund, we at that point start to actually draw down the principal in the trust fund itself. By the year 2034 at present projection, we will wipe out the Social Security trust fund and benefits are scheduled to fall a full 25 percent.

Driving this, of course, is the shift in the demographics of the country: 5.1 workers per retiree in 1960, 3.4 workers per retiree today. In the year 2035, 2 workers per retiree. So we see that the cash flow generating capacity of the workforce changes and the retirement need, the draw on the program accelerates.

□ 2015

The key to answering the question which party is fighting for Social Security is to look at which party addresses the date at which the program goes bust; 2034 it is scheduled to go bust. Benefits fall 25 percent. Which party is addressing that figure? It is the long-term solvency of the program that is really what is at stake here.

There are three ways to prolong solvency: raise taxes. The taxes are already at 12.4 percent. I believe they are already absolutely as high as can be tolerated, and if we can figure out a way to reduce them without damaging the solvency of the program, I would be all for that.

The other alternative: cut benefits. And you do have people talking about cutting benefits, no longer having some people in this country participate in Social Security, raising the retirement age. Well, the average Social Security check each month is about $700 a month. You cannot reduce the average Social Security check in this country without doing significant harm to the one-third of the recipients that are depending on that to live.

And raising retirement age. I tell you I do not know about all of the country, but the people I represent back in North Dakota do not think that they ought to have to try and make it on the farm or doing whatever they are doing until age 70 or even higher to receive a Social Security check. They are counting on it as is presently constituted in law.

Well, if you are not going to raise taxes, if you are not going to cut benefits, the way you add to the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund is to ultimately interject general fund balance into this program to preserve it over the long haul.

That is the backdrop of Social Security, but there is quite a different picture being presented at the present time, and I would talk about that briefly and engage my colleagues in the discussion as well. The House majority has truly launched the most audacious attack that I have seen, charging Democrats with raiding the Social Security revenues. The facts of the matter are it is not true. The fact of the matter is that the charges are hypocritical and untrue.

We are operating under a Republican-passed budget. They are the majority party in this Chamber, and they passed a budget almost on straight party lines. Spending that has occurred within this Chamber has been under the budget resolution, that is, the Republican budget resolution.

The particular spending bills that have been brought forward have been passing with Republican majorities. They are the majority party, they are passing the spending bills, and we have some important third-party validation in terms of what those spending bills

have produced so far. The Congressional Budget Office has reported that Social Security revenues have been drawn on already to the tune of $14 billion, and I will tell you that that ticker is still running, that amount is still accelerating; and so the very things that the Republicans are charging the Democrats for doing, they have already done even though they have used every appropriations and budget gimmick in the book for a little sleight of hand to try and indicate that that is not the case.

In any event, take that as it will. In any event it does nothing to preserve the solvency of Social Security. For all their rhetoric, they have done nothing. Not one piece of legislation has been considered on this floor this year to advance the solvency of Social Security one day. Let us look at that legislative record.

Here we are very late in the first year of this session. For all the late-bloom rhetoric on Social Security, why in the world have they not brought a plan to the floor to advance the solvency of the trust fund? Nothing by way of activity. Why? Well, I believe it has something to do with their tax cut bill which was earlier considered, passed by the Republican majority, passed by the Senate Republican majority, sent to the President, which fortunately he vetoed because that tax bill would have gobbled up all the general fund revenue that might otherwise have been available to preserve Social Security.

They took the funds for which we can strengthen Social Security, and they shipped them out the door in a great big tax cut benefiting the wealthiest people in this country. Thank goodness the President vetoed that bill and we were able to sustain that veto on the House floor.

What I think is amazing is mere weeks after we stopped them from basically taking the funds that we need to preserve and strengthen Social Security and shipping it out to the wealthiest contributors in the form of their tax cut, just weeks after that they parade around on the floor of the House talking about how they are saving Social Security when they have not strengthened this one bit; they have not added one day to the solvency of the trust fund.

I think one has a responsibility to do more than just critique, however, an important matter like this; and I would just offer the following plan for strengthening, for actually doing something about trust fund solvency.

We are at a point to capture the Social Security surpluses. We must do that. Over time we must capture every dollar coming in and allocate it to the Social Security program. We must do so in a way that draws down the debt held by this country. As you invest those Social Security trust funds, in this case we will actually be redeeming publicly held debt, bringing the debt down from the country.

And then thirdly, because ultimately when you draw that debt down from these Social Security surpluses, you are going to have a windfall in terms of money now going to pay on interest that is no longer needed to go on interest. You take that money, and you invest it in the Social Security Trust Fund. Basically, Social Security earned that money, you can argue; Social Security ought to get that money.

Taking that step would take that trust fund I was talking about and move it from 2034 to 2050. 2050. The program without further change would be able to pay benefits through 2050.

Now I am a classic baby boomer, born in 1952. Year 2050 comes, I am going to be 98 years old, and in fact I do not know that I will be around to see the year 2050 as a good many of us will not be. But the point I want to make is moving into 2050 in the fashion promoted, actually allows us to strengthen and enhance the solvency of the trust fund.

I see that a couple of Members are joining me on the floor, and I want to include them in the discussion. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT).

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. It is a pleasure to join you, my good friend from North Dakota.

I think for all of us, when we return to our districts, this is an issue that is of real importance to the people that we represent; and I have to admit that when I have town hall meetings and advertise the topic is going to be Social Security, the audience is generally filled with people who are over the age of 65, and that is somewhat surprising because for many of these people the Social Security system right now is in good shape.

For those who are in our parents' generation, they are probably not going to live beyond the year 2034, so that the assets are there right now for them. But as my friend from North Dakota mentioned, two-thirds of the elderly in this country rely on Social Security as a primary source of their income, and an amazing one-third of the elderly in this country rely on Social Security as the sole source of their income.

It is their lifeline; and, therefore, we have a responsibility to make sure that any changes that are brought up, any proposals that are brought up before this body, do not in any way, in any way, lower the income for these people, these tens of millions of people who rely on Social Security either as the primary source or as the exclusive source of income for their families.

But I am sure, as my friend from North Dakota knows, when we talk to younger people, they are really quite wary. They are not as trustful about the Social Security system, and in fact many of them say the money will not be there when I am going to retire, and the reason they say that, I think, can be summarized in part by what the gentleman from North Dakota said, because when the system began, you had 5.1 workers for each retiree. We are now at 3.4 workers for each retiree, but in about 25 to 30 years we are only going to have two workers for each retiree. So we have to do something to extend the life of Social Security beyond the year 2034.

That is why I am as shocked and baffled as the gentleman from North Dakota about the arguments that we are hearing in this Chamber today. As the gentleman from North Dakota indicated, there has not been a single piece of legislation that has been considered by this Congress that would extend the life of Social Security. At the same time we hear many of our colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle saying, I think, as the gentleman indicated, quite untruly, that the Democrats are in some way raiding Social Security surpluses. That is wrong because obviously we are not the ones that are passing the budget.

The people who are passing the budget are the Republicans. They are the ones on a party line vote for most of these measures that are advancing their agenda. So even if we wanted to, it would be virtually impossible for us to do so.

But the fact of the matter is the Congressional Budget Office, which is a nonpartisan office, although the head of the Congressional Budget Office is appointed by the Republicans, has stated that in effect the Republicans themselves have spent some of the surplus on, some of the Social Security surplus to pay for their programs. So if anyone could be accused of taking money from the Social Security system, it is Republicans.

But I think the American people are not interested in whether the Republicans are doing it or the Democrats are doing it. I think they view that as the same old potato/pa-ta-toe tomato/ta-ma-toe politics; and their reaction is let us call the whole thing off, and they will walk away from our political system, which is the worst thing that they can do.

This is far too serious an issue to let partisan politics play a key role in it, and that is why I think what we have to do in this chamber, Democrats and Republicans, is let us put aside this ugly partisan rhetoric, let us put aside these claims, and let us work on the real issue. The real issue is extending the life of Social Security, and until we have a measure on this floor that is a bipartisan, serious proposal, we are going to remain mired in partisan politics, which is the worst thing that we can do.

So I want to applaud the gentleman from North Dakota. I see my good friend from Ohio is here; my friends from Arkansas and Maine are here as well; and I think it is good that we are taking this hour tonight to talk about this because I think maybe we can get others on both sides of the aisle to form a nucleus to move ahead and come up with a proposal that will extend the life of Social Security.

So I yield back to the gentleman from North Dakota and thank him very much for his invitation to be here.

Mr. POMEROY. Reclaiming my time, and I thank very much the gentleman for participating in the discussion tonight. I think you have laid out a couple of very important ideas.

First, the open-mindedness to participate in any kind of bipartisan plan they might move forward that is talking about actually lengthening the life of the trust fund. The President has advanced a plan that lengthens the life of the trust fund. I think we craft the President's long-term plan on the majority's short-term funding plan to get us through this year. You could have the beginnings of a bipartisan deal that ultimately is absolutely true to Social Security because it does something about the length of the trust fund.

Your comments are just so critically important in terms of establishing a benchmark by which the public can really evaluate whether anything is going on with Social Security that means anything or not. The test is does it lengthen the solvency of the program? Does it preserve the life of the trust fund? And that really is the core of the issues you very well outlined.

I thank the gentleman for participating, and I would yield now to the gentleman who has patiently waited to participate as well, the gentleman from Cleveland (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. It is certainly true that Americans are depending on us to guarantee Social Security. There is no question about it, and they are looking for help from both sides of the aisle. I know that in this big debate that has developed over the last few years the role that I have played in it is to suggest that while we want to guarantee Social Security, we need to avoid any effort towards privatization of Social Security.

As you remember, there has been a big hue and cry in Washington over the past few years saying that we can only turn to the private sector to guarantee this tremendous social and economic benefit known as Social Security, and it is lucky that Congress did not privatize Social Security this year.

You remember on October 15 the headlines nationally? Stocks Tumble After Warning By Greenspan, The Dow's Big Drop. An unexpectedly sharp rise in consumer price index fed inflation fears contributing to the Dow's worst drop in a year. The Dow Industrial Average today suffered its worst loss in a year, dipping briefly below the symbolic 10,000 mark it bridged in March as investors recoiled from most of the high-flying stocks that have driven this stage of the bull market.

□ 2030

Now, the falling stock market, and you see this graph right here, what goes up must come down, the falling stock market illustrates the danger we place the American people in if Congress ever agreed to bet Social Security money on the stock market.

While my good friend the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) does this country a service by calling a special order on this topic where we have to say we are going to guarantee Social Security, we also know that investing Social Security in the stock market is a risky proposition that may be fine for people with extra income to gamble, but Americans need a guaranteed income when they are old or disabled. So long as Congress and the President keep Social Security out of the stock market, Social Security has a chance to be sound.

Even as the stock market has been falling, and you might find this interesting, even as the stock market has been falling, Social Security has been getting stronger. The trustees released an analysis that asserted that the Social Security trust fund is now projected to be solvent through the year 2034, without any Congressional action. The previous trustees report set the date of projected insolvency to 2032. Now, think about this. The Social Security trust fund has gained 2 complete years of solvency without privatizing Social Security or investing it in the stock market.

While it is true that Americans are depending on us to guarantee Social Security, I think that Americans also want us to take note of the fact that Social Security got stronger without any Congressional action because the economy is stronger and wages are rising. This should be a lesson for everyone. We do not need the stock market to solve Social Security's projected financial shortfalls. We need to strengthen the economy, we need to raise wages, and Social Security will strengthen itself.

As the stock market falls there is even more good news for Social Security. The President wants to credit the Social Security trust fund with an additional $2.3 trillion to guarantee surpluses for the trust fund over the next 50 years. No other organization, public or private, has a plan for operation 50 years into the future. Social Security is secure.

What policymakers need to know is that Social Security is secure as long as the Congress and the President back Social Security with a guarantee of the full faith and credit of the United States. Congress can say that the United States of America will pay all promised benefits, just as America stands 100 percent behind its bonds. All Americans win if Congress guarantees Social Security. But if Social Security is invested in the stock market, all Americans will lose guaranteed old age income.

Turning Social Security over to Wall Street will mean that senior citizens, the retirees, would have to check the Dow Jones before they check their mailboxes to see if they have money for shelter, food and medicine.

The falling stock market should remind us that it is better to have a guaranteed monthly check from the U.S. Treasury. The American people received a big break this year when Congress did not privatize Social Security. We should leave Wall Street gambling to those who can afford to lose.

Americans are depending on us to guarantee Social Security. They need help from people on both sides of the aisle, and I am proud to be here with my colleagues who have a commitment to Social Security and the security of our elderly today and to future Americans.

I thank the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) for his commitment, for his dedication to Social Security, and I look forward to working with the gentleman on those solutions which we know the American people will find their best interests served. So I thank the gentleman. I see our friend the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is here. I am glad we are all working on this issue.

Mr. POMEROY. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from Cleveland for his very vigilant efforts in this regard. Clearly if you watch what in particular the Republican Presidential candidates are talking about, in the event any of them would end up in the White House, the privatization programs will be before this Congress that fast. So your working your vigilance will be an important matter ongoing.

Clearly there are those that would like to actually end Social Security as we know it, as a Federal program of all of us protecting each of us, diminish the Federal role and allocate it out into the private sector somehow in a way that would only significantly increase the risk on the individuals, individuals, again, as we have said, two-thirds of which get 70 percent or better of their income from the program, and one-third wholly dependent upon it. So the stakes are very high. I appreciate the gentleman's leadership.

I yield now, Madam Speaker, to the gentleman from Maine, Mr. Allen.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) for his leadership and his knowledge on this particular issue. It is good to be here tonight to have a chance to bring some common sense and some realistic discussion into a debate that is now going onto the airwaves in this country.

I want to start by trying to really talk about a couple of things that you hear all the time but really are not true. When I talk to young people in my district back in Maine, particularly high school students, I ask them, how many of you think that Social Security will be there for you? And very few, if any, hands go up in the room. They think that, somehow, Social Security is going away. But the truth is that as long as people in this country are working, Social Security will be there. There will always be Social Security revenues coming in, as they do now, that are turned around and going out to pay benefits to people who need them.

The problem is that in 2034, the Social Security authority runs out, the solvency of the system runs out, unless we make some changes, and then there really will not be the authority to pay out funds at that point in time. But even in the worst of all possible worlds, where this Congress did not meet its responsibility to make appropriate changes, benefits would be three-quarters of what they are today. The system does not just disappear and go away. What you would have is a reduced level of benefits.

Social Security will be there, but it will never be a retirement system. It is a social insurance system. It is meant to protect people from the worst kinds of poverty, and, in that regard, it is probably the most successful program in this country's history.

But what we have to do as Members of Congress, as elected officials, is to make sure that the benefits are not reduced, that we figure out a way to cover people so that they will have the security in the future that they have today.

The second topic I want to mention is all this talk about raiding the Social Security surplus. In fact, there are Republican ads out there on air waves in this country accusing Democrats of theft, people coming in in the dark of night to steal hard-earned Social Security dollars.

No one, and I say this about my Republican colleagues as well as Democrats, no one is raiding the Social Security surplus. No one is stealing that money and taking it away so it will not be available for benefits.

What is happening is this: The Treasury is borrowing the Social Security surplus, promising to pay back to the Social Security trust fund interest on the money that is borrowed. If the U.S. Treasury will not pay back its money to the Social Security trust fund, no one will. The Treasury has always done that. Social Security benefits have always been paid to beneficiaries.

What is going on here? What is going on here is politics, the politics of a kind that is really very disturbing, because the benefits that people get from Social Security are not at risk in this debate. The long-term solvency of Social Security is not at risk in this debate. What is going on has really a lot to do with politics, partisan positioning.

The Washington Post the other day had an editorial headlined ''Fake Debate.'' What they were talking about was all this controversy about raiding the Social Security surplus. It is a diversion.

We have a problem, we have a serious problem, but it is a manageable problem, and it has very little to do with raiding. It is all about how we deal with the long-term consequences of this plan.

As I said, Republicans are running TV ads accusing Democrats of theft. Democrats are rightfully saying, ''you are saying you are not borrowing the Social Security surplus, but in fact you have already done that to the tune of $13 billion, and before we are done here, probably some more will be 'borrowed,'" but it does not put benefits at risk or the long-term health of the system at risk.

It is important. It is important that if we borrow, if we wind up borrowing at all, and, as I say, the Republican appropriations bills have already borrowed $13 billion, that ought to be kept to a minimum. Why? Because there is one thing we need to do in this country. We need to pay down the national debt. The most important thing we can do for the long-term solvency of Social Security is pay down the national debt, so that this country is stronger economically, better able to pay Social Security benefits when the baby-boomers retire, and that is what we are doing.

From 1980 to the present there are only 3 years when any debt from any of the national debt has been paid down with the Social Security surplus, only 3 years: The year we are going into, we can already project that; the year we are going into, fiscal year 2000 we expect to pay down the national debt by about $124 billion; the year we are in, the year 1999 is about $124 billion of paying down the national debt with the Social Security surplus; last year, 1998, paying down the national debt by about $98 billion.

This is unprecedented in these two decades. We are doing well. We are getting our fiscal house in order. Democrats are leading the way. What we have been able to do is assert some fiscal discipline and do it in a way that will benefit the Social Security system in the long term.

But it is not enough. As the gentleman from North Dakota has pointed out on many occasions, in 2034 this system becomes insolvent, so we need to make changes now that will extend the life of the system beyond that date.

I applaud the President for the plan that he has announced, because it is a way of extending the solvency of the system to 2050. By contrast, the folks on the other side of the aisle have not come up with a proposal that I am aware of that would extend the life of the Social Security system by one day, not one day, and all the charts and all the exhibits and all this talk about raiding the Social Security system has nothing to do at all with extending the life of the system and making sure that it will be there for baby-boomers when they retire, when their needs are the same as seniors today.

That is why it is a little bit discouraging to hear some of the things we have heard, both on TV ads and on the floor of this body over the last few weeks, because, frankly, if we are not dealing with the facts, if we are not being honest with each other, if we are making allegations that are simply untrue, it is the people of this country who lose.

There is no question that we Democrats created Social Security, extended Social Security, protected Social Security and will fight for Social Security as long as we are here. There is no question about that. What we need to do is make sure that that basic commitment is not undermined by wild allegations that have no basis in fact. That is what I am disturbed to say I am hearing from the other side of the aisle this day.

But I believe, more than anything, that the commitment to Social Security is so strong that we will protect it, that we will protect it for those who receive it now, that we will protect it for the baby-boom generation, and that we will protect it for those kids back in the high school in Maine who do not really believe it will be there for them. We have a responsibility to do that. But this is a manageable problem, and if we maintain our fiscal discipline, if we pay down the national debt, if we adopt a plan that will extend the life of the Social Security system, it will be there well into the 22d century, not just the 21st.

I thank the gentleman from North Dakota for leading this discussion tonight, and I appreciate all the hard work that he has been doing on this work.

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I think the gentleman's contribution to this special order has been significant and reflects his time and effort and expertise in the Social Security issue. I also appreciate the tone, which is measured, which is factual, which gives the other side their due when they are entitled to their due.

I have heard on this floor parties suggest that 100 percent of the economic recovery is due to the fact that some Republicans got elected in 1994 and that everything bad that occurred before then was the fault of Democrat Congresses, notwithstanding Republicans in the White House.

You cannot have it both ways. When there is a Republican in the White House, it is entirely the President that gets the credit, and the Democrat Congress gets the blame if something bad happens. Conversely, when it is a Republican Congress and a Democrat in the White House, it is 100 percent the Congress that has saved the day. The people of this country know better.

□ 2045

They know that this economic recovery, which is literally without precedent, occurred because of a very courageous step taken in 1993, offered as the budget plan of the new president, passed by this Congress on a straight party line vote, that began to tackle the deficits.

In the spirit of bipartisanship, I will give the other side some due for holding down spending, along with Democratic participation, because the balanced budget amendments of 1997 was a bipartisan vote. I was proud to vote for that bill.

We have collectively held down spending, but they have been part of

that effort. So under the deficit reduction plan passed by the Democrats, combined with fiscal restraint of both parties in the years since, we have reversed a course that brought our country to the brink of economic ruin.

Just to cite some statistics, debt to GDP, gross domestic product, in 1980 was 26 percent. What happened in the decade and a half that followed, literally in the 12 years that followed, was complete fiscal irresponsibility. Both parties have plenty to shoulder in terms of blame for that, but that brought us in 1997 to where debt to gross domestic product was 47 percent, fully 20 percent higher than in 1980, just 17 years earlier.

We have made some headway, and today it is 40 percent. We are reversing the trends that have brought us so deeply into debt by those terribly out-of-balance budgets.

What the President has proposed is to capture this surplus generated by social security, preserve it for social security, and pay down debt held by the public. That would bring us in the year 2015 to where borrowing costs were 2 cents on every Federal dollar. Presently we pay interest, and it costs 15 cents on every taxpayer dollar, just interest. By the year 2015, according to the President's plan, that would be down to 2 percent, the lowest debt to GDP since 1917, literally without precedent in modern history.

So this business about having resolved to save social security monies, to apply them to the social security trust fund to pay down the national debt, this has a great deal of importance. But the crux of the President's plan is to basically leverage that savings. If we reduce debt at that rate, by the year 2011 we will be saving every year $107 billion in interest costs.

Interest achieves nothing. Interest costs achieve nothing by way of strengthening the national defense. They do not improve our schools, they do not reduce taxes. They are just a burden that we have to carry, much as an American family carries their mortgage interest burden or their credit card interest burden. If we can retire debt to this tune, we can save each year $107 billion.

The President's plan is to take this interest savings and pay it into the social security trust fund, because we know we have a shortfall. That is why we are going to run out of money in the year 2034. But rather than raising social security taxes to address that shortfall or cutting benefits to address that shortfall, or making that retirement age go even higher than it already is, the President would take the money we are no longer spending in interest and divert that into the social security trust fund.

That is the kind of infusion we need from the general fund that will ultimately push the solvency of the program out to 2050, so it covers virtually all of the retirement needs of the baby-boomer generation.

I have been very pleased that in the course of this special order, several of our caucus' leading participants in social security have joined me on the floor. I would like to recognize one other who has just joined me, very recently having completed a hard-fought but very important legislative victory on the Patients' Bill of Rights. I am pleased to have the efforts and attention and support of the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) now on the issue of social security.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY).

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from North Dakota, for those kind words.

I can remember when I first came to the Congress. In the Blue Dog Caucus, my good friend, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) came because we had had a terrible disaster in North Dakota. We had had a terrible flood. He came to the Blue Dog Caucus and he talked to us about how badly they needed the money to help repair the damage done by the flood. I remember how hard he fought and how hard he worked for the people of North Dakota.

I appreciate what he is doing here this evening. Mr. Speaker, it shows us what a good man my colleague, the gentleman from North Dakota is, when he stands here on this floor this evening and gives credit to the Republicans for the work that they have done to help reduce the debt and help reduce deficit spending, and try to make this country better by being fiscally responsible. It shows us what a charitable man he is.

I have seen those ads they are running against my friend, the gentleman from North Dakota. I was amazed the first time I saw them. I do not see how anyone could publicly accuse my good friend, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) of being a thief. It is amazing to me that anyone would rise to that level or sink to that level. But I tell the Members that just to let them know what a good man this is who is working on this particular issue this evening.

Saving social security is not complicated. First, we stop spending the social security trust fund. We preserve and invest it. But we cannot do that by just claiming to do it. Talk is one thing and action is another. The same people that we hear down here accusing the Democrats of spending the social security trust fund are the same people that said that the Census is an emergency. We have known for 200 years we were going to have to take a Census in the year 2000, but they were going to declare an emergency and use that as a budget gimmick, so we can say we are not spending the social security trust fund.

They have done these things dozens of times in this budget year. It is amazing to me that they would want to do that. It is the responsibility of the majority party to give us a budget that does not do this.

By definition, the minority party cannot pass legislation. Our Republican colleagues keep talking about spending the social security trust fund. They should know, they have been spending it. But they love to say, well, someone else is doing it. It is not my fault, someone else is doing it. It is almost childlike to hear this. Then they take money and run ads accusing someone of being a thief if they voted for any of these appropriations bills. Let us just blame it on someone else. Do not worry about the consequences. Do not worry about extending the life of the social security trust fund.

Just imagine what would have happened if the President had not vetoed that irresponsible tax bill that they tried to pass.

After we stop spending the social security trust funds, the second thing we have to do is pay off the debt, as my colleagues have also talked about here this evening. We take the on-budget surplus and pay off the debt, and we extend the life of the trust fund.

As my colleague, the gentleman from North Dakota, and my colleague, the gentleman from Maine, have already mentioned, then we take this interest that is saved and we have some money to work with, and we can extend the lives of these trust funds. We can save social security and Medicare. It is not that we do not know how to do it, it is having the political will to do it.

We also must not forget that we have got to continue to do the things that sustain this economy and let it continue to grow. If our economy goes in the tank, we are going to be in a lot more trouble with the social security trust fund and all other budget issues than we are right now, so we have to remember that we have to continue to expand our trading markets overseas and all the other things: Educate our children, continue to do research and development, and sustain this economy that has made us the greatest Nation in the history of the world.

It is a pleasure to be on the floor this evening and to compliment my good friend, the gentleman from North Dakota, for the great work he does for the people of North Dakota, for the people of this great country, and the high quality that he brings to this Congress and to this House of Representatives.

Mr. POMEROY. I thank the gentleman. I thank him deeply for the kind observations that he made about me, and more importantly, for the contribution he has made in terms of talking about the vital nature of the social security program and the importance of the debate before us.

I do not think it is the worst thing that ever happened that the parties find themselves now in an at least rhetorical debate in terms of who can best protect social security. This is good competition. This is good competition. May the best party win in terms of protecting it and preserving it and strengthening it on into the future.

We could be in quite a different matter, where all of this surplus is coming in, and rather than looking at the long-range responsibilities for our country, like the families we represent look after their long-term needs when they might have an unexpected windfall, we need to save this and commit it for the long haul, because as we have talked about, social security is a program that is on the books. It is a vital program, but it is going to run out of money in 2034, and benefits are going to fall 25 percent if we do not take the steps now to strengthen it.

So again, this debate, this little competition we are having in terms of who can best strengthen and protect social security, that is a good competition. One of the things that will make it good is whether or not there is actually any delivery behind all the rhetoric.

I see they are bringing out the charts now, so I guarantee Members in the next hour they are going to get an awful lot of rhetoric about Democrats raiding social security, and all the rest of it. I would expect those listening to what might follow to know that the issue is not the rhetoric, the issue is the performance. Ultimately that can only be measured by one thing. That trust fund, the trust fund that is going to go bust in 2030, is it preserved and strengthened? Is that trust fund date pushed back, or is it not?

We have advanced a plan that would measure the interest savings to the Federal Government by paying down the national debt due to these social security revenues. We would then take that savings reflected in general fund dollars and put it into the social security trust fund.

Again, the social security trust fund does not have enough money, so there are three things we can do to strengthen the program long-term. We can raise taxes. I do not think we should do that. We can cut benefits, stop the COLAS, raise the retirement age. I do not think we should do that. Or we can interject additional general funds. That I think we have to do, because the other two alternatives are simply unacceptable.

So let us have that general fund contribution make sense. If we consider the fact that this debt buy-down that saves these interest charges of the Federal Government is directly attributable to social security in the first place, that, Mr. Speaker, is a very good program for shoring up this program over the long haul.

I used to be an insurance commissioner. For 8 years I regulated insurance in North Dakota. That meant that I looked at a lot of phony pitches, put a lot of insurance agents out of business if they were lying about what they were selling, and I fined the heck out of a lot of companies, while I was at it.

I would just say that the efforts underway, the rhetorical efforts of the majority to pose as defenders of social security, would certainly not pass any ethical tests that are presently applicable to the sale of insurance in this country. I have put people out of business for charges that were as false as what they are saying about what the Democrats are doing relative to social security.

Let me just sum up by emphasizing the core points. We are operating under the budget passed by the majority. The appropriations bills have been passed by the majority. The Congressional Budget Office asserts that the majority, who is paying these ads to run in North Dakota and other places accusing Democrats of raiding the social security trust fund somehow, that they have already spent into that trust fund, those revenues, from the cash flow on social security to the tune of $14 billion and going up.

□ 2100

So let us put aside the smoke and the tired political rhetoric and look for bipartisan ways to lengthen the life of the trust fun. Nothing else cuts it. It is only looking at who is extending the life of the trust fund by which voters in the American public can determine who has been advancing the interest of this final program.

SAVING THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WILSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on the left for their interesting perspective. Perhaps the reason we hear such ferocity and denial is because, as former President Reagan used to say, facts are stubborn things.

I am joined this evening on the floor by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), a member of the Committee on Appropriations, who represents Savannah and its environs.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY), I think maybe it would be a very beneficial thing, maybe, tomorrow night or the next time that we do actually have interaction in a debate, particularly about the spending situation that we are in.

I find it, for example, atrocious that the party of the gentleman from North Dakota last year mischaracterized the statement intentionally of Newt Gingrich about Medicare. I find that absolutely appalling. The distinguished gentleman from North Dakota, to my knowledge, did not do that. I would have talked to him about it if he did.

The other day on the House floor, a 1984 statement of ''Candidate Dick Armey'' was paraded out here saying ''Majority Leader Dick Armey,'' which he was not the majority leader in 1984. So on a lot of this rhetorical terrorism, I am with the gentleman from North Dakota and would certainly like to have a one-on-one discussion, a party-to-party discussion.

What I am very concerned about is we have the President who vetoed the Commerce-State-Justice bill tonight because he wants to put more money into the U.N. He vetoed foreign aid because he want to increase foreign aid. As I listened to the statements of the gentleman from North Dakota tonight, his group statement, as I understand, we seem to have agreement that there is no more money out there except to reduce spending or spend it smarter.

So if we are all in agreement, although I do have a quote here from the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) that I am very concerned about that he said yesterday, not 1984, and not about the health care financing administration or anything like that; but the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) yesterday was making a statement on one of the Sunday talk shows about we should spend a little bit of Social Security. I am concerned about that.

But the point really is that we are in this budget debate. If we all agree, and we did agree last week on the House floor, a vote of 419 to 0, that we would not increase taxes. We did agree we were not even going to take it out of Social Security. There is no more surplus out there. Then we all need to say is, okay, where do we take the money out of if we do go along with the President and wanting to spend more money on foreign aid?

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield for a brief response to the thoughts of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON)?

Mr. HAYWORTH. I yield to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY).

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I think an ongoing dialogue, I would be happy to have one on the floor of the House in the context of special orders, would be beneficial. I would like the topics to include the short-term and longer-term framework for the program.

Right now I think it can actually get tripped up in what amounts to kind of blurring accounting-like arguments to the American public. I think we have to discuss the long-term solvency of the program, even as we deal with the appropriations challenge that faces Congress.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Arizona will yield, I agree with that. Some Members who join the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) tonight, for example, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH), was saying he is against investment of the funds. Well, that was the President of the United States, not necessarily the position of the Democrat House Members, but that was the President of the United States who was saying that, and only this weekend backed off on that under the rhetorical category we need to clarify where that was coming from.

Another Member, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN), said there has not been a bill introduced. I do not know what he would call the Archer-Shaw bill, which one of the other Members who was here tonight actually brought up himself, that that does address, I think, 75 years of Social Security solvency.

Frankly, it is a very intellectual accountant-type approach to this. It is a very complex problem. It is a complex solution. But that might be something that my colleagues choose to talk about, too, that we could throw on the table because I am not necessarily on that bill myself. I do not know that the gentleman from North Carolina signed off on it. But it has a vision, and it has some seriousness to it. It is well worth deciding.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, if I might make a final point, like I say, I think if the parties are in genuine competition in terms of which party best defends and strengthens Social Security, the American people win and win big.

What we need to check each other on, I think, is whether there is legitimacy, factual legitimacy in the claims that we are making as we purport to strengthen Social Security. I would just say the bottom line for me is, do we preserve and lengthen the trust fund or do we not? Really, that has to be a key kept in our discussions even as we go forward in the last week of session.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, one thing that is so important to Social Security is that the actions of this Congress in the next 4 to 5 days as we try to wrap up the appropriations process, if we agree that there is no more money out there in terms of an operating surplus, except from Social Security, and we all agree we do not want to take that money, then we have to go back to the very hard work.

I am a member of the Committee on Appropriations, and I can promise my colleagues there has been a lot of cooperation on both sides of the aisle to try to spend the money wisely. It is extremely difficult to try to fund all the things we mutually agree on, education, health care, senior programs, environmental programs. Then, discouragingly enough, we have this bipartisan agreement signed by both parties, a lot of fanfare in 1997; and yet it cannot be supported on a one-partisan basis. It has got to be bipartisan.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) yielding to me, and I look forward to continuing this dialogue.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen on the other side of the aisle, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY), for spending some time here.

I would, Mr. Speaker, call attention to the statement that appeared on the wires of the Associated Press on October 20, less than 1 week ago, of this year, and I would encourage, Mr. Speaker, those who may be viewing these proceedings through other matters perhaps might want to take a look at the easel in the well of the House.

I will quote from the document right now: ''Privately, some Democrats say a final budget deal that uses some of the pension program surpluses would be a political victory for them.''

Mr. Speaker, let me simply say that I think, if we, in fact, end up, at the insistence of the President of the United States, raiding the Social Security Trust Fund to spend more and more money, while some in this chamber might consider that a political victory, Mr. Speaker, I must tell my colleagues that would be a defeat for all the American people.

My friends on the left seem to be fixated on a historical argument; and it is simple, Mr. Speaker, to fall into the category of who shot John or who created the program. But I would submit to this chamber, Mr. Speaker, the question before us at this time in this place is not a question of who created Social Security. The question becomes who stands four-square for strengthening and preserving Social Security.

I would recall, just a few months ago, 9 months to be exact, the President of the United States came to this chamber, stood at that podium and offered a budget plan that was very curious, because the President in his remarks, Mr. Speaker, said that he wanted to save 62 percent of the Social Security surplus for Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, I may not be the greatest mathematician, but what is left unsaid or what was not explicitly stated in the President's remarks during that State of the Union message was that he felt perfectly fine spending an additional 38 percent of the Social Security surplus on more government programs. Indeed, in that 70-plus-minute address, he outlined some 80 new initiatives in government spending.

That, Mr. Speaker, brings to the floor and brings to the consciousness of the American body politic the fundamental debate. If one believes that one's money is better spent by Washington bureaucrats, if one believes that Washington ought to control more and more of the money one earns, if one believes that Washington and this vast bureaucracy that has grown over the last century is the be-all, end-all to solving one's problems at home, well, then, one perhaps would concur in that analysis.

But, Mr. Speaker, I must tell my colleagues what I have heard time and again is exactly the opposite. Indeed, as Members of the new majority, we came here to change the way Washington works. Once again, facts are stubborn things.

The gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) championed the actions of 1993 and 1994. Need I remind this House, Mr. Speaker, that in the previous majority, there was a one-vote margin to enact the largest tax increase in American history? Again, facts are stubborn things. Included in that tax increase was an increase in taxation on Social Security recipients.

So even as our friends tonight come to this floor and say they do not believe in raising taxes, recent history and their own rhetoric tonight suggests otherwise.

Indeed, the minority leader and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) appeared yesterday on ABC's This Week. Mr. Speaker, I am aware that a lot of Americans were at church yesterday or enjoying time with their families and may not have seen this public affairs telecast, but let me quote what the House Minority Leader said: ''We really ought to spend as little of it,'' meaning the Social Security surplus. ''We really ought to try to spend as little of it as possible.''

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) who presumes and boasts that he believes he will become Speaker of the House in the 107th Congress, that is not good enough for the American people.

From day one of my service in this institution, in enumerable town hall meetings across the width and breadth of the 6th Congressional District of Arizona, an area in square mileage almost the size of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, now because of massive growth approaching almost 1 million residents, as next year's census will accurately reflect through a legitimate count of each and every citizen, what I have heard time and again from my constituents is that we need to stop the raid on the Social Security Trust Fund.

The good news is, Mr. Speaker, we have taken steps in that direction. I do not blame the American people for being skeptical. I can understand, indeed, how sometimes, Mr. Speaker, that skepticism gives way to cynicism.

But, again, facts are stubborn things. In the midst of the hue and cry and the sturm und drang and the agenda setting function of our friends in the fourth estate, commonly known as the media, perhaps more accurately reflected as the partisan press, came a story in the last 10 days that was, quite frankly, ignored.

I am pleased to have this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, in this chamber to commend the collective attention of this House, my colleagues, and the American people to the findings of the Congressional Budget Office. Because again, facts are stubborn things.

What the Congressional Budget Office discovered in counting receipts and outlays for fiscal year 1999 is that, for the first time since 1960, when President Eisenhower, that great and good man, was ensconced in the executive mansion at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, for the first time since 1960, this Congress balanced the budget, generated a surplus of $1 billion, and did not touch one red cent of the Social Security funds to go for those expenditures.

Having made that progress, amidst the skepticism and the doubt and the cynicism, dare we retreat? The easiest thing for Washington to do is reflected sadly in the remarks of the minority leader yesterday, the man who would be Speaker, to hear, sadly, his political boasts, is again a predilection toward spending.

□ 2115

Rather than joining with us, to say, Mr. Speaker, no means no, hands off the Social Security trust funds, our friend from Missouri, the minority leader, says, ''Well, we really ought to try to spend as little of it as possible.''

I thought it ironic to hear my good friend from Arkansas, in extolling the virtue of my other friend from North Dakota, speak of emergency spending on one hand, about the floods that devastated the upper Midwest 2 years ago, and somehow imply that emergency spending for the same type of environmental horrors and acts of nature that have befallen other Americans somehow does not count in the current budgetary scheme of things.

There will always be emergencies. And to those who try to muddy the waters with talk of the Census, I would simply remind this House, Mr. Speaker, that it was this Director of the Census and this administration that wanted to willfully ignore a Supreme Court ruling that stipulated that we ought to actually uphold the Constitution, a unique concept, where the Constitution calls for the actual enumeration of American citizens. And, indeed, the designation of so-called emergency spending came from the fact that we had bureaucratic inertia in action and downright hostility to our supreme tribunal's assessment that the Constitution means what it says. But then again, sadly, that is nothing new.

I am so pleased to be joined on the floor by two very capable colleagues, my good friend, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT), who joined me here in the 104th Congress in the change in majority status and governing status to our party; and in the well of the House by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON), who, in her short time here, elected in a special election in the tragedy of the death of our friend and colleague Steve Schiff, has come to this House and proven an effective and capable public servant with an incredible breadth of experience both in the military and in the pursuit of higher education.

And I would gladly yield to my good friend from New Mexico.

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona. I listened with interest to the discussion this evening, and to the comments of my colleague from North Dakota, many of which I agree with, we do need to look at Social Security over the long term. We also need to begin to draw the line in the sand this year, because we have the opportunity to do that for the first time this year.

I wanted to call my colleagues' attention to a chart that was actually prepared by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), because I thought it was a good chart to explain where we are to folks who are interested in watching this nationally. We have had deficit spending in this country for 30 years, until last year. And the reason that we do not have deficit spending now is really a combination of things. One is a very strong economy. But there also must be a will in Washington, and it starts in this House, because all of the spending bills start here, to control Federal Government spending. A commitment to balance the budget in the same way that all of us at home have to balance our own checkbooks. It is that responsible approach to government spending that we are now close to completing here in Washington for the next fiscal year.

I want to commend the President of the United States tonight for signing the defense bill. That defense bill turns the corner in restoring our national security. It includes a 4.8 percent pay raise for those on active duty. It will start the process of recruiting and retaining high quality military personnel. It will mean that we will begin replacing all of those spare parts that have been lost in expeditions overseas. We need to restore our national defense, and the defense appropriations bill begins to do that, and I want to commend the President for having signed it today.

There are other bills that we still have not completed action on, and we will do so and sit down with the President and his advisers and work through each of these bills to make sure that we have a series of spending bills that adds up to no more than $592 billion, which is the total amount we have in the checking account for the next year. We have set aside another $115 billion or so that is Social Security money. That is the money we are putting in the IRA this year for our retirement.

Every family knows that if they took the money they were supposed to put in their individual retirement account or that was supposed to be in their pension fund and they spent it this year, it would not be there when they retired. So we are making the commitment this year, because we finally are within shooting distance of being able to meet that commitment; to not touch retirement, we are not going to raise taxes, we are going to balance the budget, and we are going to emphasize education and national security. And within that context, I think we can come up with a very good budget blueprint.

And I thank the gentleman for his time.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico who, once again, points out that while there are all sorts of arcane notions and green eyeshades that one can apply to this, there is a very real human equation that comes to balancing the budget. And there is no mystery, because what goes on around the kitchen table for every American family is the basic essence of what we are trying to come to grips with here in Washington, D.C. And if it is good enough for the American family, it should be good enough for the Washington bureaucrats.

With that, let me yield to my friend from Minnesota.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and the gentlewoman for joining us tonight to talk about our budget priorities.

The gentleman from Arizona knows as well as I do what it was like coming here in the class of 1994. We were looking at, as my colleague will recall, the Congressional Budget Office told us in the spring of that year, when the President submitted his first budget in 1995 for us as Members of Congress, they told us that we could expect to see $250 billion deficits well into the next century. And that was under the President's proposal.

And basically what we said, as new Members of Congress, was that that was not acceptable; the idea that the Federal Government had to continue to spend more money than it took in, especially in good years. Now, we might understand, maybe we could make an excuse once in a while if there was a serious recession or a depression or a war, but in times of peace and prosperity, we just could not accept the idea that the Federal Government should continue to borrow more than it takes in year after year after year.

And the scary result of this, and this is where it gets down to what the gentleman was talking about in terms of what is going to happen to the kids, it really meant that if we continued to borrow $250 billion, what the Congressional Budget Office and others said was that if Congress did not get serious about finally balancing the budget, what was going to happen was we were going to virtually guaranty our kids were going to have a lower standard of living. In fact, they told us that by the time our kids that are in junior high and high school today, by the time they reached my age, and I was born in 1951, they were going to be paying a tax rate of between 75 and 80 percent just to pay the interest on the national debt.

Now, think about that. We were literally guaranteeing that our kids were going to have a much lower standard of living, because they would not have been able to buy a car, they would not be able to buy a house, because the tax system was going to take virtually everything they earned just to pay the interest on the national debt. We had reached a point where we had not begun to slow down this spending machine.

And I want to talk a little about what we did as a member of the Committee on the Budget. And, frankly, we as Republicans are not very good sometimes for taking credit for what we have accomplished, but a lot of things

have changed in this city. One of the most important was that there was sort of an assumption around this city that every year Federal spending would go up by 2, or 3, or maybe even 4 times whatever the inflation rate was. I can remember when the Federal budget was growing at 8, 9, 10 percent. Well, we changed that. And what we did is we dramatically slowed the rate of growth in Federal spending.

In fact, I think one of the most amazing statistics is this, and I will repeat it so our colleagues who may be watching in their offices do not miss this point. This year, for the first-time I think in my adult lifetime, not only have we now balanced the budget in fiscal year 1999, without taking money from Social Security, which I think is an amazing accomplishment, because that has not happened since Dwight Eisenhower was President and Elvis was getting out of the Army, 40 years ago, that is the first time that has happened, but an even more amazing statistic is that this year the Federal budget is going to grow at slightly more than 3 percent.

That is an amazing thing. But what is even more amazing is when we realize that the average family budget this year will grow by about 3½ percent. So, again, for the first time I think in my adult lifetime we have created a situation where the average family budget is growing at a faster rate than the Federal budget. And that is part of the reason that the budget is balanced today.

Because I think people on Main Street and Wall Street began to realize that this Congress is serious about reforming welfare, of downsizing some of the Federal programs, of limiting the growth in total Federal spending, of limiting entitlements, and all of a sudden they said, if these guys are serious, real interest rates are coming down, and they did. And they said, if they are really serious and real interest rates come down, it means that more families will be able to afford a house, and a car, and maybe a dishwasher and other things, and the economy will be stronger. And it last has been.

As a result, we have had revenues coming in. In fact, the gentleman may remember, as a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, when we talked about let us lower the capital gains tax rate by 30 percent. Let us take it from the maximum rate of 28 to 20 percent. Oh, some off friends on the left said that if we did that, that that was a tax cut for the rich and we would deprive the Federal government of all of this revenue. It is a tax cut for the rich, they said, which will blow a hole in the budget. That was their term. Does the gentleman remember that and what happened?

Mr. HAYWORTH. Well, of course, when we reduced the capital gains top rate, we actually saw that far from being in the catchy-chism of the left, a tax cut for the rich, what we did was empowered American citizens to take that money and invest it in new opportunities, in greater job growth, in new homes, and to use more of their hard-earned money the way they see fit instead of having Washington spend it. And the bottom line is this. In that whole method of scoring that the Federal Government utilizes, in stark contrast to the theoreticians who said it would be a drain on government revenue, we saw reaffirmed the basic principle that when the American people hang on to more of their hard-earned money, tax receipts to the Federal Government actually increase.

More revenue comes to the government because more economic opportunity is empowered to take place. And that is what we have seen in reducing the top rate on capital gains taxes, because it freed up capital that otherwise would have remained dormant or would have gone into the coffers of the Washington bureaucrats.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Well, it comes down to a very simple point, Americans know how to spend their money a lot smarter than we know how to spend it on their behalf. They get a full dollar's worth of value for every dollar they spend. We do not. We know that, and there has been study after study to show that.

But we have made all this progress and a lot of people still do not believe it. I go out to my town hall meetings, and when I start talking about the fact that we finally have balanced the budget without using Social Security, I can almost feel the skepticism in their eyes. At one of my town hall meetings I said, ''You know what, I understand why you would not believe this.'' For 40 years, the American people have, in effect, been misled about what government can do and that borrowing is good and all of that. And they almost now believe that deficit spending at the Federal level is preordained; that it has to happen. So it will take some time before the American people start to really realize we are serious about balancing the budget; that we have balanced the budget without using Social Security, and, like crossing the Rubicon, we are not going to go back. We have made it very clear to our friends on the left here in Congress and to the people down at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue that we are not going to go back and raid Social Security. We are not going to balance the budget by raising taxes.

And I might just add, we should make it very clear to the President that we are not going to let him shut down the government either. None of that has to happen. There is more than enough money in this budget. I think at the end of the day we will end up spending about $754 billion. The Congressional Budget Office has said, if we limit the total Federal spending to $1754 billion, we will balance the budget without taking a penny of Social Security and we will not have to raise taxes, and we will not have to shut down the government.

Mr. HAYWORTH. And that is a lot of money. $1.754 trillion, almost $2 trillion. The amount is astronomical. And the irony is, as my friend from Minnesota knows and, Mr. Speaker, we need to amplify again in this chamber this evening, as we are going through the appropriations process, trying to live within some fairly expansive means, $1.750 trillion, the President of the United States chose to veto a foreign aid bill because he wants to spend an additional $4 billion on non-Americans.

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Now, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I find it ironic that the current President and the Vice President campaigned in 1992 on the slogan ''putting people first.'' I thought the slogan implied putting the American people first. But, apparently, given trips to a variety of different continents and promises that really spawned cynicism, such as wiring schools on other continents for the Internet, using American tax dollars, let me just say while I am in the neighborhood on this, Mr. Speaker, I would certainly invite the President to the 6th Congressional District of Arizona.

I can take him to any number of rural schools and schools on the reservations for which this administration added not one red penny in terms of impact to aid funds where the Constitution and treaty law stipulates that there is a clear, unequivocal role in the Federal level in educating the Indian children, in educating the children of military dependents, and yet to have those funds cut and still the promise of largess to non-Americans.

The bottom line is and the shock is that the President vetoed the foreign aid bill, saying that he wanted to increase that spending by 30 percent, by $4 billion. And the question becomes, Mr. Speaker, where can the President get that money? And under the current parameters, there is only one place he can go. You guessed it, the Social Security Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, I reject that sad and cynical notion that cannot help but breed the skepticism and cynicism. That money belongs to the American people. They paid it into that trust fund. It should not be spent on tin horn dictators or on utopian designs.

And then tonight, even as we welcome the news, and let us give credit where credit is due, I am so glad the President of the United States signed the defense appropriations, which contains a long overdue pay raise for America's men and women in uniform, 12,000 of whom had to apply for food stamps for their children in a sorry spectacle to make ends meet. I welcome the fact the President signed that bill.

But even as that has happened, there has been a veto or, we understand, the pending veto of the Commerce, State, Justice appropriations bill. Because,

again, the President apparently thinks American money should not go to the American people or to programs for them. He would rather spend them on utopian designs that threaten our sovereignty in the United Nations.

Let me suggest to this body, Mr. Speaker, and to the President of the United States that America's dues have been paid in full many times over, including in the latest adventure in the Balkans, not paid for when our Commander in Chief put American men and women and pilots in harm's way.

Mr. Speaker, someone has to be the adult here. ''No'' means ''no'' to adventurism and overspending. This common sense conservative Congress has held the line in that regard. And we invite the President, who, as we read the pundits and the prognosticators say that he is in search of a legacy, he joined us. It took three times for him to join with us on welfare reform, but we are certainly happy to share credit. Because, after all, in our constitutional Republic, when we pass legislation, we need the President's signature. He joined us on that.

How truly ground breaking it would be, Mr. Speaker, if the President were to accept the invitation of the Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), who stood at that podium leaving the Speaker's rostrum the day he was sworn in as the Speaker in the 106th Congress and said to the American people, Mr. Speaker, we have reserved H.R. 1 for the President's plan to save Social Security.

I heard my friends on the left in the preceding hour somehow forget about that, apparently. The invitation is still there. And we heard the President make some statements this weekend. As a member of the Committee on Ways and means, I know my colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT), with his background on the Committee on the Budget, we would welcome the President at long last putting into legislative language what it is he, in fact, proposes to do. I am sure that the Committee on Ways and Means and the other appropriate committees of jurisdiction will hold hearings and will examine that. But there is just one other thing that happens that adds to the cynicism that we need to point out.

Aside from some budget messages that are required by law, the last legislative initiative sent to this chamber from the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue came before my friend and I were in the Congress. It was a plan to socialize our health care. That is the last policy initiative that has come from this administration in legislative language.

So I would say, Mr. Speaker, we invite the President to put his designs on paper in legislative language in H.R. 1. As our Speaker has said, certainly a man of honor, certainly a man of his word, that proposal will receive all due consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Minnesota.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to come back to something my colleague talked about in terms of one of the things that frustrated me about some of the comments of our friends on the left. They are saying, well, yes, sure, the Republicans are balancing the budget; but they are going to use some gimmicks.

Well, in truth, I wish we did not have to do that. But let me explain some of the things we are thinking about doing. One is a 1.29 percent cut across the board in only discretionary spending. In other words, it will not affect Social Security, will not affect Medicare, will not affect the entitlement side of the budget, only in discretionary spending, 1.29 percent.

Now, I know some of our friends say that, no, these agencies cannot absorb a 1.29 percent across-the-board cut in their agencies. But let me just tell them this. I represent a lot of farmers. Now, when we tell them that a Federal agency cannot tighten its belt slightly over 1 percent, they do not even laugh because they are tightening their belts to the tune of 20, 30, and even 40 percent. So, I mean, do not tell me that the Federal agencies do not have 1 percent worth of fat in their budgets. That is outrageous. So that is one of the gimmicks they do not like.

Another thing that we are thinking about doing is moving back one pay day, I think from the 30th of the month to the first of the month, to move us into the next fiscal year.

Now, do I wish we were not going to do that? Absolutely. But if the choice is between those two things and stealing from Social Security, that is not even a close call. But let me explain and what makes me so angry about this and what we have been up against in the last several years.

The gentleman mentioned military adventures. This administration has sent troops to more places in this world in the last 7 years than the last five Presidents put together. In fact, the little adventure in the Balkans, in Bosnia and Kosovo have already cost us over $16 billion.

Now, historians also have to judge whether or not it has been worth it. But let us at least be honest with ourselves and compare that little adventure with what happened in the Gulf. Former President Bush went to all of our allies and said, listen, we have got a problem with Saddam Hussein. It is a big problem. It is a world problem; and if he is allowed to take over Kuwait and the oil fields, he is going to be even a bigger problem for everybody in the world.

So we went to our Japanese allies and said, if you cannot send troops, will you send cash? And they did. And he went to some of our other allies around the world and they all ponied up. And at the end of the day, the war in the Gulf cost us almost nothing. It cost the taxpayers of the United States almost nothing.

Compare that to what has happened in Kosovo. I will never forget we had a meeting when I first came here with the German foreign minister and the whole thing in Bosnia was starting to boil up, and I remember what the foreign minister told us. He said, at the end of the day, this is a European problem, and it should be solved by the Europeans. And I said, amen.

But it was not long before it was obvious that the Europeans could not solve it. But do you know what at least they could do, because the economy of the European Union is now bigger than the economy of the United States, and yet we are supposed to carry 90 percent of the burden of the war in the Balkans? There is something wrong with that policy. I am not sure if there was even an attempt by this administration to go in and say, listen, we will help to solve the military problem there, we will provide the technology, we will provide the aircraft, we will provide the smart bombs, we will provide what it takes. But it would be nice if you guys would help provide some of the cash. But they did not.

So what happened was the American taxpayers and Congress had to go out and help find the money, $16 billion.

Well, we have done some juggling and we have taken from here and we have taken from that and we reshuffled the numbers. Because we always kept our eye on the ball. The idea is to reduce the rate of growth in Federal spending to allow the American people to keep more of what they earned and let the economy grow and everything will take care of itself. That is what we have done.

But the President, as my colleague from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) says, has not really been there to help us solve some of these problems. Now, we need his help right now. We have made it very clear that we want to work with the White House, but we said certain things are off the table.

Last week we had a vote on taxes because the President said, at least behind closed doors, well, part of the problem could be solved if we just raised some taxes and some fees and raised cigarette taxes; and there was a proposal from the White House. It said, you know, in the budget message here are some taxes and fees you could raise. So last week the Congressional leaders brought it to a vote. And how many votes did it get?

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report the outcome of that vote, again something that, sadly, many of our friends in the media chose not to emphasize in their reportage of the events here on Capitol Hill. And I am grateful for the time tonight.

In answering the question of my friend, the President's plan to increase taxes, as detailed in his budget message, received no votes. The vote was 419 to 0 to reject the President's plan for revenue, which his economic advisor, Gene Sperling, on many national television shows in many messages to this Congress said was part and parcel of the tough choices needed to solve

our budgetary dilemma. And yet not one Member of the minority, even those who spoke so glowingly of the largest tax increase in American history, not one of them voted for that package of new taxes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, so what we have said unanimously everybody in the House said we are not going to raise taxes to balance the budget. That is unanimous. Everybody said that, Republicans, Democrats. And we have one independent. He voted no, as well. All of us said we are not going to raise taxes.

Now, I think there is almost unanimous feeling here in the House, we are not going to raid Social Security. All right, once we have decided that and we have taken those two things off the table, we come back to the last conclusion. At some point we are going to have to make some adjustments, we are going to have to do an across-the-board cut, or we are going to have to do whatever it takes to make certain that we live with $1754 billion. Okay?

Now, that is where we are. We are not going to raid Social Security. We already decided unanimously we are not going to raise taxes. So, Mr. President, please work with us. If one message should be coming from the Congress down to the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, please sit down and work with us. We want to work this out and we are not going to let you shut down the Government.

There is absolutely no need this year for a Government shutdown. Almost half the bills have now have been signed by the President. There are only a couple of them left outstanding that I think where there are serious differences of opinion. And that is part of the process. We should have differences of opinion. The President has some priorities. The Senate has some priorities. I have some priorities. You have some priorities. At the end the day, you work those out. Those can all be worked out. But you have to first agree how big the pie is going to be and how big the parameters of the debate are.

We are not going to raid Social Security. We are not going to raise taxes. We not going to let the President shut down the Government if we can at all stop it. Everything else is negotiable.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Minnesota for his comments. I think he has succinctly and forthrightly expressed the sentiment of the majority in the House.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would implore our chief executive to understand that there are different priorities, but one legacy he dare not be tempted by would be the notion of a political stunt to shut down this Government with all the challenges we face. Because in stark contrast to times gone by, certainly one as adroit and skilled in politics knows that going to the well once too often can result in the wrong type of legacy.

I wanted to pick up on a comment my friend made earlier. The gentleman from Minnesota is quite right, what we are proposing and what we will bring to the floor in short order is an effort to trim the waste, fraud, and abuse that has run rampant throughout our system. We have been stunned by the examples.

My colleagues are familiar with the $8.5 million in food stamps sent to 26,000 people who had died; 26,000 decedents receiving $8.5 million in food stamps; the $75,000 in Social Security insurance payments that went to death-row inmates.

I can recall when I first got here and perhaps my friend in his days and service on the Committee on the Budget, when I first came to Congress in the 104th Congress I was honored to serve on the Committee on Resources. Government always gives a fancy name to different jobs. What we call an accountant in the private sector is called an Inspector General, Washington D.C.

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So, the Inspector General from the Interior Department had come down and was seated alongside the director at that time of the National Park Service, and, Mr. Speaker, you will be amazed even today to hear this story because time cannot erase or dilute its irony and its shame. The accountant for the Interior Department, the National Park Service, said the Park Service could not account for over $70 million in tax money appropriated and spent by the Park Service.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if that had happened in the private sector, some folks would have found themselves with new accommodations based on the fact that they would be in violation of criminal law. As it stood at that point in time and sadly still stands, the director of the Park Service at that time was subject to a tongue lashing that appeared on tape-delay fashion on C–Span, and that was it.

Now I tried to work with my colleagues, mindful of the fact that the Committee on Ways and Means has unique interaction with the Committee on the Budget as we look at budget reform to find a way to weed out those culprits administratively wasting and abusing the money of the American people, American tax dollars; and believe me, there is no way that eliminating and reducing by a little over 1 percent can jeopardize programs especially when we make sure, and this is something else that the American people need to hear because of the smear and fear tactics so often we see in this chamber, and sadly elsewhere around this town and in the partisan press, not one penny of those reductions will come from mandatory spending, spending that goes to the truly needy, those who expect it. It will not come out of food stamps, it will not come out of Social Security, it will not come out of veterans' pensions, it will not come out of Medicaid. We will protect those programs for the truly needy. But for the truly greedy, those in this town who fail to account for the people's money, those in this town who would use that money for their own personal comfort and be less than good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars, Mr. Speaker, they need to be put on notice that there will be a change.

Now, we can expect the hue and cry given the culture of this town and the atmospherics at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, but, Mr. Speaker, I must tell you this. Whether it is a farmer in Minnesota or a rancher in Arizona or an American family around the kitchen table trying to make decisions on its own spending priorities, Americans instinctively know that this bloated bureaucracy can get by on 1 percent less if it means we restore the sanctity and preserve the sanctity proven this fiscal year in keeping our hands off the Social Security Trust Fund.

I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. You mentioned something about the waste and mismanagement, and you earlier talked about foreign aid.

One of the most outrageous examples that we heard about in the last month or so was that there are reports, and I think fairly well documented reports now, that of the foreign aid and the IMF money that went to Russia we believe as much as 10 billion, that is with a ''B,'' billion dollars, has been looted by the former KGB agents who now run the Mafia in Russia. In fact, much of that money has been laundered through New York banks.

In fact to make it more interesting, just a couple of weeks ago there was several people finally to at least some credit of this Justice Department, or at least some enterprising people working out in New York, that were actually indicted. So during the same week in which we now have growing confirmation that billions of dollars in foreign aid has been expropriated and looted in places like Russia, the President says, Well folks, we need another $4 billion in foreign aid.

Now I want to come back to the point now. Our leadership has looked at several options of how we close the gap so that we make certain that we do not take a penny from Social Security, which I think everyone in this body wants to live by, and some of them say, Well, we don't like that plan.

The answer simply is, well then let us hear your plan? What is your plan? Here is the question that the members of the working press in this city ought to be asking the people down at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue every single day: What is your plan? You do not like the plan of the folks up on Capitol Hill? Fine, exercise a little bit of leadership. You help them and help America. You show us how we can balance the budget because it can be done.

In fact, every American family knows this; and, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you a story.

Every Sunday Americans sit around their kitchen tables and their coffee tables, and you know what they do? They clip coupons from the Sunday newspaper. Every Sunday Americans clip something like 80 million coupons from the Sunday paper, worth an average of 53 cents, and that is how American families balance their budget every week. Is it so much to ask for those families to say to us: listen, if it means cutting the Federal bureaucracy 1.3 percent, you should do it. Or if you want to take money from one department, and shift it and do a few other things, we do not care. But I think what the American people are saying, the ones who have finally realized that, yes, we have balanced the budget without using Social Security, once you finally accomplish that goal, do not go back. You finally have a chance to chart a new course because, and I want to close on this, Mr. Speaker, and then I will yield back to the gentleman from Arizona.

But he also mentioned something very important, because we talk in terms of $1754 billion, and we talk about balancing the budget, and we talk in terms of numbers and percentages, and we begin to sound like accountants. But at the end of the day this is not just an accounting exercise. It really is a very, very important exercise in democracy; and what it is about, and I mentioned earlier that I was born in 1951. You know the interesting thing is there were more kids born in 1951 than any other year. We are the peak of the baby boomers, and I am fortunate. Both of my parents are still living. They are both on Social Security; they are both on Medicare. And I have three kids, and the oldest two of them now are basically on their own, sort of on their own.

But this is all about generational fairness because on one hand in terms of making certain that every penny of Social Security only goes for Social Security, on one hand what we are doing is we are saying to our parents we are going to make certain that you have a more secure retirement, and I think we need to do that.

But by balancing the budget without using Social Security we are also saying to all the baby boomers and working Americans that we are going to have a stronger economy because we are going to have lower interest rates. In a stronger economy a rising tide lifts all boats, but on the other end of that generational fairness what we are really saying to our kids is we are going to guarantee that you will have a chance at the American dream and a better standard of living.

So it is about securing a brighter future for our kids on one hand, it is about a more prosperous, stronger economic future for the people who are working currently, and it is also about securing a brighter retirement for our parents. So this is not just an accounting exercise, this is about generational fairness; and now that we finally reached the promised land, we must not turn back, and the message is clear to the American people, to our colleagues and to the people at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

We will not raise taxes. We will not raid Social Security. We will not let the President shut down the government unilaterally. We are going to do everything we can to stop him. But everything else is negotiable.

We want to be reasonable. We want to be flexible. We are willing to work within those perameters. If the President will join us, we can have a budget agreement by the end of this week, we can all go home next week, and frankly the American people will be better off.

Thanks so much for taking this time, and thanks for letting me join you.

Mr. HAYWORTH. I thank my colleague from Minnesota who offers the common sense perspective of the upper Midwest and just puts in everyday terms what is absolutely so practical and so apparent, and he is quite right. What I call the human equation is at stake here, to make sure the truly needy have a safety net, but also to make sure that money masquerading as a safety net does not become a hammock for the greedy and for those who have been wastrels and less than good stewards of tax dollars from the American people.

I would note this, Mr. Speaker. In other quarters in this town there are those who are especially sensitive to polling numbers, and indeed there are stories of some folks being out in the field nightly polling to determine how they will lead. I happen to think leadership is leading first and then seeing if the message and the course of action is responded to by the American people, and that is why I bring poll numbers to this floor tonight, that I think many in this town, especially in the administration, knowing how sensitive many of its members are to polling questions and polling numbers might be.

This is a Fox News Opinion Dynamics poll of 904 registered voters conducted on October 20 and 21. The question is: Who do you trust to make the best decisions on budget issues? Mr. Speaker, 56 percent of the American people say they trust the Congress on budgetary issues. Twenty-one percent say they trust the President.

I would simply suggest, Mr. Speaker, knowing that there are those especially sensitive to those types of numbers, the reason I quote them here is to reaffirm what my colleague from Minnesota has said. We understand that reasonable people can disagree, but it is highly unreasonable for those in this town to be tempted by the allure of a political stunt to try and shut down the Government hoping that there will be an amen chorus from the partisan press that would somehow sway the American people. That is a gambit that leads to a legacy even more infamous than what already exists.

In a positive vein we congratulate the President for signing the defense appropriations bill that means that a much needed pay raise for our men and women in uniform will at long last be realized. We would ask the President to reconsider his notion of taking $4 billion of the Social Security Trust Fund to spend on non-Americans in terms of increased foreign aid, and we would ask the President to re-evaluate his plan to veto the Commerce State Justice bill because he wants more money going to international organizations that at the very least attempt to muddy our sovereignty and our unique rights as a nation state in the free world.

So I would simply say again we have stopped the raid on Social Security. We have crossed, made that incredible stride for the first time since 1960. Though the message has gotten short shrift in the reportage of this town, we dare not retreat. Having stopped the raid, let us not renew it. We would invite the President, Mr. Speaker, and the minority leader who only yesterday on national television said that it was his goal, and let me quote him again; I want to be fair about this. He said, quote: ''We really ought to try to spend as little of it as possible.''

To change that point of view, join with us; stop the raid on Social Security, accurately protect America's priorities, and let us work as men and women of goodwill to make sure the raid has been stopped once and for all. That is the promise of the new day. That is the pledge we make in a spirit of bipartisanship.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CARSON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

Mr. RUSH (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. MASCARA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of medical reasons.

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and October 26 until 5:00 p.m. on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ETHERIDGE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WEYGAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. KINGSTON) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. COBURN, for 5 minutes, today.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee did on the following date present to the President, for his approval, a bill of the House of the following title:

On October 22, 1999:

H.R. 2670. Making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 341, I move that the House do now adjourn in memory of the late Honorable JOHN H. CHAFEE.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), under its previous order and pursuant to House Resolution 341, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 26, 1999, at 9 a.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4894. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tuberculosis in Cattle and Bison; State Designations [Docket No. 99–008–1] received October 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4895. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting the study of the methods of selection of members of the Armed Forces to serve on courts-martial; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4896. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting notification that the President approved a new Unified Command Plan that specifies the missions and responsibilities, including geographic boundaries, of the unified combatant commands; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4897. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting Final Regulations—William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

4898. A letter from the Secretary of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—Student Assistance General Provisions (RIN: 1845–AA07) received October 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

4899. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Oklahoma; Recodification of Regulations [OK–8–1–5772a; FRL–6457–7] received October 18, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

4900. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled, ''Designing a Medical Device Surveillance Network''; to the Committee on Commerce.

4901. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 00–01: Determination and Certification for Fiscal Year 2000 concerning Argentina's and Brazil's Ineligibility Under Section 102(a)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2799aa–2; to the Committee on International Relations.

4902. A letter from the Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting the Agency's 1998 Annual Report on Title XII—Famine Prevention and Freedom from Hunger, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2220e; to the Committee on International Relations.

4903. A letter from the Secretary of State, transmitting the certification for FY 2000 that no United Nations agency or United Nations affiliated agency grants any official status, accrediation, or recognition to any organization which promotes and condones or seeks the legalization of pedophilia, or which includes as a subsidiary or member any such organization, pursuant to Public Law 103–236, section 565(b) (108 Stat. 845); to the Committee on International Relations.

4904. A letter from the Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting List of all reports issued by GAO during the month of August 1999, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 719(h); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4905. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Interest and Other Financial Costs [FAC 97–14; FAR Case 98–006; Item XI] (RIN: 9000–AI24) received September 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4906. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Compensation for Senior Executives [FAC 97–14; FAR Case 98–301; Item X] (RIN: 9000–AI32) received September 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4907. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Option Clause Consistency [FAC 97–14; FAR Case 98–606; Item IX] (RIN: 9000–AI26) received September 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4908. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Evaluation of Proposals for Professional Services [FAC 97–14; FAR Case 97–038; Item VIII] received September 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4909. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administratior, Office of Acquisition Policy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Conforming Late Offer Treatment [FAC 97–14; FAR Case 97–030; Item VII] (RIN: 9000–AI25) received September 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4910. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Determination of Price Reasonableness and Commerciality [FAC 97–14; FAR Case 98–300; Item VI] (RIN: 9000–AI45) received September 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4911. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; OMB Circular A–119 [FAC 97–14; FAR Case 98–004; Item V] (RIN: 9000–AI12) received September 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4912. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Javits-Wagner-O'Day Proposed Revisions [FAC 97–14; FAR Case 98–602; Item IV] (RIN: 9000–AI16) received September 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4913. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, transmitting the Office's response sent to the Office of Management and Budget on June 30, 1999; to the Committee on Government Reform.

4914. A letter from the Chairperson, National Council on Disability, transmitting the report entitled, ''Implementation of the National Voter Registration Act by State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies''; to the Committee on House Administration.

4915. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Other Rockfish in the Aleutian Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 990304063–9063–01; I.D. 101399D] received October 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4916. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting correspondence with Office of Management and Budget regarding H.R. 2910, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 1113; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4917. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the 1997 annual report of the Board's activities, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 1117; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4918. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the report on continuing disability reviews for the fiscal year 1998, pursuant to Public Law 104–121, section 103(d)(2) (110 Stat. 850); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4919. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. International Trade Commission, transmitting its annual report on the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act and the Andean Trade Preference Act, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1332(g); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4920. A letter from the Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency For International Development, transmitting the Agency's Annual Report to Congress on activities under the Denton Program; jointly

to the Committees on International Relations and Armed Services.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HYDE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1801. A bill to make technical corrections to various antitrust laws and to references to such laws (Rept. 106–411 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. COBLE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 3028. A bill to amend certain trademark laws to prevent the misappropriation of marks; with an amendment (Rept. 106–412). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BURTON: Committee on Government Reform. H.R. 2885. A bill to provide uniform safeguards for the confidentiality of information acquired for exclusively statistical purposes, and to improve the efficiency and quality of Federal statistics and Federal statistical programs by permitting limited sharing of records among designated agencies for statistical purposes under strong safeguards; with an amendment (Rept. 106–413). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 342. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1987) to allow the recovery of attorneys' fees and costs by certain employers and labor organizations who are prevailing parties in proceedings brought against them by the National Labor Relations Board or by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Rept. 106–414). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule X, the Committee on Armed Services discharged. H.R. 1801 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule X, the Committee on Commerce discharged. H.R. 2005 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule X the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 1801. Referral to the Committee on Armed Services extended for a period ending not later than October 25, 1999.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MOORE (for himself, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. LARSON, Mr. FORBES, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MINGE, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. GONZALEZ):

H.R. 3136. A bill to authorize the Consumer Product Safety Commission to require child-proof caps for portable gasoline containers; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. HORN (for himself, Mr. TURNER, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. KANJORSKI, and Mrs. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 3137. A bill to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to provide for training of individuals a President-elect intends to nominate as department heads or appoint to key positions in the Executive Office of the President; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. HYDE:

H.R. 3138. A bill to amend the Shipping Act of 1984 to restore the application of the antitrust laws to certain agreements and conduct to which such Act applies; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island (for himself, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 3139. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the excise tax on firearms and to earmark the increase for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NETHERCUTT (for himself, Mrs. EMERSON, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. NEY, Mr. METCALF, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. BERRY, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Ms. DANNER, Mr. TALENT, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LEACH, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. JOHN, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. DUNN, and Mr. CONDIT):

H.R. 3140. A bill to provide stability in the United States agriculture sector and to promote adequate availability of food and medicine for humanitarian assistance abroad by requiring congressional approval before the imposition of any unilateral agricultural or medical sanction against a foreign country or foreign entity; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SAXTON (for himself, Mr. GILCHREST, and Mr. VENTO):

H.R. 3141. A bill to encourage the safe and responsible use of personal watercraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. LUTHER, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 3142. A bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to prevent credit card issuers from taking unfair advantage of full-time, traditional-aged, college students, to protect parents of traditional college student credit cards holders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California):

H.R. 3143. A bill to establish the High Performance Schools Program in the Department of Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WEINER (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. HOLT, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LARSON, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. REYES, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BONIOR, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. MOORE, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 3144. A bill to provide reliable officers, technology, education, community prosecutors, and training in our neighborhoods; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCNULTY:

H. Con. Res. 205. Concurrent resolution recognizing and honoring the heroic efforts of the Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing and its rescue of Dr. Jerri Nielsen from the South Pole; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. FORBES):

H. Con. Res. 206. Concurrent resolution expressing grave concern regarding armed conflict in the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation which has resulted in civilian casualties and internally displaced persons, and urging all sides to pursue dialog for peaceful resolution of the conflict; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. STRICKLAND:

H. Con. Res. 207. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding support for the inclusion of salaries of Members of Congress in any proposed across-the-board reduction in fiscal year 2000 funding for Federal agencies; to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island:

H. Res. 341. A resolution expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Senator John H. Chafee.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 5: Mr. GOODE.

H.R. 21: Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 271: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 460: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 655: Mrs. EMERSON.

H.R. 670: Mr. GREENWOOD.

H.R. 684: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 960: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 961: Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PASTOR, and Mr. DIXON.

H.R. 1039: Mr. VENTO.

H.R. 1044: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 1093: Mr. CLYBURN.
H.R. 1168: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. EHLERS.
H.R. 1221: Mr. LARSON.
H.R. 1285: Mr. MASCARA and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 1349: Mr. HERGER.
H.R. 1505: Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. WELLER, and Mr. DINGELL.
H.R. 1509: Mr. HILL of Montana.
H.R. 1520: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. GARY MILLER of California.
H.R. 1775: Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ, and Mr. WHITFIELD.
H.R. 1777: Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin.
H.R. 1816: Mr. BENTSEN.
H.R. 1838: Mr. UNDERWOOD and Mr. ACKERMAN.
H.R. 1842: Mrs. KELLY.
H.R. 1857: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 1899: Ms. BERKLEY and Mr. DINGELL.
H.R. 2001: Mr. BARR of Georgia.
H.R. 2053: Mrs. MORELLA.
H.R. 2200: Mr. MCNULTY.
H.R. 2303: Mr. BARR of North Carolina and Mr. DREIER.
H.R. 2418: Mr. HILLEARY and Mr. NETHERCUTT.
H.R. 2420: Mr. FARR of California, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. RADANOVICH.
H.R. 2442: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. GOSS, and Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 2498: Mr. BALDACCI, Ms. DEGETTE, and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 2569: Mr. BOEHLERT.
H.R. 2573: Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 2619: Mr. PASTOR, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. GIBBONS, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
H.R. 2631: Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD and Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 2634: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 2655: Mr. SCHAFFER.
H.R. 2696: Mr. JONES of North Carolina.
H.R. 2720: Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. ENGLISH, and Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 2727: Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 2741: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2786: Mr. EHRLICH.
H.R. 2883: Mr. BONIOR and Mr. BLILEY.
H.R. 2890: Mr. UNDERWOOD and Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 2895: Mrs. KELLY, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 2899: Mr. WEINER and Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 2901: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.R. 2928: Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. SPENCE, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, and Mr. COMBEST.
H.R. 2936: Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. GEJDENSON, and Mr. OBERSTAR.
H.R. 2939: Mr. STARK and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 2966: Mr. CANNON, Mr. COOK, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. MASCARA, and Ms. STABENOW.
H.R. 2985: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 2995: Mr. CRAMER and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 3034: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 3062: Mr. MASCARA.
H.R. 3086: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 3091: Mr. POMBO, Mr. NEY, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. HILLIARD, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, and Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 3128: Mr. COOK.
H.J. Res. 46: Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H. Con. Res. 115: Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. BERRY, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. COOKSEY, Ms. CARSON, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. FROST.
H. Con. Res. 188: Mrs. MORELLA and Mrs. THURMAN.
H. Con. Res. 190: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. COMBEST, and Mr. ENGLISH.
H. Con. Res. 197: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. COOK, Mr. DREIER, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LINDER, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. TERRY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. WELDON of Florida, and Mrs. WILSON.
H. Res. 37: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. BROWN of Ohio.
H. Res. 41: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. DIXON.
H. Res. 298: Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. GORDON, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DICKS, and Mr. WATT of North Carolina.
H. Res. 325: Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. GILMAN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. KUYKENDALL, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. GEJDENSON, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. DIXON, Mr. LANTOS, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BILBRAY, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. GORDON, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. LARSON, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. KLINK, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. HORN, Mr. HILLEARY, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CONDIT, Mr. FORD, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. QUINN, Mr. COYNE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BENTSEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. KILPATRICK, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.