violence, to make sure that their lives were not lost in vain, so that all of America's families can be safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

THREAT OF TUBERCULOSIS SPREADING RAPIDLY WORLDWIDE

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the threat of tuberculosis is spreading rapidly throughout the developing world. TB is the greatest infectious killer of adults worldwide, and it is the biggest killer of young women. More people died from tuberculosis last year around the world than any year in history. It kills 2 million people per year, one person every 15 seconds.

Not surprisingly, the statistics on access to TB treatment worldwide are pretty grim. Fewer than one in five of those with tuberculosis are receiving appropriate treatment, something called Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course. Based on World Bank estimates, DOTS treatment is one of the most cost-effective health interventions available, costing as little as $20 in developing countries to save a life and producing cure rates of up to 90 to 95 percent, even in the poorest countries.

We have a very small window of opportunity during which stopping TB would be very cost effective. If we wait, if we go too slowly, more strains of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, so-called MDR–TB, will emerge. It will cost billions to control with no guarantee of success. Multidrug-resistant TB has been identified on every continent. According to the World Health Organization, MDR–TB ultimately threatens to return TB control to the pre-antibiotic era, which older people in this country are familiar with, where no cure for TB was available. In the U.S., TB treatment, normally about $2,000 per patient, skyrockets to $200,000 to $250,000 per patient when that patient is infected with MDR–TB, and treatment then may not even be successful.

The Prime Minister of India visited the United States recently and spoke in this Chamber. During his trip, he and I discussed the growing threat of tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in South Asia. India has more TB cases than anywhere else in the world. Each day, 1,200 Indians die of tuberculosis. The disease has become a very major barrier to social and economic development, costing the Indian economy an estimated $2 billion a year. Mr. Speaker, 300,000 children are forced to leave school each year because their parents have tuberculosis. More than 100,000 women with TB are rejected by their families, due to the social stigma attached to it.

A recent World Health Organization study in India found that in areas where effective tuberculosis treatment was implemented, the TB death rate fell 85 percent. India has undertaken an aggressive campaign to control tuberculosis, and they need the world's help. TB experts estimate it will cost an additional $1 billion each year worldwide to control this disease. In the Foreign Operations appropriations bill, international tuberculosis control efforts have been allocated bipartisanly, $60 million towards that $1 billion world effort. This is a significant improvement from last year where TB control received $35 million, and 3 years ago, when there was no money provided to TB at all.

Gro Bruntland, the general director of the World Health Organization, said tuberculosis is not a medical issue, it is a political issue. Getting Americans engaged in an international medical issue like tuberculosis, even when addressing that issue serves our international humanitarian interests and our domestic practical interests, is an uphill battle. We have an opportunity in this country and in this Chamber to save millions of lives now and prevent millions of needless deaths in the future.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

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

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I take this time because today, we may have 40 minutes of a lot of to-do about nothing, because there are those who believe that the sky is falling on the Violence Against Women's Act. I want to read into the RECORD a letter that I sent to the Washington Post after one of their articles.

DEAR EDITOR: It would be inaccurate for your readers to conclude that the Committee on Education and the Workforce is holding up reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. There are three committees with jurisdiction; one of those is the Committee on Education and the Workforce. We have jurisdiction over several components of VAWA, one of which we just reauthorized last year, Runaway and Homeless Youth, which was signed into law on October 12, 1999. There is no need to deal with a program reauthorized that recently, since there has hardly been enough time to determine if further changes in the program are needed.

We also have jurisdiction over the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, another component of VAWA, as well as the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, which my committee plans to reauthorize together next year, as we always have. This tandem reauthorization has occurred ever since 1988.

Mr. Speaker, we have grants that go to battered women's shelters and services and the National Domestic Violence Hotline. I want to make it very clear that we have had increases of 24 percent in the Battered Women's Shelters and Services, and we have had a 40 percent increase in the National Domestic Violence Hotline as far as funding is concerned since 1998.

I was an original cosponsor of FVPSA in 1984, and I have a long history of support for the programs. The programs are already funded for next year in the appropriation process as it goes through the different Chambers, well above the amount that they are funded for this year. So again, these programs will continue, these programs will continue at a higher expenditure than they have in the past; and, as I indicated, I am very proud that we have had a 24 percent and a 40 percent increase in two of those programs since 1998.

The sky is not falling on the Violence Against Women Act. The sky is even going higher and clearer without the necessity to do anything else at this particular time.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, in June this Congress approved the first substantive reform of our campaign finance laws since 1979. The bipartisan vote for approval followed months of discussion of the perverse impact on our democracy of clandestine political organizations organized under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code.

While this was a small victory among many defeats on the campaign finance reform front, it was nevertheless significant. The path to progress, however, was a twisted path. Final approval followed repeated rejection of bipartisan reform proposals in the House Committee on Ways and Means. Finally, after months of delay, the House Republican leadership reversed course and brought up a 527 bill for our consideration here in the House, late at night, with no amendments permitted and very truncated debate.

During previous Committee on Ways and Means consideration on this matter, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COYNE) and I had offered a more comprehensive alternative. Unfortunately, the provisions of this alternative were omitted from the final bill during the belated scrambling for immediate floor consideration. Now, many State and local officials are paying the price for this mistake with unnecessary time and effort in completing unnecessary filings here in Washington that duplicate those they were already making on the State level.

Mr. Speaker, I have just introduced legislation with a number of our colleagues to correct this error. This new bill will address the concerns of the State and local officials and organizations, it will apply the gift tax as an

added element of deterrence for undisclosed contributions as we previously proposed, and it will make other necessary technical corrections of errors that were committed in the course of rushing the previous bill to the floor late one night.

Mr. Speaker, while the problem of having the State and local committees make duplicative filings certainly did not have a bipartisan origin, it does demand a bipartisan solution. As with the original 527 bill that I first presented in March, I seek support of both Republican and Democratic colleagues to correct what one group has called ''the senseless duplication of efforts on the part of many State and local'' organizations forced to fill out forms and send them to the Internal Revenue Service, even if they have already made substantially the same public disclosure to State regulatory agencies.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will provide an exemption for those State and local groups that are meeting substantially the same public disclosure requirements as now apply to Federal 527 organizations. Simply, exempting the committees without requiring them to be ''substantially similar'' could create an unwise loophole in the modest bill that Congress has approved, but doing it as we propose and as we proposed in our previous legislation in the Committee on Ways and Means will reduce the burden on the Internal Revenue Service; and, more importantly, it would reduce the burden on many local and State organizations. Additionally, this bill removes the requirement that electronic filings be duplicated in writing, thereby reducing paperwork for both the filer and the IRS.

As with most bills that get rushed through the House, there are other ambiguities that require technical corrections. To prevent a misinterpretation that would weaken enforcement, this new bill will clarify, as did our old committee alternative, that all of the 527s' income, whether segregated or not, is to be considered taxable income in case of failure to file the required notice. Further, the bill will clear up an ambiguity as to whether the failure to file penalty is to be treated as a tax liability or a civil penalty, which could otherwise delay enforcement and collection. Through this change, the State and local groups, which may have filed late because of a lack of notice about the new law could be afforded the same ''reasonable cause'' arguments available to every other taxpayer under the civil penalty section. Finally, the bill will add back the omitted companion penalties that we proposed for fraudulent filings for violations of the new 527 law and the gift tax penalty for undisclosed contributions.

This legislation is narrowly drawn to secure approval now in the waning days of this Congress. But much more comprehensive additional reform is needed. Already, there are groups that are shifting from 527s to different tax status. Within the last few days, The Washington Post has reported that ''Political groups that want to keep their finances secret are changing their tax status in order to avoid having to reveal their donors and spending, making an end-run around a new law intended to crack down on anonymous political activity.''

Among the worst of these is a group called ''Citizens for Better Medicare'' that is determined to block our efforts to end price discrimination against seniors. This is discrimination by which our seniors in America are literally treated worse than dogs, having to pay the highest prices, not only more than animals in the United States, but more than people anywhere around the globe. This group has expended so much in political advertising on television that one commentator recently suggested it has practically become a third political party along with the Democrats and the Republicans.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that next year we can have comprehensive reform to address this problem we had anticipated and which could have been largely avoided had the alternative we advanced in the Committee on Ways and Means been adopted. But today, I ask my colleagues to join us in a modest change that can help our State and local committees and public officials and improve the reform legislation adopted in June.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 20 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Jerry Pruitt, New Ark Christian Center, Beloit, Wisconsin, offered the following prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, You alone rule in the hearts of men and women. It is because of You that our great Nation stands as a beacon of hope to the rest of the world.

We thank You God that You also rule in the affairs of young people.

We ask for Your presence to be here as this very important session of Congress opens today. We know that we need Your wisdom here today. These servants to the American people want to do what is right and just. We commit this time to You as they bring peace and justice to our country and the world.

Thank You God for answering these requests. In Your name we pray. 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. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker'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. PASCRELL. 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 Nebraska (Mr. BARRETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska 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.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND JERRY PRUITT, NEW ARK CHRISTIAN CENTER, BELOIT, WISCONSIN

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the Pastor, Jerry Pruitt, from the newly renamed Faith Builders International in Beloit, Wisconsin, formerly known as New Ark Christian.

Mr. Speaker, I have come to know Pastor Jerry Pruitt as a personal friend and a counselor, a man who has give guidance not only to myself, but to countless numbers of people throughout Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin.

Jerry Pruitt is a man who has built a church from the ground up, literally, to one where it is a beacon of hope, of religious pride, of Christian values, that is spreading throughout Southern Wisconsin, and now going international.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to be here today to have Pastor Jerry Pruitt open today's proceedings with a prayer. We are very proud of him at home in Wisconsin. Now we are very proud of him here in the Nation.