United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 148 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2002 No. 119

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Paul Smith, Senior Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, New York, offered the following prayer:

In preparation for our prayer this morning, I would ask that you would just close your eyes and reflect as we listen to the silence for a moment.

O Divine Creator: Listen to the beating of our hearts and the stirrings deep within us, as each of us, in our own way, acknowledges the silent moment.

May this peripheral moment, almost mystical, become a moment which touches us where we are most ourselves. And we pray, O God, for strength, that You give each one of these men and women standing before You the courage to be genuine, that their yeas and nays be genuine. All else obscures the truth, tempting them to betray the eternal.

We ask that You help them and us to face the fears residing deep in our souls as we hear in the distance the cries for war, the cries for peace, the cries for justice and the cries for freedom. And, God, we would petition You to quench our deep-seeded need to be right. We know that Democrats being right does not make Republicans wrong. We know that conservatives being right does not make liberals wrong. Rather, teach us how to listen for the sounds of the genuine in ourselves, so we may hear the sounds of the genuine of our colleagues and friends.

O Divine Creator, help this Congress to practice deep listening, for it is in our deep listening that we hear the silence, where we hear the cries of our people, where we see the shadows which frighten us, and where we find the center and core of our being. So as we practice this deep listening, grant that we may also practice arrogance reduction, for by doing so, we lift up those things which glorify the Creator. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

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

Mr. MCNULTY. 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. 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. Will the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LEACH 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills and concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 486. An act for the relief of Barbara Makuch.

H.R. 487. An act for the relief of Eugene Makuch.

H.R. 4558. An act to extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program.

H. Con. Res. 469. Concurrent resolution authorizing the Rotunda of the Capitol to be used on September 19, 2002, for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to General Henry H. Shelton (USA, Ret.).

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1308. An act to provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Quinault Indian Nation under United States Claims Court Dockets 772–71, 773–71, 774–71, and 775–71, and for other purposes.

S. 2127. An act for the relief of the Pottawatomi Nation in Canada for settlement of certain claims against the United States.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. There will be one 1-minute speech. All other 1-minute speeches will be after the general business of the day.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND DR. PAUL SMITH

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

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House, it is my honor to welcome and extend appreciation to the Reverend Dr. Paul Smith for delivering the opening prayer this morning.

Dr. Smith is the senior pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn and a faculty member of the New York Theological Seminary. A scholar, Dr. Smith has written extensively on issues of integration and is considered one of the world's leading authorities on multicultural training and arbitration. He has negotiated labor management agreements related to sweatshops in South America and China and conducted sensitivity training for the New

Printed on recycled paper.

York City Police Department, various churches, universities and the Federal Government, including the IRS. Given the tensions in the world in which we live and not incidentally the fractious body in which we work, Reverend Smith's presence and prayer is much appreciated.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the Reverened Dr. Paul Smith, who led today's Opening Prayer. Reverend Smith is the senior minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, NY, in my district, and I am proud to have him here as a representative of our community.

Reverend Smith has a long career in and out of the ministry. He began as an assistant pastor at the Salem United Church of Christ in Buffalo, New York, in 1960. He has taught at divinity schools at the New York and San Francisco Theological Seminaries and Emory University, in addition to holding administrative positions at Washington University and Morehouse College.

Not content to preach from the pulpit, Reverend Smith applies his ministry to public life. He teaches at the Health Science Center of the State University of New York and provides diversity and senstivity training to corporations and communities alike.

I hope you will join me today in welcoming Reverend Paul Smith here today.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my 1-minute speech.

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

There was no objection.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

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

Mr. MCNULTY. 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 329, nays 53, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 49, as follows:

[Roll No. 396]

YEAS—329

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Akin
Allen
Baca
Baker
Baldacci
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Bereuter
Berkley
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blumenauer
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior
Bono
Boozman
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Burton
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardin
Carson (OK)
Castle
Chambliss
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Collins
Combest
Condit
Cox
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeGette
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Frank
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutierrez
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Herger
Hill
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Honda
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hunter
Inslee
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kelly
Kennedy (RI)
Kerns
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kleczka
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Lynch
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Mascara
Matheson
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McGovern
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
Meehan
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Millender-McDonald
Miller, Dan
Miller, Gary
Miller, Jeff
Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Obey
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryun (KS)
Sanders
Sawyer
Saxton
Schiff
Schrock
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simmons
Skeen
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Sullivan
Sununu
Tauscher
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Toomey
Towns
Turner
Upton
Velazquez
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wynn
Young (FL)

NAYS—53

Aderholt
Baird
Baldwin
Berry
Borski
Brady (PA)
Capuano
Conyers
Costello
Crane
DeFazio
English
Filner
Fossella
Green (TX)
Gutknecht
Hart
Hefley
Hilliard
Hinchey
Holt
Hooley
Hulshof
Kennedy (MN)
Larsen (WA)
Latham
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Markey
McDermott
McNulty
Moore
Oberstar
Olver
Peterson (MN)
Ramstad
Riley
Sanchez
Schakowsky
Slaughter
Strickland
Stupak
Sweeney
Tanner
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Visclosky
Waters
Weller
Wu

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Tancredo

NOT VOTING—49

Andrews
Armey
Bachus
Bentsen
Berman
Blagojevich
Blunt
Bryant
Burr
Buyer
Carson (IN)
Chabot
Cooksey
Coyne
Delahunt
Dicks
Ehrlich
Ford
Gephardt
Gillmor
Gordon
Hilleary
Hyde
Jefferson
Jenkins
Keller
Kirk
LaFalce
Lewis (CA)
Matsui
McHugh
Meek (FL)
Miller, George
Mink
Murtha
Myrick
Oxley
Reyes
Roukema
Ryan (WI)
Sabo
Sandlin
Schaffer
Shays
Simpson
Stump
Tauzin
Vitter
Young (AK)

□ 1035

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, rollcall vote 396, on approving the journal, I would have voted ''yea.''

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 524, SENSE OF HOUSE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD COMPLETE ACTION ON PERMANENT DEATH TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2002, AND HOUSE RESOLUTION 525, SENSE OF HOUSE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD COMPLETE ACTION ON LEGISLATION EXTENDING AND STRENGTHENING SUCCESSFUL 1996 WELFARE REFORMS

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 527, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 527

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 524) expressing the sense of the House that Congress should complete action on the Permanent Death Tax Repeal Act of 2002, and for consideration of the resolution. The resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The resolution shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member

of the Committee on Ways and Means. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to final adoption without intervening motion.

SEC. 2. Upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 525) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the 107th Congress should complete action on and present to the President, before September 30, 2002, legislation extending and strengthening the successful 1996 welfare reforms. The resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The resolution shall be debatable for one hour equally divided among and controlled by the chairmen and ranking minority members of the Committees on Ways and Means and Education and the Workforce. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to final adoption without intervening motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

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

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 527 is a closed rule providing for the consideration of two House resolutions. The rule provides that House Resolution 524 shall be debatable in the House for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The resolution shall be considered as read for amendment.

The rule further provides that House Resolution 525 shall be debatable in the House for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The resolution shall be considered as read for amendment.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 524 is a resolution expressing the sense of the House that Congress should complete action on, and present to the President before adjournment, the Permanent Death Tax Repeal Act of 2002. Although the House passed this legislation more than 3 months ago by a vote of 256–171, the other body has yet to take any action on this important measure.

In fact, this legislation is only needed at all because the internal rules of the Senate limit the Death Tax Repeal Act enacted into law last year to a period of only 10 years. This means that unless we act to make this repeal permanent, in the year 2010 the death tax will be reimposed on thousands of families, farms and small businesses.

Nor can we wait 10 years to provide much-needed assurance that such a massive tax increase will not be imposed. Estate tax planning is, by definition, a long-term process. Families need to know today, and they are entitled to know today, what taxes the Federal Government plans to impose on them in the not-very-distant future.

For generations now, the death tax has been a leading cause of the dissolution of family-run businesses and farms all across this country. That not only hurts those families and the workers they employ, but in time of economic distress, the death tax also has an adverse effect on our overall economy. Repeal of the death tax will promote job creation and economic growth by allowing family-owned farms and small businesses to invest and reinvest in productive, job-creating expansion with resources they would otherwise spend minimizing and paying Federal death taxes.

Given the large number of bills passed by the House in this session which have not been acted upon by the Senate, it is difficult to explain to our constituents why Congress has failed to complete action on this critically important measure. Today we have an opportunity to send a clear message to the American people about the House's commitment to act and act now to repeal this onerous and unfair tax increase scheduled for 2010.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity today to send a similar clear message about the need for immediate action on equally important legislation passed months ago here in the House. On May 16, the House voted to reauthorize the historic welfare reform legislation enacted in the 104th Congress in 1996.

Welfare reform stands as one of the proudest accomplishments of that or any recent Congress. Literally millions of American lives have been changed by landmark legislation which has helped move our most disadvantaged citizens from welfare to work.

The numbers do not tell the whole story, but they are astonishing, nonetheless. In the 5 years since we have enacted those reforms, nearly 3 million children have left poverty; employment by mothers most likely to go on welfare rose by 40 percent; and welfare case loads have fallen by 9 million, from 14 million recipients in 1994 to just 5 million today.

Still, there is much left to do, and these historic reforms simply must be reauthorized. The States have been full partners with the Federal Government in this effort, as they should be, and they are entitled to know whether we will continue working with them to help struggling families help themselves.

As with the Death Tax Repeal, for months the Senate has failed to act on this vitally important measure. Recently, 50 senators, including 40 Democrats, called for action on a 5-year reauthorization of this successful welfare reform program. Still, no action has been taken.

Today we can add our voices to those Senators who are calling for action before adjournment on two of the most meaningful measures this Congress has had a chance to enact. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the two underlying resolutions we will consider later this morning.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, people around the country watching this today, people reading the newspapers, may be scratching their heads and saying, What is going on here? What are these people doing?

I will tell Members what people on the other side are doing: They do not want to work; they do not want to do anything serious. What are the facts?

Congress is charged to pass 13 appropriation bills by October 1. The House of Representatives, controlled by the other party, by the Republican Party, has passed exactly 5 of those 13 bills. Where are the other appropriation bills?

Mr. Speaker, we never did this when we were in charge. We always brought the appropriation bills to the floor so they could then be sent to the Senate and come back in a conference committee and dealt with in an orderly way.

□ 1045

We have an October 1 deadline for the start of the fiscal year. The other side refuses to work, refuses to bring appropriation matters to the floor. Why are they doing this? I can only speculate. Perhaps they are trying to shield some of their vulnerable Members from having to cast some tough votes to cut the budget. These folks on the other side, like they say, they want to cut the budget and they want to keep spending down. If they want to do that, where are the other eight appropriations bills? Bring them up and let us have a series of votes. This is probably as irresponsible as any action by any leadership that I have seen in the 24 years that I have been in Congress.

That brings us to today. They do not want to bring appropriation bills to the floor because they are afraid. They are worried that some of their poor, vulnerable Members might have to actually vote on something, go on the record on some issues, on education spending, on health care spending, on a variety of issues. So what do they do? They bring meaningless resolutions to the floor, sense of the Congress resolutions urging the Senate to take action.

Mr. Speaker, the people who should be acting are the Members of this body. What has happened here? We come in at 6:30 on Tuesday. That is 6:30 p.m., not 6:30 a.m., and we vote on a couple of procedural matters; and then we are on the floor for a few hours on Wednesday and we vote on a few things, again noncontroversial matters; and then we are on the floor for a few hours on Thursday, and we leave at 3 o'clock on Thursday afternoon. Without having

done the people's business. Shame on the other side. Shame on them.

Today, if that is what they want to do, if they do not want to consider appropriation bills, which we ought to be doing, which ought to be the first priority of this Congress, we have another suggestion for them. If they are not willing to take up the appropriation bills, let us take up some legislation that actually tries to help some people. Let us take up some legislation dealing with the cost of prescription drugs. We have legislation that has in fact already passed the Senate dealing with the generic drug issue.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, the underlying resolution made in order under this rule has only one real purpose, and it is not to help pass a responsible welfare reform bill. It is a sham. Let us take a more positive approach. Let us look at legislation that the other body has passed, for example, the Prescription Drug Fair Competition Act. Today the Republican leadership is asking the House to take up meaningless legislation that is not going to go anywhere. The Prescription Drug Fair Competition bill has the potential to help millions of consumers right now. But I do not have to tell you that it has not been considered in the House yet, and I do not see any indication that it is on the schedule in the immediate future.

Right now, millions of seniors pay too much for vital medicines because big drug companies are boosting their own profits by keeping lower-cost generic drugs off the market. The Waxman-Brown-Thurman bill, which we would like the opportunity to bring up for a vote since they are not bringing anything else up for a vote, would stop this abusive practice and reduce the cost of prescription drugs for millions of American senior citizens. In fact, the legislation would reduce total spending on prescription drugs by $60 billion over 10 years according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

We are going to ask for a ''no'' vote on the previous question, and I will talk about this again a little bit later so that we can actually bring this legislation up, legislation that will help senior citizens right now. But no, the other side, they do not want to do anything. They do not want to do this. They do not want to do appropriation bills. They do not want to be here. They want to go home. We all know there is an election going on and sure we would like to spend some time with our constituents; but our first obligation is to legislate, is to be on the floor of this House working, not to be here for 2½ days starting at 6:30 on a Tuesday and ending at 3 o'clock on a Thursday. Shame. Shame on the other side.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE), a member of the Committee on Rules.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important rule that will allow for consideration of these timely resolutions. We on this side of the aisle are very proud of all our timely accomplishments, starting with our budget. We went on to pass many, many important items for the American people: corporate responsibility, prescription drugs, historic tax relief, welfare reform, pension reform, and probably most importantly, homeland security.

Mr. Speaker, I am a very strong supporter of all these things, the death tax repeal permanency which this measure includes; but I am here this morning to address an issue that I have been more closely involved with. More than 4 months ago in this very Chamber, the House of Representatives passed comprehensive welfare reform legislation to build on the 1996 historic reforms that changed the culture of our system from one of cyclical dependence across generations to one of personal responsibility. This legislation is a culmination of strong reflection and cooperation between Members of Congress who care passionately about ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to live successful, productive lives.

Mr. Speaker, much has changed since 1996. We have witnessed welfare rolls drop from 14 million to 5 million nationwide. More single mothers are employed than ever before, and nearly 3 million children have been lifted out of poverty. Prior to 1996 in my own home State of Ohio, we were passing out welfare checks to the tune of $82 million every month. Post-reforms, the price tag has been reduced to less than $27 million, and it is going to those who really need the help. In one State alone, that is a savings of $50 million.

The welfare reform bill we passed in the House some 4 months ago will protect children by increasing child care funding and improving the quality of child care. It will strengthen families and improve child well-being. And it encourages States to implement innovative programs to offer struggling families the tools and resources they need to secure jobs and provide for their independence. Each one of these provisions is unique to the House bill and will not become a reality if the entire Congress does not finish up its work on reauthorizing welfare reform.

As we consider this resolution, only 11 days remain before the 1996 reforms expire on September 30. The House of Representatives has done its work. Failure to deliver this welfare reform reauthorization to the President's desk before the expiration date could send the tremendous progress that we have seen since 1996 spiraling backwards into a sea of dependence.

Over the last 6 years, millions of American men and women have overcome adversity, reversed course and rebuilt their lives. They have taught their children about the dignity of having a job and providing for their family. They have shared their stories with friends and neighbors. They are proud. We cannot afford to backpedal on the progress that we have made. Too many people have worked too hard to get where they are today.

It is time for the Congress to complete action on this reauthorization. The House has answered the call of the American people and the President is waiting to sign this into law. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this rule and all the underlying resolutions.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), who is a prime sponsor of legislation that will actually help some people today dealing with the issue of generic drugs.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have great respect for the gentlewoman from Ohio, but I could not believe that she would start out by talking about the Republicans passing the budget. She knows very well that unless you pass the appropriation spending bills pursuant to that budget, you have not done anything. As my colleague from Texas mentioned, the Republicans have only brought up five of the 13 appropriation bills. To suggest that they are dealing with the budget and the spending is absurd. They are not. They have not dealt with it. They are not bringing up the bills.

But, more important, this morning, this resolution that we are considering essentially chastises the other body for not bringing up welfare reform or estate tax repeal. The bottom line is that this body, the House, has the opportunity under the Republican leadership to pass a very important piece of legislation which is sponsored by my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), and another Republican on the other side, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON), that would deal with the cost of prescription drugs. We know that our constituents say that the biggest problem that they face is health care costs and particularly the cost of prescription drugs. The other body has already passed this bill, which is called the Greater Access to Affordable Pharmaceuticals Act, by a 78–21 vote, overwhelmingly, because they know it would save American consumers over $60 billion in prescription drug costs. Rather than pass sense of Congress resolutions here today that are meaningless, why do the Republicans in the House not simply take up this Senate bill and save American consumers millions of dollars on their drug costs?

This bill, the Senate-passed bill, would close the loophole and restore competition in the pharmaceutical market while protecting an inventor's right to legitimate patent protection. It deals with patents. It deals with bringing generics to the market quicker in order to cut the cost of prescription drugs. Under the bill, once the valid patents on a prescription drug expire, competitors can enter the market and consumers can get lower

prices. The reason the savings from this bill are so substantial is that competition is the best weapon we have against overpriced prescription drugs.

Why is it not happening? It is not happening because the pharmaceutical industry is giving literally millions of dollars to the Republicans and the Republican leadership to not bring this bill up, because they do not want it to happen. Today in Congress Daily are ads, large ads, full page, by the pharmaceutical industry, by PhRMA, the brand-name drug lobby, saying, don't pass this generic bill. In Roll Call there is another full-page ad: Don't pass this generic drug bill. Because the pharmaceuticals are concerned that they are going to lose money, that the American consumer is going to save money and they are going to lose money if we bring up this bill. In fact, it has gotten so bad that they are actually pressuring some of the companies that have been lobbying and asking that the generic bill come up; they have been pressuring them to withdraw their support for the generic bill.

There was another thing today in Congress Daily where they are trying to get some of the Republicans who support this bill to not support the discharge petition to bring it up. It is an outrage what the pharmaceutical industry is doing. Let the House Republicans bring this bill up rather than the nonsense that they are proposing this morning.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH).

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, while I congratulate the other side on their valiant, but unsuccessful, partisan attempt to change the subject, I rise on behalf of this rule as an opportunity to put the House on notice and put the House on record that we need to move right now on welfare reform. This reform is the most important social reform that Congress has achieved since I came here in 1994, and right now it is at risk. Welfare caseloads under our initiative have fallen by 60 percent to their lowest levels since 1965. Nine million recipients have gone from welfare to work, from dependency to independence. We have learned from this success that we can help people bootstrap themselves and become self-reliant and proud. We have reaffirmed that the welfare system is supposed to provide a safety net, not a hammock.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 4 months since the House passed the Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Protection Act reauthorizing these reforms. We passed this bipartisan bill which would build upon the success of the past 6 years by improving day care and increasing opportunity. We strengthened the welfare system by making it less permissive, but at the same time providing real incentives to work. Sadly, some on the left would rather go back to the days of welfare dependency, limited opportunity, and stunted hope for some of our most underprivileged Americans. These reactionaries want to run out the clock on welfare reform here today so that they can turn back the clock and repeal those critical welfare reforms. We cannot allow that to happen. My answer to them is that we need to move forward.

Congress has a narrow opportunity to do something real for our neighbors in need. Congress must pass a 5-year welfare reauthorization bill now, before this program expires.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

The previous speaker mentioned running out the clock. The Republican leadership announced we are not going to be in session tomorrow and we are not going to be in session Monday. They have lots of time for this. They just do not have time to actually legislate.

□ 1100

Now, the Republican leadership has announced that we will not be in session on Friday, we will not be in session on the next Monday, and we will not come back until 6:30 on Tuesday. Meanwhile, time is ticking away and all Federal agencies are going to run out of money because appropriation bills have not been passed by this body on September 30. So I would urge them, if they are very concerned about time, that they bring those appropriation bills to the floor so our Federal agencies did not run out of money on October 1.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, rather than acting on bills that actually help the American people in some way, Republican leadership is focusing on meaningless resolutions that chastise the other body for not taking action on measures the House has passed. If we had sent the other body decent legislation, rather than bad ideas, the situation might be different. I am thinking of the Republican crown jewel, a Medicare drug coverage bill so grossly inadequate, written by the drug companies, that it is an insult to Medicare beneficiaries and to their families. But that is another story.

Fair is fair, Mr. Speaker. Before Republican leadership demonizes the other body, they might want to rid the skeletons from their own closet. The other body, for instance, passed legislation that finally does something about out-of-control prescription drug prices, and did so in a responsible, bipartisan manner. But Republican leadership in this House has blocked even a vote on that legislation, which will save American consumers, mostly the elderly, $60 billion.

Brand and generic drug companies alike exploit loopholes in the laws to block competition in the marketplace. The Federal Trade Commission has acknowledged it, the Patent and Trademark Office has acknowledged it, the President has acknowledged it. But House leadership and the prescription drug industry are virtually the only ones who have not acknowledged it.

Why is that? Could it be the millions of dollars the drug industry gives to Republican Members of Congress? Could it be that the drug industry, using drug industry money through phony ads run through a group called 60–Plus and run through a group called USA Seniors, that they are running ads in support of the drug plan that they wrote, the drug industry wrote on behalf of Republican Members of Congress?

Could it be, in the most cynical move I have seen in my 10 years in this body, the drug industry wrote a bill, a prescription drug bill that really was not worth very much, pushed it through Congress, gave money to Republican Members of Congress, then ran ads, in the most cynical move imaginable, thanking those Republican Members of Congress for voting for it and saying that it was an ad written by United Seniors Association, but it is actually funded by the drug industry, which they will not tell you?

The Senate-passed bill, Mr. Speaker, closes the loopholes the FTC has identified and would deliver more competitive prescription drug prices to the American people. There are 3 companion measures in the House, any of which would restore competition in the prescription drug marketplace, saving consumers $60 billion. Some of those are sponsored by Republicans, but Republican leadership will not let those bills come to a vote. Instead, we are passing meaningless resolutions today.

If the House squanders this opportunity, we will likely go home without providing any kind of prescription drug relief to seniors and others who desperately need that help.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to permit consideration. I urge Republican leadership to allow us to vote and to take House action now on legislation to stop the brand name and generic drug industry from blocking this legislation and stop their shenanigans, to bring prescription drug prices down, something we could do today in this body. The other body passed this legislation. If it dies in the House, the Republican leadership can congratulate themselves for successfully catering to the drug industry again and again and again at the expense of the American public.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. RYUN).

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, in 1996 Congress set out on an ambitious plan to transform welfare from a program that kept people dependent upon government handouts to a structure that empowers people on their own to be self-sufficient.

Today, I believe we can declare welfare reform a huge success. Consider these facts: The poverty gap for families with children has decreased by over $4 billion since 1996. Hunger among children has been cut in half, and the poverty rate for African American children is at its lowest point in U.S. history.

Success stories abound. One of my constituents, Dorothy, reports that when she was hit hard several years ago, she participated in an innovative program designed to help people become more self-sufficient. Once on the verge of bankruptcy, she is now employed and regularly contributes to a savings account in hopes that one day, one day, she will be owning a home.

The House passed H.R. 4737 to reauthorize the welfare reform program last May. The Senate has not acted on it. All of us on Capitol Hill must continue on the path of reform by working together to send a welfare reform authorization to the President this month.

Support the rule and give our constituents the well-deserved opportunity to have a hand up, not a handout.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would be more impressed with my colleagues on the other side and their commitment to a full deliberation of the welfare bill if they had not used their power in the rules to shut off adequate effort in this House when we debated welfare to address one of its great defects, child care. They would not allow an amendment which I think would have passed if they had given us a chance to vote on it, which is why they would not, which would have expanded child care as part of welfare.

But we are not just talking about welfare. As I listen to the Members on the other side complaining that a legislative body is not doing its work, this is the end of September. We have not passed an appropriations bill for the Department of Health and Human Services or Education or Labor or Transportation or Housing and Urban Development or the Environmental Protection Administration.

The gentleman from Ohio talked about September 30 being the date when the welfare bill expires. The whole Government expires on September 30 and they have not passed any bill for the domestic agencies. Listening to people who have that record of nonfeasance complain that somebody else is not getting its work done, I feel like I kind of wandered into a nudist colony and somebody complained that I was not wearing a tie. I have never seen a more bizarre example of people trying to object to a fault that they are themselves guilty of.

We all understand, by the way, why we do not have appropriations bills. We have a split in the Republican Party. We voted in 2001 a very large tax cut. Since we voted that tax cut, this administration has committed to spending more than half a trillion dollars over the next 10 years between the war in Afghanistan, the war they want to have in Iraq, running Iraq, running Afghanistan, homeland security, and a lot of other things. The result is that there is not enough money to fund the Government even at what I would consider the minimal level that many of the Republicans want. So here is the problem. We have the intellectually consistent Republicans who, having voted for a tax cut, are prepared to make substantial reductions in the appropriations bills. We have many of us on the Democratic side who thought the tax cut went too far and we do not support such drastic restrictions as shutting down efforts to clean up Superfund sites or taking away funds from public housing or reducing other important funds, but then we have the bulk of the Republican Party. They voted for a tax cut which reduced revenues, but they will not support appropriations bills that reflect the revenue reductions. So what do they do? They do not pass anything. There is a split between the Republican party, between the intellectually honest conservatives who voted for a tax cut and are prepared to reduce spending, and the rest of the Republicans who said, wait a minute, you must be kidding. We cannot reduce spending to that level. We cannot let the American people know what the true consequences of our tax cut are. So how do we deal with this? We do not vote on an appropriations bill for the Department of Health and Human Services. We do not vote on an education bill. They are going to give us a big CR, a big continuing resolution.

I can remember Ronald Reagan standing here waving a continuing resolution and decrying it. I guess this is the birthday present that Ronald Reagan gets this year, a complete repudiation of his denunciation of continuing resolutions by a Republican Party incapable of appropriating.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. THURMAN).

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST) for yielding me this time.

This debate today is on a rule that is to bring a sense of Congress on two issues that in fact this House has passed, the estate tax and the welfare reform. I do not know that we would be having this debate on the sense of Congress if in fact there could have been an opportunity for us to sit down and compromise on the estate tax. We could have looked at the $6 million that we tried to offer as an alternative on this floor at 99.7 percent of the debate which was about small businesses and farmers, and the numbers show that in fact that $6 million would have done that. No. Instead, we have got to worry about how we are going to cover for Ken Lay and his wealthy friends. And I have got to say that just does not get it with me.

On top of that, you talk about welfare reform. It is in the Senate. Today it is my understanding that the Senate was going to be talking about homeland security, which you have also criticized them for. There are only so many hours in a day. I think they are going to get to welfare reform, but while they are getting to all these issues that you are talking about, there ought to be a debate on them, which is what the Senate is trying to do. So in saying all of that, here we are, that was just mentioned by the previous speaker. We have got a situation here in the House where we cannot get the Health and Human Services bill up. So any welfare reform that is done on paper is meaningless unless we have the money to back it up. And right now we have nothing because we have no HHS bill that would provide those dollars.

So what are we trying to do on this side? We are trying to talk about another piece of legislation that has passed the Senate. We cannot have a blame game. You criticize them for not passing something. Then you come over here and we will say to you, guess what, there is a piece of legislation that every one of us would be best to be able to go home and talk about, and that is the generic drug bill. And by the way, that does not cost us anything but it saves $60 billion over the next 10 years on making sure that we have generic drugs coming to our constituents.

So what is happening here is that we have a bill that has been prepared and passed on a bipartisan vote in the Senate on generic drugs that now could be over here, picked up, passed. We could go home and not talking about it costing the Federal Government anything. But, no, we are not doing that.

I was home in August. I was out there every day, and I talked to the people in my district, and I just want to talk about a couple of people that see people every day. We had Rick Limehouse, who is a pharmacist at the Pill Box Pharmacy in Clermont, and he said he is appalled at the escalating cost of medication just in the 2 years he has been in business. Because of the public outcry against these rising costs, he said that some drug companies have started to offer discount cards that discount what the pharmacy can charge but not what the pharmacy pays for the medication. At the same time, the manufacturers continue to raise the price of their medication at a rate beyond anything that can be attributed to inflation. The generic bill, getting these drugs to the market, would be helpful.

Pharmacist Ken Norfleet of Brooksville said, ''Every day,'' and we just do not happen to see this every day, ''we see people coming into the pharmacy who decide not to buy their prescriptions,'' or that they are cutting their dosages in half because they cannot afford the high cost. And what are they doing? They are jeopardizing their health and their well-being.

I would call upon my colleagues from the other side. There is a discharge petition down here that does not say only Democrats can sign. It says House Members can sign, Members of Congress. How about if we cannot take home the appropriations bill and we have to talk about continuing resolutions? How about at least let us take home one present to them. Let us at least show them that we are concerned about their cost of medications. Let us at least have the stomach to stand here, sign that petition that says we are willing to cost not only to seniors but to all families on generic drugs. That would be a gift to them. And as we go through the tax cuts and talk about these things, I hope we all will remember what Mr. Lindsey said about the war, that it is $100 billion. We are already into deficit spending. Do you not think we should be talking to our constituents about not leaving this debt to our children and our grandchildren?

□ 1115

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to advise my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), that I just have one speaker to close, so I will reserve my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY).

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to remind us all that it is interesting to have resolutions on the floor that recommend action by the other body, but the important thing is for us to do our work here.

I am a member of the Committee on Appropriations. We have eight of the 13 appropriations bills which have been dealt with by the committee, but which have not been put out here on the floor to be dealt with by the full body. Why is that? The main reason is because the leadership of this House has taken an approach to fiscal policy which is totally unreasonable and unrealistic. This is not anything new; it has been going on now for a couple of years. My Republican colleagues have taken us from a situation within the Federal budget of growing surpluses to now deepening deficits, and they do not know how to deal with it. They do not know how to solve the problem that they have created for the people of this country with growing deficits in the Federal budget. They cannot fund the necessary things that need to be done.

In addition to that, there is a whole host of issues that are crying out for attention; most notably, a prescription drug program which will allow the senior citizens of this country to get the medication they need to restore themselves to health and to maintain their health. We have a good bill.

If we want to talk about something the Senate has done, they have passed a good bill. Their bill provides for a prescription drug program as an entitlement under Medicare. That is what the AARP wants, that is what all of the associations that represent senior citizens want, and it is what the older people of our country want. They want an entitlement program under Medicare for prescription drugs. You refuse to bring that bill out. Why? Because you are the great beneficiaries of the largesse of the pharmaceutical companies. They have made enormous contributions to the Republican Party in this House in order to keep this bill from getting to the floor.

So instead of telling the Senate what they need to do, let us deal with our own business right here in this House.

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

It is with deep regret that I observe the timidity on the other side. We have two great political parties in this country. We want to join the issues. We want to enter into debate on this floor. We want to cast votes. We know that we do not necessarily have the votes here; they are in the majority, they probably can pass anything they want to, but we want the opportunity to debate and consider legislation. They are denying us this opportunity, not just with this generic drug legislation that we would like to bring up today, but the legislation that funds the Government of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day for the country, quite frankly, that the Republican Party has become so timid that they want to show up at 6:30 on Tuesday and leave at 3 o'clock on Thursday because they do not want their Members to have to vote on tough issues. We are paid, hired by the American people, and paid to show up here, to work a full week, and to take tough votes, and if they are not willing to take tough votes, if they are not willing to bring matters to the floor, then perhaps it is time for someone else to be in charge.

Mr. Speaker, if the previous question is defeated, I will offer an amendment to the rule. My amendment will provide that immediately after the House passes these do-nothing resolutions, it will take up the Prescription Drug Fair Competition Act of 2002, H.R. 5272. My amendment provides that the bill will be considered under an open amendment process so that all Members will be able to fully debate and offer amendments to this critical bill. It is time for the House to do its work and pass legislation to help the American people, not simply play blame games.

A ''no'' vote on the previous question will allow the House to take up this bill and provide much-needed relief for the high cost of prescription drugs. However, a ''yes'' vote on the previous question will prevent the House from taking up a bill that actually makes a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the amendment be printed in the RECORD immediately before the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on the previous question, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the chairman of the Committee on Rules.

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS), for yielding me this time, and I congratulate him on his management on what clearly is a very important measure here. It has been mischaracterized by my friends on the other side of the aisle, but we are very proud of what we have been able to accomplish in this 107th Congress. It is clear that Republicans are in the majority, but we have what is today a six-vote majority. It is extraordinarily narrow, but we have been able to work in a bipartisan way to address the issues that we are going to be bringing up once we pass this rule.

It was with bipartisan support that we brought about reform of the welfare system. It is with bipartisan support that we passed repeal of the death tax. It is with bipartisan support, Mr. Speaker, that we were able to bring about pension reform. These are measures that Democrats and Republicans alike supported in this body, and we are very proud that we were able to provide, under the leadership of Speaker HASTERT, the encouragement and the direction and the momentum to get these measures through.

Now, we have done this along with our work on the appropriations bills. Mr. Speaker, I think that it is important for us to note that in the past when our friends on the other side of the aisle controlled this body, we had, in fact, continuing resolutions. We have always gone through challenges when we have dealt with the appropriations process. Where are we today? Well, this House has passed five appropriations bills, appropriations bills that deal with both domestic and international issues and our national security issues as well. We have passed the Interior appropriations. We have passed the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill, both of which have measures that deal with domestic issues here. We have passed the Military Construction appropriations bill. We have passed the Department of Defense appropriations bill, and we have passed the Legislative Branch appropriations bill, obviously dealing with this institution, dealing with the very important security here in the Capitol.

So we are very proud of the fact that we have been able to pass these appropriations bills, and we know, Mr. Speaker, that we have even more work that the committee has done, the Committee on Appropriations, dealing with

the Energy and Water appropriations bill, the Foreign Operations appropriations bill. As we sit here debating these issues, our colleagues should know, Mr. Speaker, that the members of the Committee on Appropriations and the leadership is working together on these issues. So we hope very much that we are going to be able to complete as many of these measures as possible.

The resolution that we are dealing with today, in fact, is focused on the accomplishments, the accomplishments of the 107th Congress. We have passed a prescription drug bill from the United States House of Representatives. We have been able to provide tax relief to middle income wage-earners in this country providing child care benefits and repeal of the marriage tax penalty. We have been able to deal with a wide range of issues in a bipartisan way again, Mr. Speaker, since the tragedy of a year ago on September 11. We have been able to pass a supplemental appropriations bill that has helped us deal with our national security. We have been able to come together and work on a wide range of issues to combat this war on terrorism. Those things have been done in a bipartisan way.

So that is why it is very troubling, Mr. Speaker, to hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about the fact that we have not acted. Yes, there continues to be more work to do. But we have been able, as I said, to get these measures out of the House of Representatives and, unfortunately, the Senate has not taken up a number of these measures.

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

Mr. DREIER. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman said with regard to the appropriations bills, well, the committee has done them. Why would we be taking 5 days off now if the committee has, as he said, passed these appropriations bills? Why are they not on the floor? Why do we not get those appropriations bills that the committee has already voted on?

Mr. DREIER. If I could reclaim my time, Mr. Speaker, I would say that we have been able to pass these five appropriations bills and we are working to move these measures forward. These measures that we have, and I have yielded and I am going to close the debate here now, we have had, in fact, these other very important measures that need to be reaffirmed here with this measure that we have, and we are going to continue to work on this appropriations process, and that is our job and we are going to continue to do it.

So let me say, Mr. Speaker, I have already yielded, I am going to close the debate now so that we can move ahead with the vote on the previous question and so that we can then move ahead with these very important measures. Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that I believe that it is the right thing for us to do to reaffirm our support for permanent repeal of the death tax, which has been pointed out by my colleagues, again, in a bipartisan way, how punitive this is, how it hurts economic growth and it stifles the progress that small businesses and family farms have been able to make.

I also believe that when we look at the benefits with 7 million people having, since 1996, come off of the welfare rolls, the ability that we are going to have to strengthen that. We need to reaffirm our support from this institution for that very important welfare reform.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge strong support of this rule and for these resolutions so that we can, in fact, move ahead with our very important work.

The amendment previously referred to by Mr. FROST is as follows:

At the end of the resolution add the following new sections:

SEC. . Notwithstanding any other provision in this resolution, immediately after disposition of resolution H. Res. 525, the Speaker shall declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5272) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide greater access to affordable pharmaceuticals. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. . If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third day order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of that bill.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

Mr. FROST. 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.

Following the vote on the previous question, pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting, if ordered, on the question of adoption of the resolution, and then on the motion to suspend the rules and pass House Resolution 523 postponed from yesterday.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 214, nays 202, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 397]

YEAS—214

Aderholt
Akin
Armey
Baker
Ballenger
Barr
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bereuter
Biggert
Bilirakis
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Boozman
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Coble
Collins
Combest
Cox
Crane
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
English
Everett
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gilman
Goode
Goodlatte
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutknecht
Hansen
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holt
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Isakson
Issa
Istook
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kerns
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas (OK)
Manzullo
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McKeon
Mica
Miller, Dan
Miller, Gary
Miller, Jeff
Moran (KS)
Morella
Myrick
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Paul
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Riley
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schaffer
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sununu
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Toomey
Upton
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—202

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barcia
Barrett
Becerra
Bentsen
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop
Blumenauer
Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (OK)
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Condit
Conyers
Costello
Coyne
Cramer
Crowley

Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doyle
Edwards
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank
Frost
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green (TX)
Gutierrez
Hall (TX)
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hoeffel
Holden
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
John
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
Kleczka
Kucinich
LaFalce
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Luther
Lynch
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Millender-McDonald
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Phelps
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott
Serrano
Sherman
Shows
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thurman
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velazquez
Visclosky
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOT VOTING—16

Bachus
Blagojevich
Bryant
Carson (IN)
Cooksey
Gephardt
Gillmor
Hilleary
Jenkins
McKinney
Miller, George
Mink
Oxley
Roukema
Stump
Waters

□ 1150

Ms. LEE and Messrs. HONDA, SPRATT, RAHALL, EVANS, HILLIARD and FORD changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote, followed by a 5-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules on H. Res. 523.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 213, noes 200, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 398]

AYES—213

Aderholt
Akin
Armey
Baker
Ballenger
Barr
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bereuter
Biggert
Bilirakis
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Boozman
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Coble
Collins
Combest
Cox
Crane
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
English
Everett
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gilman
Goode
Goodlatte
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutknecht
Hansen
Harman
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hulshof
Hyde
Isakson
Issa
Istook
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kerns
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas (OK)
Manzullo
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McKeon
Mica
Miller, Dan
Miller, Gary
Miller, Jeff
Moran (KS)
Morella
Myrick
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Paul
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Riley
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schaffer
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sununu
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Toomey
Upton
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOES—200

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barcia
Barrett
Becerra
Bentsen
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop
Blumenauer
Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (OK)
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Condit
Conyers
Costello
Coyne
Cramer
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doyle
Edwards
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank
Frost
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green (TX)
Gutierrez
Hall (TX)
Hastings (FL)
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hoeffel
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
John
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
Kleczka
Kucinich
LaFalce
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Luther
Lynch
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Millender-McDonald
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Phelps
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott
Serrano
Sherman
Shows
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thurman
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velazquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOT VOTING—19

Bachus
Blagojevich
Bryant
Carson (IN)
Cooksey
Gephardt
Gillmor
Hilleary
Hunter
Inslee
Jenkins
Miller, George
Mink
Oxley
Payne
Roukema
Rush
Stark
Stump

□ 1200

Mr. CRAMER changed his vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the 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

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday September 19th I missed rollcall vote Nos. 396, 397 and 398 due to chairing a hearing on terrorism with FBI Director Mueller testifying. If I had been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on each of these votes.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 523.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 523, 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 413, nays 0, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 399]

YEAS—413

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Allen
Andrews
Armey
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldacci
Baldwin
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior
Bono
Boozman
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (OK)
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Collins
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Costello
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Frank
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gilchrest
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Harman
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kerns
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kleczka
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Lynch
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Millender-McDonald
Miller, Dan
Miller, Gary
Miller, Jeff
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Saxton
Schaffer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrock
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sununu
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Toomey
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velazquez
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watkins (OK)
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—19

Blagojevich
Bryant
Carson (IN)
Cooksey
Frost
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gillmor
Hilleary
Hunter
Jenkins
LaFalce
Miller, George
Mink
Oxley
Roukema
Shays
Stump
Weller

□ 1209

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 399 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

SENSE OF HOUSE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD COMPLETE ACTION ON LEGISLATION EXTENDING AND STRENGTHENING SUCCESSFUL 1996 WELFARE REFORMS

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 527, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 525) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the 107th Congress should complete action on and present to the President, before September 30, 2002, legislation extending and strengthening the successful 1996 welfare reforms, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of House Resolution 525 is as follows:

H. RES. 525

Whereas the 1996 welfare reform law (P.L. 104–193), approved by large bipartisan majorities of the House of Representatives and of the Senate, has delivered dramatic results by promoting record increases in work and earnings among current and former welfare recipients, reducing the number of children in poverty by nearly 3,000,000 and achieving record low rates of child poverty among African-American children and children raised by single mothers, and lifting 3,000,000 families from welfare dependence as part of a decline in national welfare rolls of more than 50 percent;

Whereas despite these unprecedented gains, 2,000,000 low-income families remain dependent on welfare, challenging the Congress to build upon that success by putting even more Americans on the path to self-reliance;

Whereas changes to the law are needed to better promote the creation and maintenance of strong two-parent families, including healthy married families, in order to enhance child and family well-being;

Whereas further changes are needed to improve the quality and availability of child care, since the experiences of young children greatly affect their success in school;

Whereas the House of Representatives, on May 16, 2002, passed H.R. 4737, the Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act of 2002, which includes needed enhancements proposed by the President and extends and strengthens reforms for the coming five years;

Whereas H.R. 4737 would provide a total of $170,000,000,000 in Federal and State funds to support work, child care, education, training, and other family needs;

Whereas the Senate has yet to approve legislation to extend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, and Title V Abstinence Education State Block Grant programs as required by September 30, 2002; and

Whereas the failure of the 107th Congress to extend the TANF or child care programs by September 30, 2002, would threaten the opportunities currently available for low-income families and create fiscal uncertainty for States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the 107th Congress should complete action on and present to the President, prior to September 30, 2002, legislation extending and strengthening the successful 1996 welfare reforms.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 527, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON).

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Twelve days, 12 days. In 12 days, the welfare reform legislation expires. Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious matter. This House passed reauthorization of the welfare reform legislation on May 16. The Senate has not acted. We have 12 days, yet welfare reform has been an unprecedented success.

Never have we passed a reform of a program that has resulted in a decline in child poverty. This bill has resulted in the largest decline in child poverty ever, and in not just 1 year but in consecutive years; and the most dramatic decline in child poverty has been among African American children. Nearly 3 million children have left poverty since welfare reform, and this is not just because we had a good economy.

During the good economy of the Reagan years, when hundreds of millions of jobs were created, welfare roles increased about 12 percent. It is the result of welfare reform that children are leaving poverty, that there has been a substantial reduction in the number of children living in poverty several years consecutively.

Secondly, the most exciting and wonderful news about welfare reform is that of the women on welfare, 33 percent are now working. The percent of those on welfare and working has tripled. It has gone from 11 percent to 33 percent.

□ 1215

Many of those women are still receiving some welfare benefits as they make the transition to complete independence, but 33 percent are working. That is incredibly good news and it will strengthen those families economically and emotionally. But that also means that 67 percent are not meeting the State definition of working, which does not include complete independence from welfare benefits.

So we do have a lot more work to be done, and I am proud to say that the reauthorization passed by this House recognized that those women who were not meeting the standards of work need more education. They need more training, and it creates tremendous flexibility for the States to not only help women get into that first job, but enable them to have the time they need for the education, the skill development to deal with all those problems that we know from our research which represent barriers to women getting into the workforce and barriers to their rising up the career ladder so that the salary that they earn is a salary that can honestly support a family with children.

The reauthorization bill represented a giant step forward, building on what we learned from the old program, enabling the new program to be far more powerful in the lives of the women and children in America who are on welfare and basically living on extremely low incomes, if not in poverty.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the House acted. The Senate has not acted. I call on my colleagues to lay out to the other body the importance of reauthorizing welfare today as it expires in 12 short days. That is not even 2 weeks. In 12 short days, this program expires.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this is what we call filler because the majority, the Republicans, do not want to bring up legislation that is important to enact before the end of the fiscal year.

If I had been told that on September 19 as one of the last bits of business before we adjourn for the week and come back on Tuesday of next week, not Monday, with not acting on in this body 8 of the 13 appropriation bills, that we would be taking up a meaningless resolution in order to kill time, I would not have believed it; but, that is what we are doing.

The gentlewoman from Connecticut is right. There are 12 days left before the end of this fiscal year. The Republicans have only scheduled 4 more legislative days before the end of this fiscal year. In 4 legislative days funding for education, for veterans affairs, for environmental issues, for law enforcement, and for housing will all expire. This body has not even taken up those appropriation bills; yet we have time for this meaningless resolution.

Yes, I am concerned about the end of this fiscal year and getting work done. It is important that we reauthorize the welfare reform bill, TANF reauthorization. I have been working for 2 years to try to get reauthorization of TANF.

This body missed an opportunity to get that done when it chose a partisan route rather than a bipartisan route which we could have passed when the bill was originally before us, a missed opportunity, making it much more difficult for this Congress to send to the President a meaningful TANF reauthorization bill.

Mr. Speaker, we should have built on the success of the current welfare reform bill. We should have built the success that provides flexibility to the States, but instead the legislation that passed this body took flexibility away from the States and made it more difficult for them to do their programs on welfare. Education and training are important, but the bill that passed this body says it is important for everyone but the mother on welfare with a child; that person does not need education. That is the wrong message.

The bill that passed this body says we do not want welfare recipients to have real jobs. We want makeshift employment, even though every study has shown that will not lead to people leaving poverty.

The bill that passed this body is an unfunded mandate on the States requiring them to spend billions of dollars more and not providing the necessary resources. This resolution states that changes are needed to improve the quality and availability of child care. I agree. We have not done that in this body. We need to do it.

Mr. Speaker, there is still time. I urge my colleagues to join in a bipartisan effort. We introduced a proposal that I authored along with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that builds on the current welfare system, providing the flexibility and the resources to the States. It took welfare to the next level to get families out of poverty. It had the support. We put in the proposal that the national Governors wanted and that the welfare administrators thought were necessary in order to build on the current welfare system, and it is consistent with the bipartisan effort of the other body.

There is time if we are willing to work in a bipartisan way to get TANF reauthorization passed, but we cannot do it the way that the other side of the aisle did it when this bill first came before this body.

Mr. Speaker, I regret that today is another missed opportunity.

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

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I remind the body, the Senate has not acted. We must go to conference. We can conference this bill and get it to the President's desk in 12 days. The Congress owes that to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, 4 months ago the House passed a 5-year welfare reform extension bill. Yet now, just 11 days remain before the successful Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program expires. The 1996 law lifted nearly 3 million children from poverty. It resulted in a dramatic increase in the employment and earnings of single mothers, all while reducing welfare dependence by 9 million people.

Still, we know we have more work to do in the next phase of welfare reform. Some in Washington seem to be willing to allow the program to run out at the end of this month. They seem to believe a simple extension would suffice, but a simple extension of this program will not help the nearly 60 percent of the adults on welfare who are doing nothing now to engage in activities that will lead them on the road and the path from poverty to self-reliance. A simple extension will not provide $2 billion in increased child care funds to support more working low-income families, and a simple extension will not invest more in families by promoting healthy marriages and preventing the millions of children born out of wedlock from growing up without the benefit of their father.

We must act now. So join us in supporting H. Res. 525. It is my sincere hope that we will soon get to a conference with the other body so we can work out our differences on this important legislation. More than 2 million low-income families in America are depending on us for help.

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

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I guess I am just a little bit confused on the basis of initial remarks by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) because the arguments that he just made were exactly the ones he made when we had the welfare debate on the floor of this House, and I know that he would have rather had his position prevail than the one that did, and that is the bill that we passed and sent over to the Senate. And what it sounded like was he wanted to revisit the debate that occurred in the House prior to House passage of our legislation, and what I would urge him to do is, if he wants to have another chance at that debate, would be to vote for this resolution which says it is ''the sense of the House of Representatives that the 107th Congress should complete action.''

If the House has passed legislation to complete action, we have to get the Senate to pass legislation, and I would hope that that impassioned speech that he just made to us, those of us who debated and already voted on the welfare bill, could be made to his colleagues in the Senate so that they would move a bill off the floor, we could go to conference, and he would then hope that his position would prevail in conference. But to say that he is opposed to urging the Senate to complete action is to basically say that wonderful and impassioned speech he made is not going to go anywhere because we cannot get the conference to try to get his position to prevail. And so moving this resolution hopefully will nudge the other body along so that his position can be presented in conference and the House and the Senate can resolve their differences.

So I do not understand how folks are arguing that they want to be on both sides. One, this is meaningless, and, two, his impassioned plea ought to be heard again; and the only place it can really be heard again by the House is in conference.

Vote for the resolution, and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) I will see in conference.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The Chair would make the following advisory: that as recently as December 19 of 2001 in response to a point of order, Members are reminded to confine their remarks to factual references to the other body and avoid characterizations of Senate action or inaction, remarks urging Senate action or inaction, remarks urging other Members to urge the Senate to take action or inaction, or references to particular Senators.

The Chair would also note that there have been remarks during the course of debate where praise has been heaped upon the other body, and just as criticism is not appropriate, neither is praise as a characterization.

Mr. CARDIN. I thank the Speaker for that clarification.

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds just to respond to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Speaker, it is just regrettable that we did not follow a bipartisan action in this body like some others have done on the other side of the aisle. I think that is regrettable because that has made it much more difficult for us to reach an agreement with so few days left in this session, and I still say this is a meaningless resolution. It does not do one thing, and I think Members can vote any way they want, and they will be surprised to learn that this is not a Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), a distinguished member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am glad the chairman of the committee spoke, and I want to respond and also to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON), because I think this resolution is an effort to shift the blame. The bottom line is, okay, the Senate should act. But why are they having trouble acting? It takes 60 votes. A major reason is because the House started this debate on the wrong foot including the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON). They started on a partisan approach. There was no effort to work with those of us who worked on welfare reform in 1995 and 1996, including the ranking member of the subcommittee. Zero effort. And that included the administration. It came forth with a proposal that in the judgment of the administrators, the vast majority of State administrators, was the wrong way to go. They said it was going to create flexibility. Also, there was the problem of poverty, that such a large percentage of the people who were moving off of welfare to work remained in poverty, and the studies show that the average income for people who have moved from welfare to work is something like 2,000 bucks a quarter. So we said let us build on welfare reform and its successes, let us acknowledge where it has had shortcomings and move on from there.

But you said no, you are going to proceed like you did on prescription drugs on a partisan basis, and the administration was part and parcel of that strategy. So now you are reaping not the benefits but the downsides of that approach, and you say to the Senate act after you got this off on the wrong foot, and the administration continues to insist on its bill which cannot receive 60 votes in the Senate.

□ 1230

There was a bipartisan effort within the Finance Committee, very contrasting with the partisan approach that you took.

So now you are saying it is the Senate's fault when the basic fault was the failure to do this in the right way in the first place right here. It was inexcusable for you and for the chairman not to sit down with Democrats, surely those who had worked on welfare reform, who had helped to build child care and day care into it and see if we could find common ground. So you have no common ground in the first place. The vote was 229–197 here. Inexcusable. What do you expect now?

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

The gentleman's recollection of the process of our subcommittee is, in my mind, completely faulty. Remember, one of the primary goals of the other party's approach, the Democrats' approach on that subcommittee, was to include as a major goal of the new welfare reform bill to reduce poverty and, indeed, we did that. Second, They were very interested in more education and training and we do that.

So it was a very good bill. It got through the House with a bipartisan vote. The Senate has not acted. We need to go to conference to get this bill to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES).

Mr. HAYES. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I admire and respect the gentleman from Maryland. I appreciate his point of view, but I have the opposite point of view. We have been working very hard. When welfare reform first came up, there was complete and total resistance on the other side of the aisle. We have gotten together and we have passed a good bill in the House on a bipartisan basis. I would love to have had more votes. That would have been wonderful. But the clear, pure fact remains, article 1, section 7, clause 2 of the Constitution simply requires that the House and the Senate have to pass legislation before it can be signed by the President and become law. The House has done their portion. The remainder is clear. We need compliance with the Constitution. That is what this debate is about. It is very meaningful.

It is very clear that 60-plus pieces of legislation have been passed under article 1, section 7, clause 2 by the House of Representatives. Those pieces of important legislation lie dormant. I thank the gentlewoman for bringing this to the House and I encourage that we support and pass this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, 6 years ago, despite an outcry of criticism, the U.S. Congress passed the most sweeping welfare reform measures ever. Now, 6 years later, no one can argue that this reform has been an overwhelming success. We have worked to end a cycle of dependence and replaced it with a spirit of self-sufficiency. These welfare-to-work success stories are proof positive of what I have always said—a government support check, while helpful, is no substitute for a paycheck.

On May 16 of this year, this House passed comprehensive welfare reform, the President

is asking for reform, the American people deserve reform and the Senate has not taken up this important legislation. Now is not the time to turn our backs on these successful reforms. We have replaced a cycle of government dependency with families that are proud of the work that they do and that are no longer dependent on a government check. That's the right thing to do to strengthen families, and we need to keep that record of success going.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds to respond to the gentlewoman from Connecticut. Current law allows the States to use education and training as part of the core work requirement in welfare. States have used that well and it has worked well. The bill that passed this body takes away that flexibility from the States. That is why the Governors are upset. That is why legislators are upset. That is why administrators are upset. And that is why people are upset. You take away the flexibility of the States on education and training for women trying to get off the welfare system.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, there are 4 scheduled legislative days remaining until the end of this fiscal year. Four days remaining. There are people watching the proceedings here in the gallery and all around the country who may be thinking that what they are watching is the House of Representatives at work, carrying on the business of the people. No, unfortunately they are wrong. We are sitting here chatting about a resolution to express the sense of the House that Congress should complete action on the welfare bill. We are not talking about completing action on anything right now with 4 scheduled legislative days remaining.

We now have eight, count them, eight appropriations bills that have not been passed, with 4 days remaining. We could be working on that legislation right now. So it is really quite amazing that the Republican leadership would squander its opportunity to make real progress on a legislative agenda, real progress on addressing the problems and concerns of the American people by taking up issues that are completely under their control right now.

The Democrats, given our minority position, have limited ability to control the agenda, so we have a discharge petition right now to take up a piece of real legislation that would reduce the cost of prescription drugs, H.R. 5272. This is a bill that would stop the gaming of the system and would allow real competition so that we could find lower prices for prescription drugs in this country. This is something that people really care about. Let us do something real and stop this chitchat.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would remind the preceding speaker that the Senate has not acted on welfare reform and the Senate has not acted on prescription drugs. The House has reauthorized welfare reform and the House has passed a very strong bill providing prescription drugs to seniors as an entitlement. It is very disturbing that 12 days before this bill expires, before the welfare reform bill that has reduced poverty among children more dramatically than any change in public policy in my lifetime, that it could languish unauthorized. The House has acted. The Senate has not. The fact is there are 12 days and that this Congress cannot complete work on welfare reform alone.

Mr. Speaker, welfare reform has helped women and children in America. It has been a good thing in their lives. We need it. For the preceding speaker to have said that we have cut work education and training is simply wrong. It is true we do not allow 12 months of vocational education, but for the first time we not only allow 4 months of any kind of education, whether it is vocational or not, but then 2 full days for 5 years. So we allow ongoing education which not only can help you prepare yourself for a job but through which then you can develop the skills to advance your career and move up the salary and career ladder. It is the most generous inclusion of education and training and opportunities in welfare reform that we have ever passed.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority whip.

Mr. DELAY. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, it looks like we are prepared to vote on a resolution that lays out exactly why the country needs and expects to see the 5-year reauthorization of welfare reform law finished sooner rather than later.

Remember, we only have 7 days remaining before the historic reforms will expire on September 30. There are two things we ought to bear in mind. First, the main reason welfare reform needs to be reauthorized and, second, what it takes to get the job done. Welfare reform has been good for America. It is replacing welfare checks with paychecks. It is fostering independence. It is boosting personal incomes. And it is truly improving the lives of millions of children.

We have to reauthorize welfare reform because there is more to be done to help millions of struggling families develop dignity and self-respect. We have been working on reauthorization since January. In February we built the HOPE Action Team. We pulled together committee and subcommittee chairs, administration officials and other Members of Congress. We held weekly meetings to drive both the timetable and the policies to ensure timely passage. We met twice a week. We worked late into the night. We stayed at the table to hammer out our differences so that we could put up a good bill here on this floor. It was a lot of work for a lot of people.

At the same time, I urged our Members to learn more about welfare reform by visiting former welfare offices that are now job placement centers. I urged our Members to meet with folks that are involved in the system. Many of us did sit down with both folks who are still on welfare and people who have left welfare for the world of work. We wanted their perspective on the changes that we made 6 years ago and the improvements that still needed to be made. We learned a lot.

Back in April, I visited the Texas Workforce Center in Houston. A man told me that welfare reform had changed his life and the changes he made offered his children a powerful lesson in doing things the right way. He said, ''They saw me getting up with them each morning,'' because it was time to go get a job. ''I could see in their eyes that they were happy about that.'' I think that is what it is all about.

In closing, I would like to remind the Congress that it takes work to pass a good bill. It takes time and effort to bring everyone together. It takes time to get a bill out of committee. And when you are dealing with several committees of jurisdiction, it takes even more work. Securing final passage of the bill is an even tougher assignment. But the House completed its work. We put in the time and we got the job done for the American people. Our work in the House will pay off for the American people, but it will all be for nothing unless and until Congress finishes welfare reauthorization.

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

Mr. Speaker, normally as the ranking member of the subcommittee that has jurisdiction over welfare, I would make a recommendation to my colleagues as to how they should vote on legislation affecting welfare and TANF reauthorization. I do not really have a recommendation to my colleagues on this resolution because I do not think it does anything. I really do think we are wasting time today.

I would like to see TANF reauthorization done this year. We should get it done. It is extremely important. The gentlewoman is right. We need to reauthorize the program. But I have a recommendation to the Republican leadership. Use this time to pass the appropriation bills we have not passed yet. We have not even taken up appropriation bills for the first time here. We normally spend a day or two on the important appropriation bills. With 4 legislative days left, you are not going to schedule them, are you? But, instead, you are going to schedule a resolution that does nothing. We should be talking about what we are going to do with seniors on prescription medicines within the Medicare system, not rely upon private insurance which has already left my constituents in Maryland. But, no, instead we have a resolution before us that really does nothing.

I have heard some of my Republican colleagues say that the other body has

not done anything. I know we are not supposed to characterize, you are using that as a fact, and you are wrong. The relevant committee in the other body has in fact brought out a bipartisan bill. We should embrace it. But instead, no, our Republican friends in this body are still hanging on to what we did earlier that has no chance of being enacted. We do need to talk and work out a bipartisan bill. But that is not what is happening here today.

Let me just, if I might, quote from some traditionally Republican sources. A Republican State legislator speaking on behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures talking about H.R. 4737 said, ''What troubles State legislators is not that the House bill focused on work but that it will to force States to establish community work programs at the expense of those who have left or never been on the rolls.''

Business groups have testified before our committee, ''Under these requirements, many States would have to reduce or abandon their current efforts to place welfare recipients in jobs and prepare them for employment in favor of workfare programs that generate 'work' hours, however unproductive.''

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I agree that we need to reauthorize TANF in the 107th Congress. The only way that can be done to help our States is if it is done in a bipartisan way.

□ 1245

Unfortunately, the majority, the Republicans, have refused to include the Democrats in this process. They have refused to really follow the recommendations of our States, the people who manage our welfare system. As a result, we are now faced with a situation where the other body in fact has acted in a responsible, bipartisan way, and still we pretend that we cannot get together. We are going to play hard ball, to the effect that nothing is going to get done. Well, I regret that, because a lot is at stake, the people in this Nation who depend upon these programs to take care of their children, to prepare themselves for work.

Yes, we should be moving people out of poverty in this Nation; we should be building upon the successes. I supported welfare reform 5 years ago. I support reauthorization of welfare this year. It is an important program, and we need to get it done.

I urge my colleagues to vote any way that they want to on this resolution, because I do not think it will do anything. It does express some sentiments that are important, and I think some of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle may feel that way. But I know I am expressing the majority sentiment when I wish this time would have been used to bring forward the appropriations bills so we could have our debate on issues we have not acted upon in this body.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Before recognizing the gentlewoman from Connecticut, there has been some discussion at the dais about potentially the gentlewoman using her time at the conclusion of the Committee on Education and Workforce time. The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) still had 30 seconds remaining at this time.

Is the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) inclined to close out her portion of the debate now or reserve it to the conclusion of the Committee on Education and Workforce debate?

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield my remaining 30 seconds to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) to control.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield my remaining 30 seconds to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY), who is managing the time for the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would note that terms like ''bipartisan'' and ''responsible'' are just as much characterizations as ''irresponsible'' and ''partisan,'' and are inappropriate references to the Senate.

It is now in order during the course of the resolution to consume the time allotted to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) will be recognized for 15½ minutes and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) will be recognized for 15½ minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

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

Mr. Speaker, in May, my colleagues and I passed important legislation to reauthorize the 1996 welfare reform law, one of the most successful social policies ever enacted by Congress. It has transformed the lives of millions of families and helped them achieve self-sufficiency. The 1996 welfare law has done its job, and now it is Congress' job and unique opportunity to improve upon that 1996 act.

The key reason why many former welfare recipients are leading independent lives today is clear: we require individuals to work for their benefits. Under the old system, welfare families could expect a lifetime of cash assistance without engaging in constructive activities of any kind.

When Republicans gained control in 1994 of this Congress, we vowed to change our Nation's welfare system. It took awhile. The debate was spirited. But by 1996, after vetoing the bill twice, a reluctant President Clinton finally signed the landmark Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act into law.

The success of those reforms has been extraordinary. Welfare caseloads have fallen over 50 percent, nearly 3 million children have escaped poverty, and the black child poverty rate is now at its lowest point ever.

Between 1996 and 1999, overall spending on cash assistance in my home State of Ohio declined by $19 million a month, enabling the State to increase funding for job training, child care, literacy and transportation programs that further assist families in moving toward self-sufficiency.

The legislation the Committee on Education and the Workforce committee passed in early May builds on that success. Based on President Bush's reform blueprint and introduced by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Chairman MCKEON), the Working Toward Independence Act strengthens the work requirements in current law, which will ensure that even more welfare families are able to move into productive lives. This measure was incorporated into the comprehensive welfare reform bill that passed the House in May.

The bill increases child care funding by over $2 billion and places an increased emphasis on improving the quality of care for our young children. With welfare caseloads cut in half since the welfare reform law was enacted, States will be able to devote significantly more money to expand access to quality child care.

We know that State and local leaders have been on the front lines of welfare reform. The flexibility in the 1996 law is one of the reasons it has worked so well. That is why this bill would give States and localities even more flexibility. With broadened waiver authority, they will be able to continue the kind of innovation that has proven so successful over the last 5 years.

Welfare reform is a top priority for this Congress. President Bush deserves a chance to sign this important piece of legislation into law this year. For the good of millions of Americans moving from welfare to work, this reauthorization must be completed by the conclusion of the 107th Congress. I urge my colleagues to approve the resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, many would take issue with some of the broad terminology in the so-called ''whereas clauses'' in this resolution, but I do not really think that is quite the issue here. I do not think there are too many who would argue with the desire, mutually felt by everyone in this Chamber, and I assume in the other Chamber, for completion of the conference's work.

The real fact of the matter is it seems a little disingenuous to be standing here talking about a rather meaningless resolution, as we have here today, filling up time that could be used to get the business of the House done. I would think that the Republican majority should be more than a little bit embarrassed that this is the best that they can do at this particular time of the year.

We have, what, eight more spending bills to finish before this year that apparently the leadership on the other side cannot muster and move the agenda on, so we sit here talking about a resolution that everybody is well intentioned to get the conferees' work done. You can say that in about one-half a minute.

But we will be out of here in a little while today. We are not staying to complete the work of the House. We were out of here yesterday by about 3:00 or 3:30. We did not come in Monday. We are not going to be here Friday. We are not coming in next Monday. So you talk about the time left to pass this particular bill out of the other House. Well, perhaps it is better than spending all of our time instructing the other House how to do their business, we could talk about how this House might do its business.

After all, we could do a lot that would change people's lives better for their welfare. We could bring forward the health and human services and education bill. Would that not be a marvelous factor. If we want to talk about things that would help people's lives and really matter, we could bring up that bill.

But the problem is that the majority knows that their budget of last year does not allow for that. This administration put out a budget and went around the country with my colleague from Ohio as part of the group doing a real ceremonious occasion talking about the Leave No Child Behind Act.

Well, the fact of the matter is their budget leaves many children behind, because if they brought up the education spending bill, on that budget they would be about $7 billion short. We have November 5 coming up; and between now and November 5, there are not too many people on the other side of the aisle who want to make it clear to the American people that they are coming up short on their promises.

So instead of bringing forward the spending bills before the end of the fiscal year and before November 5, we are sitting here banging back and forth on a resolution that has no import and no meaning except for great intentions, which we all share.

We could do a lot for people. We could do something about education; we could do something about Head Start. People that are on welfare and people that are not on welfare need to have their children get an education and get a start in school and be ready for school at an early age. We could bring forward bills that would allow us to put more resources into that program, which has proven to be successful.

We could do more for child care. Certainly the welfare bill that passed the House does not do enough. That is one of the reasons I perceive why it is a bit tied up on the other side, because people want to try to reach some nonpartisan or bipartisan resolve as to how that bill might improve its education piece and its job training piece and in fact its child care piece.

But this is a very partisan group that we see bringing forward things, and that is why the House bill does not do it, and that is why there is difficulty getting it done in the other body.

Mr. Speaker, we can bring forward matters that talk about school programs and after-school programs that would help many families in this country. But the House does not do that. They are busy talking about this inane legislation before us now.

Mr. Speaker, last year when the House passed its budget, it was the administration's budget, and they had a $1.7 trillion tax cut, there were many like myself and others who argued that that tax cut was way too big and it did not distribute any tax breaks fairly across a broad spectrum.

But whatever that debate is, that debate is by the board. Things have happened since then: September 11, a change in the economy, many more reasons to spend. The CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, is telling us that that tax cut is probably responsible for almost half of the decline in our surplus. We are no longer in a surplus; we are going into a deficit for some unforeseeable future period of time.

All of these things have changed, and what we need to do as the House, Mr. Speaker, is come back and revisit that budget. I understand why the other side is embarrassed to come forward and tell the American public they cannot deal with the health and human services and education spending bill because their budget would be $7 billion short.

So let us deal with that. Let us have a conference and sit down in a bipartisan or nonpartisan way and try to work through that to find out how we can help American families, how we can provide for public schools, where 90 percent of our children go, and give them the kind of investments they need and not leave them $7 billion short of the President's promise.

Let us talk about what we can do for Head Start and Early Head Start and child care programs so the people can get to work. Let us talk about job training programs that this administration intends to cut and talk about filling them properly when people are in fact being unemployed at higher rates than was anticipated, and let us talk about doing something for those in terms of unemployment compensation, and healthcare for those unemployed, matters which, for some reason, are not being brought up in front of this House now with the small amount of remaining time that we have.

There are many, many things that we could do that would better fill our time than taking up a resolution that is going to have no impact and has no business telling the other side on this Hill what to be doing.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that in mind, I would just say that I am going to reserve the balance of my time and let some other speakers go, but I think this time could be much better spent doing the real business of this House.

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2½ minutes to the sponsor of this resolution, the gentlewoman from Kentucky (Mrs. NORTHUP).

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, it is instructive to note that sometimes it is important to stay focused and that when the House passes repeated resolutions, sometimes that helps us get focused and get a bill to the President's desk. I would point to the stimulus bill that finally, after the House passed a stimulus bill four times, actually got to the President's desk and helped keep Americans on the job and stimulate our economy.

So today we are here to talk about staying focused on welfare reform and to advance it the next step. We all know that in 12 days the welfare reform authorization bill will run out, and families all around this country deserve to know what the program will be in the coming years if it affects their families, and States need to know that too for their budgets.

The fact is in our country freedom and opportunity depend on being able to get on the first rung of the ladder and begin a climb up that rung of the ladder, out of poverty into independence. The only way that is possible is to have a job and to build your skills and build on that job and begin to grow into independence. Our welfare reform bill helps families do that.

I want to mention the way that I think it is most important, and that is the increase in child care. As I move around my community and talk to families, talk to people that are part of the support system, talk to people that are running the day-care centers in the most disadvantaged neighborhoods, what I hear over and over is that more dollars are needed for child care.

□ 1300

Many families and many moms, as they expand their work opportunities, need to know that their children are in a good, safe childcare facility. They need to have that reassurance that their children are well cared for and that they can afford the childcare.

So we help families that are in this transition period going from dependence and government control of their life to independence, opportunity, having choices they have never had before, by making sure the resources they need to make that transition are there.

I am thankful that the House has passed the bill, and I want to thank the committees for passing this resolution. It will help us stay focused and make sure that we get this to the President's desk.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I just wonder how many times Members of this side of the aisle are going to have to be bringing up issues like education

and money for prescription drugs to get the other side focused on the business of this House, and not the other body, so that they can be addressed.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong unity with my colleagues in urging passage of the welfare reauthorization bill some time this year. We do have a responsibility to provide meaningful job training, job training that will work with our community colleges, our vocational schools; work that fits into training programs that are not eligible under the House bill. We need to get families back to work. We need to provide quality child care that will allow our children to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment.

The House bill fails to do that. In Minnesota right now, I have waiting lists. I have waiting lists with thousands of children. The House welfare reform bill will increase, increase in Minnesota the number of children on the waiting list.

I have heard from my county, I have heard from the State of Minnesota, I have heard from welfare reform recipients. Child care is critical, child care is needed, and child care is lacking in the House bill.

Passing welfare reform during this Congress is not the only responsibility we must take. Families and seniors and all Americans are deeply concerned about skyrocketing health costs. Today's health care spending continues to consume too large a portion of all families' incomes and causes too many children to live in poverty. And, oftentimes, it is the reason why families end up in welfare.

The average price paid for brand name prescription drugs is often three times, three times the same medicine in generic form. The residents in Minnesota's 4th District should not have to pay significantly more for the same medicine simply because it has a brand name attached to it.

These are lifesaving medicines. We are dealing with lifesaving medicines, not designer jeans. Now is the time to close the loophole that allows some drug companies to continue their stranglehold on the market. We have arrived at a point where people throughout this country are literally breaking their prescription pills in two, scrimping and saving every dime to pay for their lifesaving medication. We cannot allow this to continue.

We have an historic opportunity to pass legislation that restores fair competition and stops the continued rise in drug prices. This legislation has already passed the other body and we must act now. We cannot continue to keep affordable drugs out of the reach of people who need them the most. To do that would be unconscionable. To do that puts families in poverty. To do that can indirectly add to our welfare rolls.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON), the chairman of the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time, and I rise in strong support of House Resolution 525.

In May, the House of Representatives passed a welfare reform bill that builds on the success of the 1996 law which has been nothing short of remarkable and has hushed the naysayers who said requiring welfare recipients to work for benefits would further bind poor families to a life of poverty. But the Senate has not acted on welfare legislation.

In May, the House passed a welfare reform bill that will continue to dismantle the shackles of welfare that chain millions of American families to a life of poverty. Yet, the Senate has not acted on welfare legislation.

In May, the House passed a welfare reform bill that includes significant funding increases for child care, boosting discretionary funding for the Child Care Development and Block Grant to $1 billion over 5 years. Still, the Senate has not acted on welfare legislation.

The simple truth is that welfare reform based on work helped to lift 3 million children out of poverty. Employment of single mothers is at an all-time high at more than 70 percent, and 700,000 fewer single mothers are living in poverty today than in the 1990s.

The bill passed by the House in May provides for 16 hours per week of education, training, and other constructive activities as defined by the State. The education opportunities, balanced with the 24-hour per week work requirements, are more than sufficient to help welfare recipients find fulfilling work that will help lead them and keep them out of a life of poverty.

In my district in southern California, over the course of 5 years, going to school part-time, 16 hours a week, a student can earn an associate's degree and, in some cases, a bachelor's degree. With an associate's degree, a student can begin a fulfilling career at a number of well-paying jobs. The average annual salary of a mechanic in my State is $31,250; a registered nurse, $56,140; computer specialist, $45,380. Associates' degrees are offered in each of these professions.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution and I believe that the House welfare reform passed by the House achieves the balance between the work requirements and additional education and training which will help pull millions of families from poverty.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the end of September is approaching. The House has passed only 5 of 13 appropriations bills, and yet here we are taking precious time to debate a meaningless resolution urging the Senate to pass a welfare reform bill. Do I want the Senate to pass a welfare reform bill? Of course I do. I want them to pass a good welfare reform bill, a bill that gives welfare recipients access to the education and training they need to get jobs that pay a livable wage; a welfare bill that ensures that there will be safe and affordable child care for children while their moms are away from home, and a welfare bill that holds States accountable for helping families move towards self-sufficiency.

Rather than taking time here on the House Floor to debate the Senate's schedule, I urge the House leadership to attend to the important business of the House, such as the generic drug bill that has already passed the Senate. If the leadership here in the House really wants to do something to help families, passing the Greater Access to Affordable Pharmaceuticals Act, the GAAP Act, would do the trick.

In the year 2001, for the fourth year in a row, Americans increased their spending on prescription drugs by more than 17 percent, and it is known that the longer a big drug company can keep a generic drug off the market, the more it costs consumers. The GAAP Act would get generic drugs to the market faster, helping American families save money. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the GAAP Act would save consumers over $60 billion over the next 10 years; $60 billion.

So let us help all families, both those on welfare and those who are not. Let us stop wasting precious floor time on the business of the Senate and instead get on with the legitimate business of the House, such as passing the rest of the appropriations bills and the important bills that are before us like the GAAP Act.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

I rise in strong support of House Resolution 525. This resolution keeps our commitment to America's kids and to America's great promise of welfare reform. Our welfare reform bill adds an additional $2 billion in extra funding for childcare and developmental block grants. This makes a very good bill become even better with more child care. Why is that? Well, more funding means more kids covered. More kids covered means more parents working, and that is our ultimate objective, to give every American the opportunity to work and to gain the dignity and self respect that comes with providing for your own family.

The past 6 years of welfare reform have shown us what works and what does not work. When I meet with former welfare recipients throughout my congressional district, each and every one of them tells me that their

success simply would not have been possible without childcare assistance. The House has passed an outstanding bill that builds upon the welfare successes of the past 6 years. Let us get it to the President's desk and into law as quickly as possible.

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time. I rise along with many others on this side and really both sides that have encouraged the passage of this resolution and our encouragement to see to it that we make the reauthorization of welfare reform and welfare to work a reality.

While I have listened to some of the reasons to somewhat diminish any enthusiasm for this resolution, I thought to myself, facts are stubborn things. We have legitimate differences between bodies of the Congress and between individuals on the potential of war, on certain appropriations, certain legal questions, the Patients' Bill of Rights, and some are legitimate, some are political, some are not. But facts are stubborn things. Nobody disagrees that we have changed lives in America, this Congress did, for 3 million Americans. Nobody disagrees that there are 2 million more Americans out there who we can help. Nobody disagrees with that. Some may disagree with the degree of help, but no one disagrees that what many feared would put people on the streets has changed their lives. It would be sad and tragic for those among us that need the most help from this Congress to suffer because this Congress got in so many differences during meaningful debates where there were issues of differences that it forgot those who have been forgotten the most. We have a bill that improves child care, we have a bill that improves the flexibility on TANF. We have a bill that takes the stated goal of putting those 2 million Americans still on welfare and giving them meaningful training, meaningful child care, transportation and work and independence, and yet the clock is running.

So I concur with the chairman and many Members on both sides that we urge those in this Congress to move forward and send welfare-to-work reauthorization to the President's desk for his signature to benefit those 2 million Americans.

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this is a big day for me. It was just 9 months ago today that I had the privilege of being sworn in as one of the newest Members of Congress. It was right about this time of the day, and I am cherishing that memory at this time. I particularly appreciate that I had people who were helping me from the beginning, like the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER). And one of the very first things that I found out upon being elected was the extraordinary leadership in the House of Representatives. Also I want to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

As I was attending conference meetings, I found out that we would be having the ability to work on welfare reform reauthorization, and I was just so excited because I had the privilege and opportunity in the South Carolina State Senate to be the chairman of the conference committee for the Family Independence Act which was the State equivalent of welfare reform. It was just an exciting time. It was the first time, one of the first times that a Republican had the opportunity to serve as chairman of a conference committee.

As we were working on welfare reform in South Carolina, we were told we were wasting time. We were told that it would not work. I was told that we need to have more hearings, and I offered. I said, well, fine, let us have a hearing every day. Let us meet every day until it passes.

So it did pass in South Carolina, and it did pass here in Washington. It has been a phenomenal success, as my colleagues can see from this chart.

□ 1315

There has been since 1994 a reduction in the number of people on welfare by caseload from 14 million to 5 million. It has been one of the most extraordinary successes of social policy in the history of the United States.

So I think it is very important. The House has passed this, and the Senate needs to bring it up. This is so important for the people to have the opportunity of independence.

I have had the opportunity to visit the department of social services offices all over the district I represent, from Beaufort to Richmond and Lexington, from Hampton and Allendale. I have met the social workers who have made the program work, who have helped people get jobs. It has been exciting to see the number of people who now have opportunities that they did not have before.

I am just really appalled that the Senate has not acted. I hope they will.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Members are reminded to avoid improper references to the Senate.

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

Mr. Speaker, my friend, the gentleman from Georgia, was talking about facts being stubborn. I think he is right, but the one stubborn fact that we cannot avoid here this afternoon is that this bill does nothing. It is a very stubborn fact that this is a resolution of the House attempting somehow to tell the other body when and how they should act. I think it is probably inappropriate to do that, but it is also a waste of our time and effort, because it is, obviously, going to go on its own schedule.

Another fact that is very stubborn that will not go away is the fact that this is filler. We are standing here doing this on this resolution because the majority in this House will not go forward with the rest of the business that needs to get done before the end of this fiscal year: eight spending bills that they are failing to move forward.

I know my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), has done the work in his committee. The bill which is the subject matter of this particular resolution before us now was passed through his committee and passed through the House and is gone. But the stubborn fact of the matter is there are eight spending bills that have not gone through the appropriations process and gone through the House and been passed along. We could be dealing with that instead of talking about this resolution that is essentially meaningless.

Another stubborn fact is we could be dealing in particular with the education spending bill, because American families want to know how we are going to improve their school and education system for their children.

We could be talking about smaller classroom sizes.

We could be talking about well-prepared teachers with good, professional development.

We could be talking about after-school programs to help families deal with the situation that they are working and their children have a need for a place to go, and further structures to help them pass the rigid exams that are now given as part of the accountability aspect.

All of these the President's budget underfunds, despite his high rhetoric on the Leave No Child Behind Act. In fact, it is all part of the $7 billion they are coming up short on their budget for their promises during that authorization bill.

We could be talking about prescription drugs for our seniors and doing something about the price for all Americans; but apparently the majority does not have a way to get that matter before us, or chooses not to, because they will not be telling the story that the American people want to hear.

We could be talking about small businesses, which their budget proposes to cut by billions of dollars, in fact taking away the very popular 7(a) loan program, which helps many businesses start up and expand and stay in business. There is a lot of rhetoric about how we all ought to support small business, but nothing coming forward in this House where we have the opportunity to do it.

We could be talking about health for the unemployed, because the economy has turned around since this administration has taken over. It is going

straight downhill. We have gone from a surplus situation to a deficit matter.

We have families in my district and other districts who are out of work occasioned by September 11 circumstances. The economy turned down before and after that. They have exhausted their unemployment benefits.

We have had to have a discharge petition, signed by virtually everyone on this side of the aisle, trying to get that matter before the House's attention so we can do something about extending people's unemployment benefits, so we can do something about helping them maintain health care for their family at this trying time. We have seen nothing coming forward at this opportune time.

We could be doing something about job training, to get people back to work. We need that, but this administration and the majority only wants to talk about taking away resources.

Mr. Speaker, there is business to be done in this House. That business is not telling the other body what to do with their time; the business of this House is to take up an agenda of items that by law we should be dealing with before the end of this fiscal year.

We should be dealing with America's issues, with the people's problems, the ones they want to deal with and that they want to hear us talk about: how we are going to educate their children and give them assistance to do that; how we are going to make sure we are not taking money out of the Pell grant program, or increasing the cost of loans for college students at a time when they are really pressed; how we are going to give those displaced people the tools to get back to work; how we are going to make sure that people have health care; what are we going to do about prescription drug benefits, and the high cost in an industry that makes outrageous profits, but fails to acknowledge the fact that the taxpayers' money assists them with research and development, so the prices should be fairer.

Those are the issues that we should be dealing with in these ending days of this session. This should be a shameful matter, for our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to bring forward this resolution that does absolutely nothing; that may express good intentions that we all want a welfare bill to pass through; but the fact of the matter is, this body has finished its work.

We have much more work to do in other areas, and it is a disgrace that that is not what is before this House at this particular time. I would hope and think that the leadership on the other side of the aisle might understand that that is what America wants, and get down to that business, and get down to it soon.

We do not mind working; they may. We can be in on Mondays and Fridays. We can be in all day Tuesdays and Thursdays. We do not need to be ending at 3 o'clock on Wednesday and Thursday.

Let us get to the business of this House, Mr. Speaker. Let us do that so we can let America know that we want to deal with the issues that they are confronted with every day. They take the responsibility to get up. People go to work. People do all they can do to support their families, all they can do to give them an opportunity. We have the obligation to make sure that the government does its part.

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

Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY), rattled off a number of bills that he thought should become law. The fact is, many of these bills have been passed by this House. As a matter of fact, there are some 50 bills that have been passed by the House, but yet the Senate has not acted.

One of those bills would be the prescription drug bill, passed by the House, but yet the Senate has not acted. Another one of those bills is the welfare reform bill that we are dealing with here today.

In 1996, when we passed welfare reform, all the naysayers said that it will push people into poverty, it will push them onto the streets; we should not do this. I recall the gentleman from Massachusetts making remarks to that effect.

The fact is, since 1996, we have reduced welfare caseloads in America by some 60 percent. Three million children in America today are no longer in poverty because we helped move people from welfare to work. We can make an awful lot of additional changes and help more people in welfare if we are willing to move the reauthorization of that bill.

Now, it just so happens that the welfare bill that we passed in 1996 expires next week. The gentleman wants to get our work done? So do we. That is why we have this resolution on the floor today, to urge us to complete action on this bill so that we can in fact get it to the President's desk.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield for a clarification?

The gentleman has a great memory, but I do not think he can remember that I was here in 1996 when I was not.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, welfare reform is working. The 1996 welfare reform law has been a huge success in promoting work and giving thousands of needy families a chance to share in the American dream.

Just take a look at some of the yardsticks which measure the success of the welfare reform law:

Child poverty has fallen sharply. Since 1996, nearly 3 million children have been lifted from poverty; the African-American child poverty rate is now at a record low.

More parents are working. Employment by mothers most likely to go on welfare rose by 40 percent between 1995 and 2000.

Dependence fell by unprecedented levels. Welfare caseloads fell by 9 million—from 14 million recipients in 1994 to just 5 million today.

As positive as that good news is, we also recognize that there is still more work left to do. We need to help the 58 percent of recipients who are not working or training for a job. We need to end the cycle of family break-up and encourage families to form. We need to continue to assist the 2 million families who remain dependent on welfare.

I was pleased to vote with large bipartisan majorities of the House and the Senate to pass the 1996 law. I again voted just this past May with a majority in the House for H.R. 4737, the Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2002, to strengthen and extend the 1996 reforms for 5 years.

H.R. 4737 is on the Senate calendar. The President is waiting to sign this legislation to continue the progress we have made to support low-income families' efforts to go to work and give children a chance to succeed in life. Before the 107th Congress adjourns, we can and should have a final vote on this measure. It's the right thing to do for the 2 million families who remain dependent on welfare.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H. Res. 525, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should pass a welfare bill before September 30th.

The Welfare Reform bill is among the most significant and important pieces of legislation that this Congress will consider. While there is a sense of urgency to adopt legislation on Welfare Reform this year, September 30th is less than 2 weeks away and Congress should not rush to pass such an important bill. We should take as much time as is necessary to work on the bill.

The Republican base bill which did not allow for amendments, would increase poverty instead of reducing it, as it purports to do. The bill, in its present form, imposes massive new mandates and additional costs on States at a time when States are struggling financially and cannot absorb not one penny more of new costs. In my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, our Department of Health and Human Services is under threat of strict penalties for lack of job placements. Jobs are simply not as available as they were when the original Welfare Reform bill was passed. And let's not forget that our economy is still recovering from the aftermath of September 11th and that Congress has not passed any economic stimulus legislation, except for the Airline bailout bill. This country's offshore areas, would be particularly negatively impacted, because of even less resources, and poor economic conditions with fewer jobs within geographical limitations.

Mr. Speaker, the Welfare Reform bill passed by the House is a set back for this country. If the reactionary political climate of an election year is pressuring us to pass a bill, lets simply extend the current authorization into the beginning of 2003 so that we can do this right. Let's think of the people who are most affected by our actions. Let's give our states and territories flexibility and let's give our people hope.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of H. Res. 525, urging House and Senate conferees to approve a final welfare bill.

It is vital that Congress reach agreement on welfare so that vulnerable families have the help and assistance they need to become self-sufficient. But, House Republicans are putting politics ahead of people. They are offering this resolution to taunt Senate Democrats for not rolling over and rubberstamping their draconian welfare bill.

I applaud Senate Democrats for taking a careful look at the challenges facing Americans struggling in poverty. We need to pass legislation that fixes many of the flaws in welfare reform. I am glad Senate Democrats are there to protect these families against Republicans that are little more than foxes guarding the hen house.

House Republicans are declaring that the 1996 welfare reform bill is already a success. They tout the welfare bill they passed this year as an even better improvement. Yet, there are still too many families struggling to get out of poverty. There are too many families without safe and adequate child care. And Republicans have largely ignored the vast number of people who face insurmountable barriers in moving from welfare to work.

The bill passed by House Republicans ignores the last six years of careful study in applying the same old ideological prescriptions to very real flaws in welfare reform. They are focused on kicking people off welfare without any concern for whether or not these Americans have jobs that pay a living wage. Their bill fails to expand access to job training, education or rehabilitative services needed for them to maintain stable employment.

The American people want results, not political gamesmanship. Vulnerable families struggling on welfare deserve meaningful help and a fighting chance to succeed. Let's not give Republicans an opportunity to score political points at their expense. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this resolution.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the House rules.

All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 527, the resolution is considered as read for amendment, and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. BOEHNER. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

SENSE OF HOUSE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD COMPLETE ACTION ON PERMANENT DEATH TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2002

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 527, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 524) expressing the sense of the House that Congress should complete action on the Permanent Death Tax Repeal Act of 2002.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 524

Whereas the death tax has been a leading cause of the dissolution of family-run businesses and a burden on families which save and invest;

Whereas a bipartisan majority of the House of Representatives passed the Permanent Death Tax Repeal Act of 2002 on June 6, 2002, by a vote of 256 to 171;

Whereas failure to enact that Act will reimpose the death tax after 2010 on families, farms and small businesses throughout the Nation;

Whereas the death tax will continue to prevent families from creating, expanding, and retaining farms and businesses if the death tax is resurrected;

Whereas the threat of a resurrected death tax will cause American families, including farmers and small business owners, to waste vast amounts of their time and other resources on efforts to plan to comply with the tax;—

Whereas permanent repeal of the death tax will promote job creation and economic growth by allowing farm and small business families to invest in productive, job-creating assets those resources they will otherwise spend on planning for and paying death taxes; and

Whereas the Senate has not passed that Act or equivalent legislation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the Congress should complete action on the Permanent Death Tax Repeal Act of 2002, and the Congress should present to the President prior to adjournment the Permanent Death Tax Repeal Act of 2002.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 527, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KLECZKA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE).

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

Mr. Speaker, the House has done its work on so many issues this session, including passing a budget. In fact, we have passed our budget twice in the House of Representatives, standing shoulder to shoulder with the President at this very important time in America's history.

We have done our work. Among our accomplishments, the House has passed the Permanent Death Tax Repeal Act of 2002, H.R. 2143, by a very healthy, bipartisan margin back in June. The Senate has not yet taken action on this legislation.

A temporary repeal of the death tax makes absolutely no sense. It does not make any sense, and it is not fair. Unless this very subtle quirk in the law is not repealed, thousands of Americans will lose tax relief that they deserve and that they expect.

Let us call this what it really is. If we do not permanently bury the death tax, small business owners and family farmers will face a massive tax increase in 2011. The 2001 tax relief law phases out the death tax entirely by 2010; but without action to ensure permanency, it reappears in its full fury on January 1, 2011. This creates a ridiculous situation where one minute, one moment, one tick of the clock means the difference between no death tax and a full hit, depending on when someone passes away.

Mr. Speaker, the death tax is fundamentally unjust because it results in double taxation. Our Nation's laws prevent double jeopardy in court; we should also wipe out double taxation in the law.

Iowa's family farmers and small business owners pay taxes throughout their lifetimes. After they pass away, the Federal Government taxes the value of their property yet again. More than 1,500 families in Iowa and thousands across this Nation filed death tax returns last year alone. The IRS imposes rates of up to 60 percent on the value of a family farm or business when the owner passes away.

To pay these very enormous tax bills, many people, many kids, are asked to visit the IRS and the undertaker on the very same day, forced to sell their farms or businesses in order to pay for those taxes. These are family businesses and family farms that in some instances have been in their family for generations.

Mr. Speaker, sound planning cannot be made without stability in our Tax Code. The President recently spoke about this need for permanent tax relief in Iowa this week. He is ready to sign a bill.

The current uncertainty surrounding the death tax makes it extremely difficult for owners of Iowa's family farms and businesses and America's family farms and businesses to make wise decisions. The legal and administrative costs of compliance inhibits the economic growth and expansion that our economy so sorely needs at this time.

The House has done its work. It has passed permanent death tax repeal. The Senate has failed to act. We need action, and America needs action.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution before us today. This resolution is nothing more than a press release; and I believe that the appropriate arena for press releases is in the press gallery, not here on the floor of the House of Representatives. I always thought that the floor was where we debated legislation, not press releases.

The amount of unfinished business currently pending is extremely large. Not one of the 13 mandatory appropriation bills has become law, even though the next fiscal year is only about a week away. In fact, this House has only passed five of those 13 appropriation bills.

The Republican leadership has refused to schedule desperately needed bipartisan school construction legislation. The Republican leadership has also failed to schedule legislation to help all Americans with escalating prescription drug costs. Now the Republican leadership has a new strategy: pass resolutions praising old, irresponsible tax bills and then blame the Senate.

The resolution before us today is not only a press release, but it is a very

misleading one, at that. The underlying bill has no effect until the year 2011. Notwithstanding the rhetoric, the estate tax affects only the wealthiest segment of our society. Let me repeat that, Mr. Speaker: notwithstanding what my friend, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE), has said, the estate tax affects only the wealthiest segment of our society. In fact, only 1.3 percent of all estates face inheritance taxation.

□ 1330

The Republicans have defeated Democratic efforts to prescribe immediate tax relief in the estate tax area by increasing the exemption.

The gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) offered a substitute earlier this year which would have provided an immediate $3 million exemption per person or $6 million for married couples. That substitute would have immediately repealed the estate tax for virtually all farms and virtually all small businesses. But the Republicans did not let that come up for a vote. However, those farms and small businesses were held hostage by the Republican leadership in its attempt to repeal the estate tax for the truly wealthy.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would urge that this House return to the real issues facing this country: The lack of a prescription drug benefit under the Medicare program, reducing the costs of prescription drugs for everyone, ballooning deficits, the need to finance our fight against terrorism and a bipartisan commitment to improve our education system.

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

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, all of bills that the gentleman just mentioned, the House has passed. It is, again, the Senate that fails to act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the very distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. COX).

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I would observe in response to the previous speaker that the House has acted on prescription drugs. We have passed a prescription drug bill here to add a prescription drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries. The President has said he will sign it and it awaits action in the Senate where the bill is not moving.

The same is true of the death tax. The House has acted. We have already, Democrats and Republicans, voted on a bill by majority vote here and sent it to the Senate. It is the bill the President has asked for and he will sign it. It makes permanent the repeal that is already in existing law. We repealed the death tax originally because a majority of the Congress and a big super majority of the American people recognize that the virtual confiscation of an individual's after-tax lifetime savings is wrong and immoral.

It was said just a moment ago that this somehow affects only the rich. To the contrary, the problem has been the forced liquidation of small businesses, and the people that are laid off, who lose their jobs at ranches and farms and small businesses across the country are not the rich. In fact, the rich person is the only one who does not care because he is dead by definition, but, rather, they pay a 100 percent tax because they lose their jobs, they lose everything. By destroying jobs, by destroying small businesses, the death tax has properly earned the opprobrium of the American people.

Now, in the other body they slipped in a mickey. Repeal expires somehow in 10 years. That 10 years is coming closer so it is January 1, 2011 that we will have the death tax right back again, even though it has been repealed. That is why the New York Times referred to this as the ''Throw Mama From the Train Act.''

Whether you are for or against a death tax, nobody can be in support of this provision that has a repeal and then springs back to life in 10 years. The House has acted and now both the House and the American people want the Senate to act on permanent death tax repeal.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Chair would remind all Members to confine their remarks to factual references to the other body, and avoid remarks characterizing Senate action or inaction, remarks urging Senate action or inaction, or references to particular Senators.

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, my good friend from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) indicated all the items I talked about, we passed. Well, I would challenge him to tell the House when we passed legislation to reduce the cost of prescription drugs for everybody in this country. There is a discharge petition pending and I challenge him to sign it if he is serious about that.

When did this House do anything about school construction costs? On that we have done nothing at all.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY), a distinguished member of the Committee on Ways and Means who has advanced some real reforms in the inheritance tax area.

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

Mr. Speaker, what we have before us is a sense of Congress. And we can pass these all day long and they will not accomplish anything. So let us talk on this important topic, the estate tax, especially as applied to family farmers and small businesses, about doing something real and doing it now.

I have legislation very similar to what we considered when we considered the substitute to the estate tax repeal, and I am absolutely convinced as I stand here before the Speaker that we can enact this legislation and get it to the President for his signature before going home in a few weeks at the end of this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5008 would, effective January 1 of 2003, take the exclusion for estate tax up to $6 million for couples. If a couple has assets of less than $6 million, we have repealed the estate tax.

Now, what is important is to note that this is effective January 1 of 2003. The legislation advanced by my friend across the aisle does not have an effective date until 2011. Nothing they are talking about on their side takes effect before 2011. We proposed something that takes effect in a very meaningful way January 1 of next year.

I was moved when my friend from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) talks about family farms, visiting the IRS and the undertaker on the same day. That is a terrible thing. Let us do something about it.

The research that I have done shows that if we take what Democrats would be prepared to vote for right now, excluding couples with estates under $6 million from the estate tax effective January 1 of 2003, virtually all the farms in North Dakota do not have estate tax problems. And if you look at how this applies to small business, you can almost conclude the same thing.

IRS data shows that 99.7 percent of the estates in this country do not have problems. We take this estate tax issue and we eliminate it. We repeal it. We repeal it immediately for all but three-tenths of 1 percent; 99.7 percent get full relief now.

Now, at the end of a legislative session, these family farms the other side speaks so much about, they want something and they want it delivered. They want it now. I would suggest to the other side, what would be wrong with the procedure where you take what you can get right now and you come back for more later.

Your bill does not do a thing until 2011, so what is the matter with taking $6 million as an estate tax exclusion right now and come back for the rest later.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) to answer that question.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to answer that question.

The gentleman does not give us permanent death tax repeal. We want permanent death tax repeal.

Mr. POMEROY. Reclaiming my time, it is absolutely permanent for estates of $6 million and below.

Effective January 1 of 2003, if you are a couple with an estate valued at $6 million and below, we forever repeal your estate tax exposure. What would be the matter with taking that as an opening proposition? We will take the problem and make it go away for $6 million and below and we will come back for the rest later.

Because I will state that the legislation the gentleman supports will leave farm families with joint estates of $2 million and below subject to estate tax

exposure in 2003. Under my legislation, it would be $6 million and below.

Why would they not take the $6 million now and come back for the rest later?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE).

Mr. NUSSLE. Because of the magic word the gentleman has put into their legislation, and that is ''if.'' We have no ifs. We want permanent death tax repeal. They have permanent death tax. And only if, then we get some kind of exclusion. We want permanent death tax repeal.

Mr. POMEROY. Reclaiming my time, because what the gentleman has done is lay out very clearly where he comes down. He comes down on behalf of the richest three-tenths of 1 percent and the gentleman is not about to let those family farmers in Iowa or North Dakota get the meaningful relief they deserve January 1 of 2003, because they are holding out for the Ken Lays and the multi-bazillionnaires of this world as opposed to taking action now that for Iowa and North Dakota family farmers would virtually make the estate tax go away.

When one is a family farmer, we are dealing with assets of less than $6 million per farm couple. And that is why initiating this legislation, H.R. 5008, that is why this legislation is so important.

We significantly improve the situation from their tax exposure January 1, $6 million and below, no estate tax under our legislation January 1.

Under the majority bill, estates over $2 million will be subject to estate tax. They do nothing about that. They leave this exposure out there until the year 2011 because they have taken the position if they cannot deal with everybody, they will not deal with anybody.

They will hold out for the richest three-tenths of 1 percent in this country, rather than move legislation forward that will help family farmers and small business. I think it is a shame because right now, at the end of this session, the Democratic minority is prepared to enter a bill that will make the estate tax for $6 million for couples go away. And if you want to come back for more later, come back for more later. Your bill does not take effect, anyway, until 2011. I think if you were real sincere about this, you would take what you could get now and come back for the rest later.

The point is they are not sincere. This is a political press release and it is a shame.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comments on my sincerity and I will reserve making the same claim back.

We repeal the death tax, no ifs, no ands, and no buts. The gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) cannot even get a majority on his own side to agree with his amendment and his motion to recommit, as we saw in the last time it was presented on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the very distinguished gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I do rise in strong support of permanently repealing the death tax which was passed by the House.

In a former life I practiced estate law. I worked with people to navigate this extremely complex tax. And I was not helping the Warren Buffets or the Bill Gateses of the world. I was helping the sons and daughters of small business owners to try and keep their parents' dreams alive so that they would have that property.

This insidious tax punishes thrift. It has discouraged entrepreneurship and it has penalized working families. What is more, taxing money that has already been taxed is patently unfair.

In Illinois alone, over 5,500 families filed a death tax form in 2001. Many of them were small business owners and many of them were family farmers.

Mr. Speaker, sound decisions cannot be made without permanency. The uncertainty of the future of the death tax makes it difficult for owners of family businesses and farms to make wise economic decisions. Any way you look at it, Americans are taxed too much, not too little. It is time for Congress to bury this burden once and for all.

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations.

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

Mr. Speaker, this resolution does not belong on the floor of the House of Representatives. It belongs on the floor of the Mickey Mouse Club. This resolution says that Congress, which has not been able to do its work, ought to use its time to pass resolutions telling itself to get its work done. Only in this place would that make sense.

What is also revealing about this turkey is the fact that it selects what work it wants to put at the top of the priority list. And guess what it is? This resolution does not say that this House should sit down and meet its basic responsibilities by passing the budget for the year, by passing the appropriations bills. Those are the only real budgets. The budgets that come out of the Committee on the Budget are a joke.

This resolution does not say that we should meet our responsibilities to homeland defense by passing an appropriations bill that adequately funds the FBI and the Coast Guard and the U.S. Marshals to protect the American people from terrorists. It does not say the Republican caucus ought to end its internal war so they can finally bring to this floor the Labor, Health and Education bill so we can meet our responsibilities to fund education and Federal investments in education for the year. Oh, no, no, no. It does not do that.

It does not say that the Congress ought to get off its duff and assure that we have a fully funded fuel assistance program to ensure that our low income elderly do not have to choose between heating their homes and eating this year. Oh, no, no, no, no, no.

All it says is that the one thing we will take the time out to prattle about is the need to satisfy the richest people in this country with yet another tax break.

□ 1345

Those people just happen to be the people who can make the most generous response to fund-raising requests. The leadership of this House apparently does not want the House to vote for a Labor-H bill that adequately funds our schools and funds health care problems, and yet they also do not want their caucus members to vote for a bill that sticks it to the schools and the elderly before the election. They want to put that dirty business off until after the election. Oh yes, we will solve that problem later we are told; you understand, we are too busy to do that now.

What they want to do is obvious. They want to do the same thing they did 2 years ago. They want to hide from parents interested in education in this country what their intentions are for the education budget until after the election; and then after the election, they will cut back the expenditures for education just as they did 2 years ago, just as they did 2 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, in my view, this House is sick. It is dysfunctional. It focuses only on the needs of a tiny fraction of our society, the most well-off 2 percent. If ever there was a product that demonstrated the true values of the people who run this House, this is it. This is it. For all practical purposes, this Congress is in a government shutdown. You just have not had the guts to tell the people yet, and then you single out one little exception of that shutdown to reward the people who can respond with thousand-dollar and hundred thousand-dollar contributions. My God, what a set of priorities.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds, and say what really needs to be exposed is the tax-and-spend attitude of the gentleman who just spoke. Taxes and spending, taxes and spending. Raise taxes, increase spending.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that the Tax Code hurts our economy. We all know that Americans who try to save get penalized and that many Americans need tax attorneys and lawyers to help them file their returns, especially the farmers and small businessmen impacted by the death tax.

While the House has passed legislation to make the death tax repeal permanent, because a temporary repeal of the death tax just makes no sense, it still has not been signed into law. As

we wait, families are selling their farms and their businesses just to pay their taxes. They are putting money into hiring attorneys and lawyers to find ways around the tax instead of investing in their businesses and hiring new workers. All this is happening while the rich continue to avoid the estate tax by setting up charitable foundations and other schemes.

Mr. Speaker, family farms and businesses, especially in Illinois, have the right to pass the fruits of the labor on to their children. Congress needs to act. I look forward to voting on this legislation today, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Iowa just attacked my positions as a ''tax and spender.'' I would point out that when he took over as chairman of the Committee on the Budget, this committee was running a large surplus; and under his magnificent leadership he has managed to return us to deficits of over $300 billion when you count the Social Security account. Taxes and spending may be bad, but taxes and borrowing is a whole lot worse.

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY).

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, this resolution calling upon the other House to join in the permanent repeal of the estate tax I think reduces cynicism to a new low. The permanent repeal of the estate tax, first of all, very obviously benefits only a handful, a tiny fraction of the American people; but the other problem has to do with the other taxes that have been repealed by this House or reduced by this House.

A study just out today by the Brookings Institution and the Urban Institute shows the fraudulent nature of that tax cut. It shows how middle-income people are being forced into the alternative minimum tax. It shows how middle-income people across the country are going to pay up to $1 trillion in alternative minimum taxes over the course of the next decade. It shows how the tax cut that was rammed through this House in the early days of 2001 by the Bush administration, when the Republicans controlled both Houses of the Congress, is shifting the burden of taxation away from the rich and to the middle class.

Middle-income people are paying more and more taxes under their so-called tax cut while millionaires are paying less and less taxes; and that is what they want to do with this particular tax cut today, to the estate tax, and of course, they have not figured out how to pay for any of this.

What they have done is taken us from a situation of budget surpluses just 2 years ago to a situation now of increasing budget deficits. That is how they are paying for these programs, shifting the tax burden from the wealthy to the middle income and paying for it by requiring the people of this country to borrow more money, putting into jeopardy the Social Security trust fund and the Medicare trust fund. That is where they are borrowing the money.

So while they give tax cuts to millionaires, they jeopardize the Social Security trust fund, they jeopardize the Medicare trust fund, and they make the government borrow more money. This is cynicism at its worst.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the very distinguished gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is imperative that we do something to repeal the death tax permanently. We can change many taxes, such as the income tax, the sales tax, the property tax, from year to year; and it does not promote long-term devastation. But when we have a death tax that is in force until the year 2009 and in 2010 it goes away completely and in 2011 it comes back to 55 percent, we have an untenable position. It is absolutely impossible to do any long-term estate planning under the present system, and that is why this has to be repealed so people can plan now in 2002 what is going to happen in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015.

Let me give a quick example. We have heard about the very wealthy people who are profiting from this. There was a ranch that was owned by Doris and Harry Coble in Nebraska. This was a 12,000-acre ranch in the Sand Hills. That is a small ranch that will barely support one family, maybe an income of $30,000, $40,000 a year. It was in the family for over 100 years. The land appreciated over time. The land and cattle upon their death was worth about $5 million. The inheritance tax on that ranch was over $2 million. The capital gains ran that up to about $3 million, and the heirs absolutely could not afford to own that property. So who bought the property? Ted Turner. Will Ted Turner pay an inheritance tax? Will he pay a death tax? No, he will not. That is the upper three-tenths of 1 percent we have been talking about. So our property in Nebraska and other parts of the Midwest is being bought out by absentee landlords who are able to buy those lands and those properties at those prices. So we are losing the income, we are losing the capital from those areas, and the ownership is moving out of the State.

So I think for the benefit of ranches, farms, small businesses, we absolutely have to make this permanent which will provide us with some long-term planning capabilities.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GRUCCI).

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

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the floor to support a measure to urge action on the permanent repeal of the death tax, the only tax that forces families to visit the undertaker and the IRS on the same day.

For the past 85 years, small-family businesses have been forced to hand over up to 60 percent of the estate to the Federal Government. This is a requirement for the families to sell their farms, sell their small businesses, sell their fishing boats in order to satisfy their tax obligation. One does not have to be an advocate for less government to understand that taxing the dead is just a bit extreme.

Family businesses from Montauk Point to Monterey Bay have worked hard, many times through several generations to reach the American dream. It is our duty to protect and secure the dream for the future generations of Americans that wish to work the family farms that their grandfathers built, lead the small businesses that their mothers started, or fish the waters of their fathers. It is their right to carry on the American dream, and the Federal Government should not take that dream away from them.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of the removal of the death tax and make it permanent. The House has moved expeditiously on this issue; the Senate has yet to act.

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), a distinguished member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today we are voting on a sense of the House resolution which, frankly, makes no sense. Rather than taking up legislation that actually helps our ailing economy, rather than providing relief for workers or pensioners who have fallen victim to corporate greed, rather than tackling the remaining eight appropriations bills in the 2 weeks before the fiscal year ends, the Republican leadership is wasting time in the people's House by playing politics.

We all remember, Mr. Speaker, the glorious talk of future surpluses ''as far as the eye could see'' in order to provide a trillion dollars in tax cuts for the next 10 years. Sadly, these surpluses have vanished, and now we are scratching our heads trying to figure out how to fund national priorities. The President has asked for $38 billion for homeland security, $48 billion more for national defense, and now perhaps 1 to 2 percent of the GDP, $100 to $200 billion to prosecute the war in Iraq; and we know in this Chamber today that the President is going to get much of what he asks for.

But with a war on terrorism and Iraq looming, the Republicans have chosen to spend the last few months pushing one bill after another to cement in place the Bush tax cuts. Any economist worth his salt or her salt will tell you that the future is always uncertain, particularly long-term forecasts. So

why would you want to lock in escalating tax cuts?

Every one of us today has had an opportunity in our offices to hear from the 3,000 visitors who have successfully fought the scourge of cancer in their own lives. Six people from my congressional district visited with me today. Ovarian cancer, breast cancer. They were applauding the work of the NIH, applauding the work of our hospitals, particularly our teaching hospitals across the country and universities, and asking us for more money for cancer research. We know that that is a priority, and the Members of this House are about to act upon an estate tax repeal that they know in the next year or so we are going to have to revisit. It is sad commentary on the priorities that we have as Members of this House.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the very distinguished gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, the death tax is one of the most unfair taxes. It taxes farmers and small business owners twice. First they pay taxes throughout their years and then the Federal Government taxes the value their property again at the time of their death. More bluntly put, it is simply unjust; and if you do not believe that, just ask Charles Wilfong, a farmer from my home State of West Virginia. Mr. Wilfong wants to be able to pass his farm along to his children, but he is so fearful that his children will have to sell portions of the land in order to pay the hefty bill the IRS will hand them once he passes away. Desperately trying to keep his farm intact for his children and grandchildren, he continues to explore potential legal methods to keep that which he has worked so hard for.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Wilfong is not alone. Many other farmers and small businessmen and women could suffer disastrous effects that the death tax can have on their future. Many people have worked hard their whole lives to build a strong future for their children and grandchildren. Our tax laws should not punish hard work by forcing family members to pay death taxes to the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Congress to give permanent relief from the death tax. It is time for Congress to banish the death tax once and for all.

□ 1400

Mr. KLECKZA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR).

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, there is something that somehow is not mentioned very often on this floor, and that is our Nation is going broke. We certainly have military threats, but we have an even bigger threat of our Nation going broke.

The gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) last year passed this budget, the President's budget and the President's tax cuts, and the net result of that budget and those tax cuts, passed with Republican votes in the House and Senate, because the other body was controlled by the Republicans then, has increased the national debt by $440,604,894,921 in 1 year.

The President was in Iowa last week saying we need a budget. My goodness, if it is another one of those, we do not need it. This is on track to be the largest deficit in American history. The previous record was held by then-President Bush in 1991 where the fiscal year budget increased by $435 billion.

If this continues, and we only have 12 days left in this fiscal year, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) would have orchestrated the single largest increase in the American deficit in 1 year. And according to Mitch Daniels, Director, Office of Management and Budget, just last week in a meeting with a number of conservative House Democrats, only 10 percent of the President's tax cuts have taken effect so far. So how broke will we be when the other 90 percent kicks in?

Mr. Speaker, I know the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) well enough to say that he would not go buy a house and say to the Realtor, I do not care what it is going to cost because my kids are going to pay for it. I guarantee Members the gentleman would not go buy a fancy car and say, I do not care what it costs because my yet-unborn grandchildren are going to pay for it.

That is the effect of the gentleman's tax cuts. The gentleman took a Nation that broke even 1 year, and increased the national debt by $440 billion the next there. There is nothing funny about this because the other side of the aisle are sticking my kids with their bill. Yes, some kids, like the Bush kids, are going to get a $10 million tax break out of this; but my kids get stuck with the bill; and until that bill is paid, they are going to pay, like every other American child, $1 billion a day on interest on that debt.

Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman thinks more of that is a good thing, please tell the American people that more debt is good. I happen to think the national debt is the single largest threat to our Nation at this moment.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a speech on the floor today that I am the least effective and that the budget is a joke. That was by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the very distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Now we hear from the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) that I am the all-powerful chairman of the Committee on the Budget that can, with the wave of my hand, both create surpluses and deficits. I would submit to both gentlemen that they probably not only need to check the Constitution and the rules of the House, but check the record.

Mr. Speaker, it was Osama bin Laden. Osama bin Laden. There is a name out of history that maybe we forget from time to time who had at least a little bit to do with what has happened this last year; a little bit to do with the challenges in our economy; a little bit to do with the emergency that we have before us; a little bit to do with the war against terrorism. It seems to escape Members' memory banks; but the one thing that should not escape Members' memory banks is that we should not have a Tax Code in America that taxes Americans constantly and consistently when they are not looking. We need to make permanent the death tax repeal.

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR).

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would remind the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) that the September 11 attacks were 19 days before the end of the last fiscal year. In the last fiscal year, we ran a deficit. It was not because of the last 19 days. By all accounts the war on terror has cost this Nation $20 billion. That means the other $420 billion worth of debt went to other things. Spending increases occurred because the Republican budget passed with Republican votes. Reductions in collections occurred because of the Republican budget.

Mr. Speaker, the number is $440 billion. That is a thousand, times a thousand, times a thousand, times 440 further in debt than we were 1 year ago. One would think that Republicans would be looking for ways to balance the budget.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of many of the things that we have accomplished in the 107th Congress. On the House side, we have passed lots of legislation, from homeland security to pension reform to cracking down on corporate fraud and misdeeds. We have done a lot of things. Plus, we have passed a budget. Unfortunately, in a bicameral legislative body, there needs to be a budget on both sides to get things moving.

Here an example of some of things that we have done: the House has voted to end the death tax. Just ending it alone would create 200,000 jobs in America. To say we do not need that, to say that is not important is ridiculous. It increases household savings due to the lower prices by $800 to $3,000 a year. The American people want the death tax cut made permanent.

The President is waiting to sign this bill. Making it permanent gives people something that they can count on, some dependability. The House passed this several months ago. The fact is the Senate has not acted on House legislation to permanently repeal the death tax.

Unfortunately, that is not the only thing: welfare reform. 14 million people used to be on welfare. It has dropped now to 5 million people. Five million people. We are still working on it, but just think about it, 9 million people are now working and productive citizens. The American people want welfare reform, and they want us to continue; but the fact is the Senate has not acted on welfare reform legislation that the House passed months ago.

Another fact, the Senate has not acted on this legislation. There are only 11 days remaining before the historic 1996 reforms expire on September 30. This is not a good way to conduct business in this town; and this is one thing that the American people want, is us working together and passing this legislation and getting it to the President.

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I recommend that our Congress on both sides of the aisle read the front page of the New York Times Business Section today. The horror that has been let loose on the American people has to be accounted for. This is no left conspiracy. What has been done is unconscionable.

What has happened, they want to exacerbate this situation and make it worse. In 2001, only 1 million people were eligible for the alternative minimum tax. When these tax cuts go into effect and the full effect is there, 37 million people will have been impacted by the alternative minimum tax. The other side better prepare those taxpayers, or we better figure out in the 10-year budget how we are going to effect what has been brought upon this country. The Republicans have forced us into deeper debt. And those people making between $75,000 and $500,000 will be impacted even 4 to 5 years from now. The other side of the aisle better tell them now, tell them what is at stake for them; otherwise they are doing a disservice to the American taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, the friends of the American taxpayer, have they told the American middle class? Have they read the report from the Brookings Institute which was made public? I ask the other side of the aisle to read it.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM).

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and compliment the chairman of the Committee on the Budget, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE), for putting forth a budget and passing a budget in the House of Representatives. As we all know, the other body has not even brought a budget to the floor, so it is very difficult to get important legislation done or appropriations bills in that other body with the current situation.

This resolution today is extraordinarily important for real people who are facing a real problem of trying to deal with a tax that they believe to be wrong. Many believe, as I do, that it is simply immoral to tax twice assets that people have worked all of their lives to save, to try and put something together for a family, to build a business, and then at the day of death have the Federal Government walk in and say that we are going to take away 50 to 60 percent of those assets that have been worked a lifetime for.

There are some economists that say that no one pays the death tax; it is not a big consequence. The fact of the matter is that is simply wrong. I can give an example of the Behn family in my home county. I talked to Larry Behn this morning. He is the grandson of Arthur and Frieda Behn. Larry is selling cars in Hampton today. Back in the early 1980s, he had the misfortune of losing both of his grandparents at the same time. At that time land values in Iowa and across the Midwest were at the very highest they have ever been. Because both of his grandparents passed away at the same time, the valuation of their property came in at that very high level. They, like most farmers, did not have the cash to pay that. As the estate settlement went on, the valuation of farm land in Iowa nose-dived. By the time they were forced to sell those farms, the 1,500 acres that Arthur and Frieda Behn had worked a lifetime to put together so their children and grandchildren would have that opportunity, the valuation was about a third.

They had to sell off that land. Because the valuation had gone down so much, it barely covered the cost of the death tax that they were stuck with. Because of that, they have lost those 1,500 acres of land. They have lost that hope that Arthur and Frieda Behn had put together over a lifetime. It is simply wrong what this death tax does to real people. We have got to repeal it and do away with it because it is wrong. There is right and wrong in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I received a letter from a couple in my district in 2000 when the debate was going on about repealing the death tax. They write: ''At age 79 and age 77, with serious health problems, my wife and I are very worried and concerned about how large our estate tax will be. It is affecting our eating and sleeping habits. Old people like us should not have to have these concerns.''

Mr. Speaker, I do not think anyone can say it better than these folks did, that it does have real effect on real people. It is wrong. We need to repeal the death tax immediately. I hope the other body would soon take up this important legislation that the House of Representatives has acted on a broad bipartisan basis to achieve.

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 20 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I listened to the gentleman's tale of the couple sitting at home and wringing their hands over the estate tax. I represent a district as large as the gentleman who just spoke, and today if a couple like that in my district passed away, there is a $2 million exemption.

□ 1415

In my district, there are not many people who are sweating over the inheritance tax because we do not have that wealth. $2 million for a couple just is not there. What they are wringing their hands over is an affordable drug benefit for Medicare, something that this House did not pass in decent form.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, if I could have one wish today, I would wish that hardworking Americans could take 5 minutes out of their busy schedules and watch this ridiculous Republican charade occurring right now on this House floor. They would be outraged, as I am. The President has not signed even one of the 13 must-pass appropriation bills that fund everything from the Department of Defense to Federal spending on transportation, education and health care. Not one. This House has failed to consider, let alone pass, even one appropriations conference report. Not one. Yet, with just 11 days left in the current fiscal year, with eight appropriation bills still to be considered by this House, we are dithering on a blatantly political and utterly meaningless resolution on the permanent repeal of the estate tax.

Does the GOP have an ideological predisposition to mismanage? Or has it been hijacked again by the faction that Newt Gingrich called, and I quote, ''the Perfectionist Caucus''? Those are Newt Gingrich's words, not mine. We have already passed a permanent repeal of the estate tax, a repeal that benefits, as my friend from Wisconsin has said, a few thousand wealthy families at the expense of millions, not once but twice. So why this resolution and why now? Here is why. Because the Republican leadership has made a commitment to put the Labor-HHS-Education spending bill on the floor next. But it knows that if it does at current funding levels that eliminate or cut crucial education, labor and health programs, its moderates will vote it down. You do not have the votes.

It is hard to be sympathetic with the GOP's plight because it precipitated this budget debacle by passing its fiscally irresponsible budget. The chairman of the Committee on the Budget blames the Senate. The chairman of the Committee on the Budget knows full well, if he is honest with the American public, that nothing that the Senate has or has not done precludes this House from acting. We have deemed his budget to be in place. The problem he has is, his side does not want to vote for the budget that he put in place. It was a charade when we passed it—I did not vote for it—and it is a charade months later on this very day.

So what do we do? We fiddle while Rome burns. We fiddle on silly resolutions like this that are patently political and purely political and solely political. The leader is on the floor. What a shame. What a shame that we fail to do the business of the American public and fiddle while our budget and fiscal posture in America burns.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the very distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding time and for his good work.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 524 which urges the Senate to vote on House legislation to repeal the death tax.

Mr. Speaker, Americans get overtaxed virtually every day of their lives. As an employee, one's salary gets taxed. As an investor, one's earnings often get taxed twice. As a consumer, one's purchases get taxed. After getting taxed at every stage of one's life, why should one have to be taxed again during life's final stage? It is not right.

On June 6, in an effort to right this wrong, the House successfully passed H.R. 2143 which would permanently repeal this unjust death tax. However, the Senate has not acted on this permanent repeal of the death tax, and many of the family business owners in New Jersey wonder whether their family business will survive when their aged parents who started these businesses die. If the repeal of the estate tax is not made permanent, the tax will be reinstated in 2011 as it existed under current law.

To avoid destroying many small businesses and savings accumulated after years of hard work by this death tax, I strongly urge the support of this resolution and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES).

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution, H. Res. 524. I am convinced that death should not be a taxable event. There is a widely read, widely respected book, the Bible, that says one of the duties of a parent is to have an inheritance for their children and grandchildren. Under the present law, if that duty is fulfilled, up to 81 percent of that inheritance will be taken by the Federal Government. That is not fair.

To say that we are not moving forward, as my good friend the gentleman from Maryland was thundering from the well of the House, is simply not the case. We are working to make sure that our small businesses and family farms do not lose those farms that their children can carry on. This is very important legislation. The House has done its duty. It is very clear. The Constitution says both the House and the Senate must act in order for this good law to become law.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to support this very important legislation and help do the job that this House was brought here to do. We have done ours. Here is our opportunity. I thank the gentleman from Iowa for bringing it forward and I encourage its support.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 524 sponsored by my good friend Mr. NUSSLE.

I am convinced that death should not be a taxable event in a free society. Why should the Federal Government confiscate half of the assets accumulated through a lifetime of hard work?

The death tax disproportionately affects enterprises that are asset rich, but cash poor, such as family farms and small businesses.

According to Citizens for a Sound Economy, only 13 percent of family businesses or farms will survive to a third generation of operation. We can no longer tolerate this tax on hard work and the entrepreneurial spirit.

This will not be the final step in reforming our outdated system of taxation, but we must begin the journey to assure tax policies that promote fairness, efficiency, and economic prosperity for all our citizens.

In an effort to alleviate the potential nightmare for future generations and correct an injustice in the Tax Code, we must permanently repeal the death tax. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the very distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE).

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution calling for the permanent end of the death tax. I come from an area that has been hard hit with loss of manufacturing jobs. An area that offers promise is in small businesses, small farms. The death tax is a job killer. Last week I was talking to a gentleman from Henry County that had a small business valued at about $4 to $5 million. He said, I would like to expand, get more equipment, buy more facilities, have more property and hire more persons. He said, ''I don't want to go down that road. The death tax will cost me too much, because I'm hoping to live past December 31, 2010.''

We need to end this job-killing death tax. We need jobs in America. One way to do it is kill this tax.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DUNN), a member of the Committee on Ways and Means and probably one of our most important leaders with regard to the repeal of the death tax.

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Committee on the Budget for yielding me this time. We have talked about death tax repeal for a long time. For years, literally. We have talked about the effect the repeal of the death tax would have in freeing small business to create more jobs. In fact, if this resolution is successful, small businesses estimate that 200,000 jobs would be created in this next year in this country. Certainly at a time of economic downturn, that is the sort of growth piece of tax legislation that we are looking for. We have talked about the effect of the death tax on women-owned businesses. In fact, the National Association of Women Business Owners a couple of years ago did a survey and they discovered that the cost of compliance to comply with the death tax is about $1,000 a month for the average small business owned by women. These are dollars, Mr. Speaker, that these women would like to put into benefits for their employees, into health care coverage, a huge need in this Nation. These dollars are wasted dollars. They go to pay for life insurance coverage so that at the end of a person's life, that payment to the tax man, to the IRS man that has to be made in cash within 9 months, could be done and made easier on the family because of the life insurance policy proceeds. We have talked about why members of the conservation and environmental community support the permanent repeal of the death tax. They do not want to see subdivisions pop up in beautiful farmland that had been a huge benefit to everybody in the neighborhood. We have talked about the Black Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Indian National Council, all the groups that are on board with us to permanently repeal the death tax. For the minority community, it takes three generations to develop a business that creates standing. They do not want to have to give up their businesses that they have put their hearts and souls into developing. It is a bad tax.

We encourage our neighbors to consider this bill and to pass permanent repeal of the death tax so that those dollars can be where they will not be wasted to build the economy of this Nation.

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

Mr. Speaker, we have heard some pretty outlandish things here this afternoon. First of all, we were told by the gentlewoman from Washington who just spoke that next year we are going to create 200,000 jobs if we repeal the death tax, the inheritance tax. The fact of the matter is it is not going to be repealed under current law until 2011. So how can we create 200,000 jobs if it is not going to be repealed for another 9 years? It is all nonsense. In fact, the gentleman from Massachusetts indicated what we are talking about is a sense of Congress resolution to tell the other body to do something that we already did. Understand that? It is a sense of Congress. It does not change any law. It is like calling your neighbor and saying, ''Hey, rake your leaves.'' That is what this is all about.

This House already did the bad thing by passing the repeal of the inheritance tax. And why did we do that? To the benefit of 1.3 percent of the wealthiest Americans in this country. As I look at

the gallery, Mr. Speaker, I would bet no one in that gallery is going to pay an inheritance tax on their estate, for the current law today has a $2 million exemption per couple. And for those who have a lot more than $2 million like Mr. Bill Gates, maybe their heirs should pay something, because in a lot of situations, some of that wealth has never been taxed, anyway. It could be built up in the stock market. It could be property value. What my Republican colleagues want to say is, for the wealthiest 1.3 percent in America, they will pay no tax at all. This is big bucks. If we do this repeal of the inheritance tax in the years 2011 to 2021, that is going to cost the Treasury $800 billion. That is some real money, my friends.

And where are we today in this Federal budget? We are going to end the fiscal year over $300 billion in the hole. Yet we are giving out tax breaks for the wealthy like popcorn. The President today is talking about an unprovoked attack on another country which will cost millions and millions of dollars. And my colleagues are talking about a tax break for the millionaires of the country. Is something wacko in here? Is something not reading right? Yes.

Just recall, 20 months ago as we started this congressional session, we had surpluses, as my colleague from Iowa said before the Budget Committee, as far as the eye can see.

□ 1430

We had surpluses as far as the eye could see, and 20 months later we are in a $300 billion deficit. Yet those folks are still pushing to give tax breaks to the wealthiest of individuals.

Now, to take care of the farmers and small businesses we proposed a $6 million exclusion from inheritance tax. That would take care of 99 percent of the farmers, the ranchers and the small businesses in this country. But it did not take care of the wealthy ones, and that is why they are pushing to take care of the Ted Turners and the Bill Gateses and the other multi-multi-millionaires from WorldCom and Enron who treated their employees so well.

This resolution does nothing, but the tax policy we already passed does disaster, because it means ''you guys ain't going to get a drug benefit, your educational construction for New York is not going to be funded, because we are in a deficit.''

So let us not shed big alligator tears today for the wealthiest of the wealthy. They can afford their drugs. They send their kids to the best schools available. It is the people like I represent from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who are not worrying about an inheritance tax, a death tax today. They are worrying about paying their mortgage. They are watching their 401(k)s, their retirement benefits, dissipate as the market keeps going down, and this administration is doing nothing about it. They have turned a blind eye, and my retirees are looking now to go back to work. And we have money around here for the wealthiest of the wealthy, the richest of the rich?

What misdirected policy. Let us worry about the deficit and take care of the working men and women in this country. Ted Turner will do well without this, and his heirs will do better than him.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Chair would remind Members that remarks should be addressed to the Chair and not to occupants in of the gallery or others who may be watching in the audience.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, to close our side of the debate on this important resolution, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY). There is no one in our caucus who during his career has held the banner of tax reform and tax reduction any higher than our very distinguished majority leader.

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

Mr. Speaker, I often reflect these days on what a wonderful privilege it is in my life to be a Member of this body and to be able to be here on the floor of this great Chamber and listen to the debates. I marvel also at the technology that we have, Mr. Speaker, probably the finest sound system in the world. And when I reflect upon the quality of our sound system, I am always curious as to why we need to holler so much. It just fascinates me.

We have been thoroughly admonished, those of us on our side of the aisle. We have been indicted. We have had fingers pointed in our direction, sternly and with resolve. We have had the volume turned up as the feigning of moral outrage had to take a new dimension of loudness. And as I have watched this debate and have seen the gymnastic theatrics and volume from especially the other side, I find myself reflecting on the great speeches of American governance and am consoled, my friends, by those marvelous words, The world will never note nor long remember what we say here today.

Why are we here again in this Congress, Mr. Speaker, that has been perhaps the single most productive Congress in our lifetime, where we did everything that one would expect to have done by any Congress at any time, and then met the urgencies of the September 11 attack on America and the legislative requirements that we took; such a Congress, so productive, that even The Washington Post describes this as ''the do-something Congress''?

No, there is not a question here about whether or not we are getting our work done. We are getting our work done to a degree that is beyond the experience of any Member in this House. Our problem is over 50 percent of the critical pieces of legislation passed by this House have not yet found themselves through the complete legislative process; and so we, out of our frustration, call attention to it.

Why this bill, this ending of the death tax? We have so strong a conviction that it is wrong. We do not say it is wrong for the small family farm, it is wrong for the small businessmen and women, and, by the way, it is okay to impose it on Bill Gates. Bless his heart, Bill Gates, who has probably given more money to charitable causes in this country in this past year alone than would be represented by the entire lifetime cumulative earnings of all the Members of this body alone. Bill Gates, this charitably active person who we like to come to this floor and vilify.

If we were to take that point of view, ladies and gentlemen, would we not say burglary is wrong, and we ought to have laws that protect everybody in America from burglary, except the Bill Gateses of the world; ignoring the fact that indeed the burglar would most likely prefer to burglarize Bill Gates's home as opposed to my home?

If it is wrong, it is wrong for all of us, irrespective of station in life. This is what a system of justice tells you. There is right, there is wrong; there are things that are just; there are things that are unjust; and there is equal protection under the law.

Now, let us talk for a moment about the fellow who works hard and creates a successful business for himself, his wife, most often his partner in the venture; somebody that gets together and says, let us pool our resources, take a risk; let us build this business; let us construct a better farm, a better living for ourselves and our family.

They take their limited earnings on which they have paid taxes and from which their after-tax earnings they have acquired some savings, and they convert that to an investment in their business. They pay taxes on everything they buy and on any dollar's worth of earnings they have along the way, and have all their life. And then, after paying taxes on everything they have owned, earned or done all their life, they finally have had some success in their life and they have something that we now know is an estate.

Let us just examine the record of human action. What do people do with their estates? Well, the most popular thing that we want to do with our estates is give them to our children. Do we know anybody, anybody, who does not work first for their children, their grandchildren, for the future of their family? Just look at the record of what we voluntarily do with those things we have accumulated in our life. We voluntarily give them to our children.

Now, if we are not voluntarily giving things to our children, what do we voluntarily do with the things that we have earned and worked for and built all our life? We give it to charity. We give it to charity.

How many instances have we had where our family has worked hard all their life, built a success, have an estate, and then decided I will voluntarily give it to Washington? I would say rare cases indeed.

Washington cannot help themselves. Washington has got to grab the bucks, dip their hands in the estate, rob the grave.

They say, Well, if you take away the estate tax, people will not give to charity. Why do people give to charity? Because they have it in their heart. Why do they hire tax accountants and lawyers when they decide how they will give to charity? To maximize their after-tax contribution to the charity, because they prefer to. And they pay, indeed, expensive consulting fees to lawyers and accountants so they can indeed get a larger share of what they accumulated to the charity and a lesser share to the government. That is imposing upon them the requirement that they give.

People are funny. People like to do what they choose to do, not what they are made to do by onerous tax laws or any other purpose.

Let me just say, Mr. Speaker, that after all the times you have taxed me all my life on everything I have said, done and earned, to then tax me at the time of my death, to defraud my children or deny my children that which they justly deserve because they had the good sense to be my children, and I love them so dearly, is an injury. It is an injury to the fondest hope I ever had in my life that my children would do well and have something better than I had when I started, a not uncharacteristic American dream.

Who in this room, who in this Nation, does not dream that our children will have more to begin with and do better than we did? Do we not devote our life to that work? So the government does harm to the fondest dream of our hearts when they compel us to deny our children the fruits of our labor. That is injury.

It is not enough that we should injure the poor American citizen. We, being the government, must compound the felony by adding insult to injury. Let me give you an example.

We have a family farm. They have assets that are valued at $4 million. Mom and dad work on that farm each and every day of their lives. They raise their children, they pay the bills, and they try to get their youngsters off to college. The typical farmer with $4 million in farm assets makes a modest $35,000 a year, on which they pay approximately $4,200 in taxes and struggle to get by and do the things we all dream to do for our children. $35,000 a year.

Now, you would look at that farmer out there struggling. You see his wife going again to Easter services in the same dress she had last year, sacrificing, as they both do, so the kids can have better school clothes than they would otherwise have, and you say, These are not rich people. We ought to help them. You would develop enormous farm programs to help these poor folks on the farm.

Bless their luck, their hard luck. We use the expression hard scrabble dirt farming. But they have a day in which they get lucky: they die. They die, and on that day they are instantaneous multi-millionaires; people to be vilified; people to whom we will point our fingers and angrily proclaim are the undeserving richest people in America.

Bless their little old hearts, they had to die to get rich. They had to die to be mistreated. They had to die to have people in this government say it is not only just, but it is necessary in the cause of justice to take half or more of their property away from their children or away from the charity of their choice. That is insult.

Why are we here again today? Because we are committed to stopping the injury, stopping the insult. How about us trying to be appreciative of the dreams of the American people, recognize the manner in which they struggle, have an understanding of their goodness, and some respect for what they have acquired, accumulated over a lifetime of hard work, and say to that poor fellow on his death bed, George, you have worked hard. What you have got is the fruits of your labor. You have a right to do with it as you will.

This is America, and we think at least on your death bed freedom should be your last experience with this government.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this ridiculous resolution. This is nothing more than the Republicans pandering to their wealthy contributors six weeks before the election. How timely!

This resolution is a complete waste of time. The House has already passed a bill to provide permanent repeal of the estate tax earlier this year, despite my opposition. Now, my constituents back home will ask. ''Why did you need yet another resolution for something that the House has already addressed?'' The only truthful answer is that the Republicans can't agree among themselves on how to proceed with spending bills this year so they are padding the floor schedule with meaningless drivel like this to make it appear that Congress is doing its job. The American people ought to be outraged!

Rather than addressing the critical appropriations bills to keep the government running, the GOP would rather debate this non-binding, meaningless resolution. If the GOP doesn't want to work on appropriations bills, we have 40 million disabled and elderly who depend on Medicare and have been clamoring for a Medicare prescription drug benefit. We could address that issue. Or what about the solvency of Social Security? there are critical domestic issues facing this Congress—and facing millions of Americans—that ought to be addressed today.

Repeal of the estate tax will only help the wealthiest one percent of those who receive inheritance, or around 23,000 estates per year. Congress is seeing declining federal income receipts; is being asked to fund a pending war in Iraq; improve security here at home; and must still address the needs of working families. We have much bigger issues than a tax that will affect 23,000 wealthy estates. Let's take our oath of office a bit more seriously and get back to the issues that matter.

I urge my colleagues to reject this absurd resolution and vote no on H. Res. 524.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I support reform of the estate tax, but I do not support its repeal, and so I do not support this resolution.

For me, this is not a partisan issue. Instead, it is an issue of reasonableness, fairness and fiscal responsibility. While I did not vote for last year's bill that included changes in the estate tax, there were parts of that bill that I think should be made permanent. That is why I voted to make permanent the elimination of the ''marriage penalty'' and the provisions of last year's bill related to the adoption credit and the exclusion from tax of resolution to Holocaust survivors.

And, as I said, I support reform of the estate tax. I definitely think we should act to make it easier for people to pass their estates—including lands and businesses—on to future generations. This is important for the whole country, of course, but it is particularly important for Coloradans who want to help keep ranch lands in open, undeveloped condition by reducing the pressure to sell them to pay estate taxes.

Since I have been in Congress, I have been working toward that goal. I am convinced that it is something that can be achieved, but it should be done in a reasonable, fiscally responsible way and in a way that deserves broad bipartisan support. That means it should be done in a better way than was provided in last year's bill. For example, I have supported legislation to raise the estate tax's special exclusion to $3 million for each and every person's estate—meaning to $6 million for a couple—and to do that immediately.

Under that alternative, a married couple—including but not limited to the owners of a ranch or small business—with an estate worth up to $6 million could pass it on intact with no estate tax whatsoever. And since under the alternative that permanent change would take effect on January 1st of next year it clearly would be much more helpful to everyone who might be affected by the estate tax.

At the same time, the alternative was much fiscally responsible. It would not run the same risks of weakening our ability to do what is needed to maintain and strengthen Social Security and Medicare, provide a prescription drug benefit for seniors, invest in our schools and communities, and pay down the public debt.

The tax cut bill signed into law last year included complete repeal of the estate tax for only one year, 2010, but contains language that sunsets all of the tax cuts, including changes in the estate tax after 2001. Making that permanent would reduce federal revenues by $109 billion between 2002 and 2012 ($99 billion in lost revenue and $10 billion in interest charges) and more than $1.2 trillion in the decade between 2013 and 2022—when the baby boomers will be retiring.

But, as we all know, the budget outlook has changed dramatically since last year. In the last year, $4 trillion of surpluses projected over the next ten years have disappeared because of the combination of the recession, the costs of fighting terrorism and paying for homeland defense, and the enactment of last year's tax legislation. Full repeal of the estate tax would only make the budgetary outlook even more difficult, making it that much harder to meet our national commitments all in order to provide a tax break for less than 0.4 percent of

all estates. I do not think this is responsible, and I cannot support it.

And, as if that were not bad enough, just making permanent the estate-tax provisions of last year's bill would do nothing to correct one of the worst aspects of those provisions—the hidden tax increase on estates whose value has increased by more than $1.3 million, beginning in 2010, due to the capital gains tax. Currently, once an asset, such as a farm or business, has gone through an estate, whether any estate tax is paid or not, the value to the heirs is 'stepped up' for future capital gains tax calculations. However, last year's bill now enacted into law provides for replacing this with a 'carryover basis' system in which the original value is the basis when heirs dispose of inherited assets. That means they will have to comply with new record keeping requirements, and most small businesses will end up paying more taxes. That cries out for reform, but this resolution does not address that.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that we are debating this resolution shows that the Republican leadership is continuing to reject any attempt to shape an estate-tax reform bill that could be supported by all Members. Since I was first elected, I have sought to work with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle on this issue to achieve realistic and responsible reform of the estate tax. But this resolution does nothing of the kind, and I cannot support it.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, there is a saying that only in America can an individual be given a certificate at birth, a license at marriage, and a bill at death. Americans should not have to visit the undertaker and the IRS on the same day.

Unfortunately, small businesses and family farms, like those in Eastern North Carolina, are particularly vulnerable to the death tax. At the time of their death, Americans are taxed on the value of their property, often at rates as high as 55 percent.

Mr. Speaker, this places a tremendous burden on families who are already grieving the loss of a loved one. While small businesses and family farms are typically rich in assets, they often do not have the liquid resources to settle this size of bill with the federal government.

Too often, they are forced to sell some or all of their land or business, which often serves as their family's livelihood. Over the years, the death tax has devastated family-owned businesses throughout our nation's towns and cities. Today, less than half of family businesses are able to survive the death of a founder.

What could be more un-American? Under current law, 70 percent of family businesses do not survive the second generation and 87 percent do not make it to the third generation. The death tax discourages savings and investment, and punishes those Americans who work hard throughout their lives to pass on something to their children.

Mr. Speaker, the estate tax does not serve as a significant source of revenue for the federal government. The Treasury Department reported that in 1998, the estate and gift tax raised only $24.6 billion, which amounts to only 1.3 percent of total federal revenues.

In addition, economic studies conducted by former Secretary of the Treasury Lawrence Summers show that for every dollar in transfer taxes taken at death, $33 in capital formation is lost from the economy. Despite its little value to the government, the death tax undermines the idea that hard work and fiscal responsibility will be rewarded.

Thankfully, this Congress provided a phase-out of the estate tax beginning in 2002 by eliminating the 5% surtax and the rates in excess of 50 percent and increases the exemption to $1 million. Today, we need to take steps to ensure this phase-out is permanent and does not sunset in 2011. If H.R. 2143 is not signed into law, the death tax will re-appear, almost overnight on New Year's Eve, 2011.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has done an admirable job of guaranteeing tax relief for every working American. Let's pass this bill now and finish the job we started when we took back the people's House in 1995.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, as stated on the record many times, this Member continues his strong opposition to the total elimination of the estate tax on the super-rich. The reasons for this Member's opposition to this terrible idea have been publicly explained on numerous occasions, including past statements in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and today this Member gain will reiterate the reasons for his opposition to the permanent repeal of the Federal estate tax.

This Member has every expectation that legislation to permanently repeal the Federal estate tax is going nowhere in the other body. Furthermore, on March 18, 2002, this Member noted, in his House Floor statement on H.R. 536, that he will most assuredly vote ''no'' on the total repeal of the inheritance tax, and this Member would further note that he in fact did vote ''no'' on the total repeal of the inheritance tax.

This Member again would say that while he is a long-term advocate of inheritance tax reduction, especially in regard to protecting family farms and ranches, and small businesses, this Member strongly opposes the permanent repeal of the Federal estate tax provisions. This Member believes that inheritance taxes unfortunately do adversely and inappropriately affect Nebraskan small businesses, farmers, and ranchers when they attempt to pass this estate from one generation to the next. This Member also believes that the estate tax elimination provisions are at worst a faulty product and at best only a shadow of what could be beneficially done to reduce the inheritance tax burden on most Americans who now and in the future are actually subject to such estate taxes.

It must also be noted that this Member is strongly in favor of substantially raising the estate tax exemption level and reducing the rate of taxation on all levels of taxable estates, and that he has introduced legislation, H.R. 42, to this effect. This Member believes that the only way to ensure that his Nebraska and all American small business, farm and ranch families and individuals benefit from estate tax reform is to dramatically and immediately increase the Federal inheritance tax exemption level, such as provided in H.R. 42.

This Member's bill (H.R. 42) would provide immediate, essential Federal estate tax relief by immediately increasing the Federal estate tax exclusion to $10 million effective upon enactment. (With some estate planning, a married couple could double the value of this exclusion to $20 million. As a comparison, under the current law for year 2001, the estate tax exclusion is only $675,000.) In addition, H.R. 42 would adjust this $10 million exclusion for inflation thereafter. The legislation would decrease the highest Federal estate tax rate from 55 percent to 39.6 percent effective upon enactment, as 39.6 percent is currently the highest Federal income tax rate. Under the bill, the value of an estate over $10 million would be taxed at the 39.6 percent rate. Under current law, the 55 percent estate tax bracket begins for estates over $3 million. Finally, H.R. 42 would continue to apply the stepped-up capital gains basis to the estate, which is provided in current law. In fact, this Member has said on many occasions that he would be willing to raise the estate tax exclusion level to $15 million.

Since this Member believes that H.R. 42 or similar legislation is the only responsible way to provide true estate tax reduction for our nation's small business, farm and ranch families, this Member will once again state his reasons, as follows, for his opposition to the total elimination of the Federal estate tax.

First, to totally eliminate the estate tax on billionaires and mega-millionaires would be very much contrary to the national interest.

Second, the elimination of the estate tax also would have a very negative impact upon the continuance of very large charitable contributions for colleges and universities and other worthy institutions in our country.

Finally, and fortunately, this Member believes that actually it will never be eliminated in the year 2010.

At this point it should be noted that under the previously enacted estate tax legislation (e.g., the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act), beginning in 2011, the ''stepped-up basis'' is eliminated (with two exceptions) such that the value of inherited assets would be ''carried-over'' from the deceased. Therefore, as noted previously by this Member, the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act could result in unfortunate tax consequences for some heirs as the heirs would have to pay capital gains taxes on any increase in the value of the property from the time the asset was acquired by the deceased until it was sold by the heirs—resulting in a higher capital gain and larger tax liability for the heirs than under the current ''stepped-up'' basis law. Unfortunately, H.R. 2143 made the stepped-up basis elimination permanent resulting in a continuation of the problems just noted by this Member—higher capital gains and larger tax liability for heirs.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, while this Member is strongly supportive of legislation to substantially rise the estate tax exemption level and to reduce the rate of taxation on all levels of taxable estates, and as such introduced legislation to this effect (H.R. 42), this Member cannot in good conscience support the total elimination of the inheritance tax on the super-rich. Therefore, this Member will be voting against H. Res. 524.

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 524. This resolution, expressing the view of the House on permanently repealing the death tax, also reflects the view of the American people concerning the death tax. Across this country shopkeepers, farmers, small manufacturers, and everyday individuals who managed to save for their families through hard work and sacrifice are urging the passage of the Permanent Death Tax Repeal Act of 2002. Passage of that act will provide added incentives for savings and productive

investment, and end the harmful dissolution of family farms and businesses. Idaho towns and farms in particular are hard hit by the death tax and urgently seek its permanent repeal. I urge members of this House to join a bi-partisan majority supporting H. Res. 524, supporting H.R. 2143, and supporting the American dream.

□ 1445

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 527, the resolution is considered read for amendment and the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. NUSSLE. 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, further proceedings on this resolution will be postponed.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put each question on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the following order: House Resolution 525, by the yeas and nays; House Resolution 524, by the yeas and nays; House Concurrent Resolution 337, by the yeas and nays; and the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 3295, by the yeas and nays.

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

SENSE OF HOUSE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD COMPLETE ACTION ON LEGISLATION EXTENDING AND STRENGTHENING SUCCESSFUL 1996 WELFARE REFORMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of agreeing to the resolution, House Resolution 525, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 280, nays 123, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 400]

YEAS—280

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Akin
Allen
Andrews
Armey
Bachus
Baker
Baldacci
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bereuter
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Boozman
Boswell
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Burr
Burton
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardin
Carson (OK)
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clement
Coble
Collins
Combest
Condit
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeLay
DeMint
Dooley
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gilman
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Harman
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Istook
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kerns
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kleczka
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Lampson
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Manzullo
Mascara
Matheson
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McKeon
Mica
Miller, Dan
Miller, Gary
Miller, Jeff
Moore
Moran (KS)
Myrick
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Riley
Roemer
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ross
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sanchez
Sandlin
Saxton
Schaffer
Schiff
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sununu
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Toomey
Turner
Upton
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watts (OK)
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—123

Ackerman
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Becerra
Bentsen
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Blumenauer
Bonior
Borski
Boucher
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Capuano
Clay
Clayton
Clyburn
Conyers
Coyne
Crowley
Davis (IL)
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Engel
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank
Gonzalez
Green (TX)
Gutierrez
Hastings (FL)
Hilliard
Hinchey
Honda
Inslee
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kucinich
LaFalce
Langevin
Lantos
Lee
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Lynch
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Millender-McDonald
Mollohan
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Oberstar
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rivers
Rodriguez
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanders
Schakowsky
Scott
Serrano
Slaughter
Solis
Stark
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velazquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Wexler
Woolsey

NOT VOTING—29

Barrett
Blagojevich
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Buyer
Callahan
Carson (IN)
Cooksey
Deal
Diaz-Balart
Everett
Fossella
Gephardt
Gillmor
Hilleary
Jefferson
Jenkins
Larson (CT)
Miller, George
Mink
Neal
Obey
Ortiz
Ros-Lehtinen
Roukema
Sawyer
Schrock
Stump
Taylor (NC)

□ 1508

Messrs. LANGEVIN, HILLIARD, RAHALL, DICKS, and REYES changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. BALDACCI, ALLEN, and STRICKLAND changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I missed rollcall vote No. 400 today. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted ''nay.''

SENSE OF HOUSE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD COMPLETE ACTION ON PERMANENT DEATH TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The pending business is the question of agreeing to the resolution, House Resolution 524, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 242, nays 158, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 401]

YEAS—242

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Akin
Armey
Bachus
Baker
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Boozman
Boswell
Boucher
Brady (TX)
Burr
Burton
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Carson (OK)
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clay
Clement
Coble
Collins
Combest
Condit
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart
Dooley
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
English
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gilman
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Harman
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holt
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Isakson
Israel
Istook
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kerns
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Lampson
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Maloney (CT)
Manzullo
Mascara
Matheson
McCarthy (NY)
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
Mica
Miller, Dan
Miller, Gary
Miller, Jeff
Moran (KS)
Myrick
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Pastor
Paul
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Riley
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ross
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sandlin
Saxton
Schaffer
Sensenbrenner
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sununu
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauzin
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Toomey
Turner
Upton
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—158

Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldacci
Baldwin
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berman
Blumenauer
Bonior
Borski
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Capuano
Cardin
Clayton
Clyburn
Conyers
Coyne
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank
Frost
Gonzalez
Green (TX)
Gutierrez
Hastings (FL)
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hoeffel
Holden
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
Kleczka
Kucinich
LaFalce
Langevin
Lantos
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lowey
Luther
Lynch
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Millender-McDonald
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Oberstar
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanchez
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott
Serrano
Sherman
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (MS)
Thurman
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velazquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOT VOTING—32

Barrett
Blagojevich
Bono
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Buyer
Callahan
Carson (IN)
Cooksey
Deal
Doyle
Everett
Fossella
Gephardt
Gillmor
Hilleary
Issa
Jenkins
Larson (CT)
Miller, George
Mink
Neal
Obey
Ortiz
Ros-Lehtinen
Roukema
Sanders
Sawyer
Schrock
Sessions
Stump
Taylor (NC)

□ 1516

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 401, I was recorded as not voting. It was my intent to vote "yea". Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 401 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Stated against:

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I missed rollcall vote No. 401 today. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted "nay."

RECOGNIZING THE TEAMS AND PLAYERS OF THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO BASEBALL AND THE NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 337.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H.R. 337, 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 394, nays 0, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 402]

YEAS—394

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Allen
Andrews
Armey
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldacci
Baldwin
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior
Bono
Boozman
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Burr
Burton
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (OK)
Castle
Chabot
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Collins
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Costello
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Frank
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Harman
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kerns
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kleczka
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Millender-McDonald
Miller, Dan
Miller, Gary
Miller, Jeff
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano

Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Oberstar
Olver
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Saxton
Schaffer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sununu
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Toomey
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velazquez
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watkins (OK)
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—38

Barrett
Blagojevich
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Buyer
Callahan
Carson (IN)
Chambliss
Cooksey
Deal
Doyle
Dunn
Everett
Fossella
Ganske
Gephardt
Gillmor
Hilleary
Jenkins
Larson (CT)
Lynch
McKinney
Miller, George
Mink
Neal
Obey
Ortiz
Peterson (PA)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roukema
Sawyer
Schrock
Shadegg
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Stump
Taylor (NC)
Thomas

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). The Chair would advise the Members that one of the voting panels is out but those votes are being recorded and Members may verify their vote by checking at the desk or at the voting stations.

□ 1524

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.

Stated for:

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 402 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I missed rollcall vote No. 402 today. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted ''yea.''

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 3295, HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 3295.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) 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 365, nays 26, not voting 41, as follows:

[Roll No. 403]

YEAS—365

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Allen
Andrews
Armey
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldacci
Baldwin
Ballenger
Barcia
Bartlett
Bass
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonior
Bono
Boozman
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Burr
Burton
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (OK)
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clay
Clayton
Clyburn
Coble
Condit
Conyers
Costello
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Frank
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Harman
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Horn
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kleczka
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Lynch
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Millender-McDonald
Miller, Dan
Miller, Gary
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Nussle
Oberstar
Olver
Ose
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Saxton
Schaffer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sununu
Sweeney
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velazquez
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Waters
Watkins (OK)
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (FL)

NAYS—26

Barr
Barton
Bonilla
Brady (TX)
Cannon
Collins
Culberson
Duncan
Flake
Goode
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hostettler
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Kerns
Miller, Jeff
Myrick
Norwood
Paul
Sessions
Shadegg
Tancredo
Thornberry
Toomey
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—41

Barrett
Blagojevich
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Buyer
Callahan
Carson (IN)
Clement
Combest
Cooksey
Cubin
Deal
Doyle
Dunn
Everett
Fossella
Gephardt
Gillmor
Hilleary
Jenkins
Larson (CT)
Markey
McCarthy (MO)
Miller, George
Mink
Neal
Obey
Ortiz
Osborne
Peterson (PA)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roukema
Sawyer
Schrock
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Stump
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thune
Wamp

□ 1533

Mr. KERNS changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the motion was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I missed rollcall vote No. 403 today. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted ''yea.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 19, 2002, I was unable to be present for roll call votes No. 402, Recognizing the Teams and Players of the Negro Baseball Leagues, and No. 403, the Waters Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 3295—Help America Vote Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll No. 402 and "yea" on roll No. 403.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I missed rollcall Nos. 400, 401, 402, and 403 due to attending my brother-in-law's funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea", on all four rollcalls.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I was unexpectedly detained during the vote for H. Res. 523 recognizing the contributions of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

PERMISSION TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2002, TO FILE CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1646, FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2002 AND 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the managers may have until midnight, Monday, September 23, to file a conference report on the bill (H.R. 1646) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2002 and 2003, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NUSSLE. 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 H. Res. 524 and H. Res. 525, the resolutions just agreed to.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON H.R. 5410, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

Mr. KOLBE, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107–663) on the bill (H.R. 5410) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I take this time to inquire about the schedule for next week.

I am pleased to yield to the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the House has completed its legislative business for the week. The House will next meet for legislative business on Tuesday, September 24, at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 o'clock p.m. for legislative business. I will schedule a number of measures under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to Members' offices tomorrow. Recorded votes on Tuesday will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, for Wednesday and Thursday, I have scheduled the following measures: a conference report to accompany H.R. 1646, the State Department Authorization Act; a resolution calling for completion as soon as possible for the worker pension security legislation that passed this House in April and has not been considered in the other body; H.R. 4691, the Abortion Nondiscrimination Act of 2002; a continuing resolution; and H.R. 4600, the Health Act of 2002.

I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that information. I have some further questions if the gentleman will be available.

I understand the gentleman is saying H.R. 4600, the medical malpractice bill, will be on the floor next week. Could the gentleman give us a little more what day it would be?

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentlewoman for the inquiry; and if the gentlewoman would continue to yield, we expect to deal with that bill on Thursday of next week.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, so it is my understanding that next week we will be in Tuesday night, Wednesday and Thursday again; we have given away Monday and Friday again?

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentlewoman for the inquiry; and if the gentlewoman will yield, in fact, the gentlewoman understood exactly correct.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, we have given away tomorrow, we are giving up next Monday, we are giving up next Friday, and the list of unfinished business continues to grow. The number of legislative days continues to shrink.

Does the gentleman expect the bill to deduct education expenses to be scheduled for next week? If so, on what day?

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentlewoman for the inquiry. I am sorry I did not hear the bill the gentlewoman was referring to.

Ms. PELOSI. The back to school act, so-called.

Mr. ARMEY. Oh, I am sorry. No, I do not expect to see that back on the floor, at least not next week.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, how long will the continuing resolution be?

Mr. ARMEY. Again, I want to thank the gentlewoman for the inquiry. There are consultations going on bicamerally and bipartisan in the highest leadership levels and with the two respective bodies' Committees of Appropriations, and that information has not yet been finally agreed to; and when it is, I expect the Speaker will make an announcement, as I would expect the majority leader in the other body to do so as well.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is, the gentleman, when asked about this continuing resolution, if we are going to have a lame duck session, et cetera, said that he consults with Puff the Magic Dragon. Puff the Magic Dragon, lame duck, this place is getting more and more like a menagerie or some would say a zoo.

I have some concerns because today we voted on a resolution that urges the Senate to take certain action; but I know there is a bill that has overwhelmingly passed the Senate 78 to 21 that the Congressional Budget Office estimated would lower prescription drug prices by $60 billion over the next 10 years, $60 billion. Can the majority leader inform us if that bill will be scheduled before Congress adjourns in October, heeding the gentleman's concern about not following up on business completed by the Senate?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her inquiry, and I understand that perhaps the animal rights caucus may be a little bit concerned about some of the examples we use around here. We do consult with magic dragons, indeed tolerate lame ducks in our committed effort to keep pork off the floor of this House.

That having been said, with respect to the bill the gentlewoman has asked about, this bill is a poor and paltry substitute for a comprehensive prescription drug benefit for American seniors. The House passed a bipartisan comprehensive Medicare prescription drug benefit in June. The Senate has not yet passed a bill. This bill is quite simply not good enough for those of us in the House who did the hard work to pass a real prescription drug benefit bill available to all American seniors, and it remains our hope that we will be able to pass a real prescription drug bill before the end of this year.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the gentleman did not hear me. He said that the Senate had not passed a bill. The Senate had passed it 78 to 21, the prescription drug bill relating to generic drugs which would lower the cost by $60 billion over 10 years, according

to the Congressional Budget Office. We have a discharge petition to that end to bring it to the floor. I urge our colleagues to sign it, but it was passed by the Senate, contrary to the gentleman's comment that the Senate had not passed a prescription drug bill.

We now have 4 legislative working days until the end of the fiscal year. We also have eight appropriations bills to fund the entire government, and the House has yet to consider them. Are there any appropriations bills that will be considered to be scheduled next week or the week after so that Members can be prepared?

Mr. ARMEY. Again, I want to thank the gentlewoman for her inquiry with respect to the appropriations bills. We continue to work on our efforts to maintain the commitments we have made to not only the President's budget recommendation but this House's own passed budget, and those remaining appropriations bills, while insofar as we are able we work on those bills with respect to which we have gotten to conference with the other body, and it is our hope that at least some of those conferencing bills might come to the floor in the next week or two.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, there are no dates in particular.

Can the gentleman tell us when the Iraq resolution will be brought to the floor that was distributed to us today?

Mr. ARMEY. Again, I want to thank the gentlewoman for her inquiry. This is, of course, a matter of serious consideration by each Member of this Congress, as it is with the administration and the American people also sharing our concern here. The President has sent a resolution draft up before the two bodies of Congress. As my colleague knows, the President and his team continue to make information available through, many times, secured briefings to Members of Congress and through the committee process, when possible, before the American people. We would expect that the committees of jurisdiction on these matters would continue to work their will on this resolution and bring it to the floor.

It has been, I think, the insistence of the Speaker in matters especially of such gravity that we work through our normal process, respecting the jurisdictional rights and the expertise of the committees. So I would encourage the gentlewoman and all of my colleagues to watch as the committees work on this very important resolution; and I would, however, expect that we should see this resolution on the floor in the not-too-distant future. I hate to be so ambiguous, but I think it is only fair to the committee to give them the time to do their job as they see fit.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the seriousness with which the gentleman is treating the consideration of that resolution; and as soon as my colleague knows, I am sure he will let us know and when it will be brought to the floor.

There are many other issues that the American people are concerned about that relate to education, to a prescription drug benefit, to access to health care, pension security. The list goes on and on; and as we come in for our 2-day-a-week work weeks in Washington, D.C., we are becoming less relevant to the problems that the American people are facing. It is almost as if they are saying to us, Earth to Congress, we are still here, we have these challenges in our economy and our workforce, et cetera, and get to work and get some of this done so that we can go forward.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. PELOSI. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentlewoman would yield for a question to the majority leader, and I know the gentlewoman's interest. I just filed a few minutes ago the Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Foreign Operations Export Financing and Related Programs bill which had passed the committee last week and the subcommittee the week before.

□ 1545

While there are certainly differences of opinion on it, it is a bipartisan product; and I wonder if the gentleman can give us any indication when that bill might come to the floor.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. PELOSI. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, first, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) for filing the bill. I am very pleased about that. I will discuss the scheduling of it with the Speaker. We will schedule it as soon as possible.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the subcommittee of the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), I have a great deal of interest when the bill comes to the floor as well. I associate myself with the questions asked by the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished majority leader.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2002

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

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

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2002

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, September 23, 2002, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO COMMIT, THREATEN TO COMMIT, OR SUPPORT TERRORISM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania, and against the Pentagon committed on September 11, 2001, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. These actions pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 19, 2002*.

PERIODIC REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO COMMIT, THREATEN TO COMMIT, OR SUPPORT TERRORISM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith the 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism that was declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 19, 2002.*

ELIMINATE THE DEATH TAX

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today the House passed a resolution urging Congress to eliminate the death tax. The death tax is the wrong tax on the wrong people at the wrong time. It punishes those who save and invest. It prevents parents from helping their children; and it forces many farmers, ranchers and small business owners to sell off a lifetime of hard work.

The House of Representatives has done its job. Last year we voted to repeal the death tax, but the Senate has not acted on similar legislation. Repealing and reducing taxes leaves more money in working families' pockets. When they spend it or invest it or start a business, new jobs are created and the economy is benefited. Like a weed in a garden, the death tax is not useful, does harm, and needs to be eliminated.

COMMENDING CONDUCT OF CAPITOL HILL COMMUNITY DURING ANTHRAX EVENT

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that commends the entire Capitol Hill community for their courage and professionalism during the days and weeks following the release of anthrax on Capitol Hill.

In particular, I want to acknowledge the Office of the Attending Physician and the health care professionals in his office who by their quick actions and early intervention prevented actual cases of anthrax within the Capitol Hill complex. They responded to and managed the largest bioterrorism event ever, providing direction locally that was used nationwide and even worldwide.

It should be noted that the anthrax letter event proved to be the largest public health crisis in the United States since the smallpox outbreak in New York City in the 1940s. The incredible response by the Attending Physician and his staff as they evaluated and treated over 7,000 people ensured the continuity of two branches of government, the Congress and the Supreme Court.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this bill we are introducing today can move quickly through the House and be passed before October 14, the 1-year anniversary of the anthrax letter arriving in Senator DASCHLE's office.

U.N. MUST PASS RESOLUTION

(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, recently Iraq agreed to allow U.N. inspectors back into their country without conditions. After hearing that news, all I can say is we have been down this road before.

After a decade of deception by Iraq, the United Nations must show some real backbone if it wants to be a meaningful organization in the 21st century. Let us not forget that from 1991 to 1998, in spite of 13 different U.N. resolutions mandating unconditional access, Iraq never allowed that to happen. Saddam always had his conditions. Inspectors were kept from presidential palaces, mosques, and military installations, just to name a few places where we know he hides weapons.

The U.N. must pass a resolution that not only mandates unconditional weapons inspections, but also outlines the serious consequences for Saddam's Iraq if the U.N. inspectors do not get complete and unimpeded access and support.

The U.N. must take control and mandate unfettered inspections, and Saddam Hussein must comply. It is time for the U.N., and not Saddam Hussein, to be in the driver's seat.

FIGHTING TERRORISM HERE AND ABROAD

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to follow on the comments made by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and urge Congress to continue its work in dealing with Iraq, and I specifically thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) for his very proactive role in this debate. This is a bipartisan effort to rid the war of terrorism. This is one party versus the other; this is good versus evil. President Bush has made that clear. Our allies in the U.N. have heard the message, and I urge us all to focus on this very serious problem we face in this Nation.

When people see the scourge of Iraq and the problems they pose to the free world, I think they, too, will join in a common voice and a common purpose of defeating terrorism and evil. Again I commend the minority leader, and for all those in Congress who are prepared to weigh in on this very critical issue of national security; and I certainly applaud the President, who has been steadfast since September 11 in leading this Nation not only to fight the war here at home but abroad.

SUPPORT SUDAN PEACE ACT

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, over the past 20 years, over 2 million people have died and over 4 million have been driven from their homes in Sudan. Not by famine, flood or pestilence, but at the hands of people who claim a right to govern.

Mr. Speaker, people who engage in a systematic campaign of killing, terror, starvation, destruction and expulsion against the people of southern Sudan are not the fearless leaders we hope to see in power when times are rough. Rather, they are the heartless leaders who make times tough for their own people.

The government in Khartoum continues to brutalize the people in the south. Why? While we cannot know the darkness within their hearts, we know the roots of their hatred. We know that the Khartoum Government, known as the National Islamic Front, consists of those who are seeking to impose their version of Islam on the black Christians in the south, or destroy them if they do not get along. This is a religious crusade that uses genocide to convert disbelievers. The government wants to destroy the southern people because they are of a different race and religion.

We have one of the greatest humanitarian crises of our time. Khartoum's self-proclaimed jihad against the south, driven by religious and racial hatred and a lust for oil, has killed more people than died in Kosovo, Bosnia, Rwanda and Somalia combined.

Yesterday, September 18, marked the first day of the Vigil for Sudan. Thousands of people will be gathering outside the State Department at Galvez Park here in Washington to pray for the people of Sudan. We in Congress and all Americans should join with them. We cannot stand by. Let us finish our work on the Sudan Peace Act and be among those leaders who are fearless and who are not heartless.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HITLER COMPARISON INAPPROPRIATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to take a moment to thank the American Cancer Society and all of the various people who have come from around the 50 States, and right outside this Capitol building are providing a loud chorus of voices, working to fight cancer, whether it be breast cancer, melanoma, prostate cancer, colon cancer, any of the number of maladies that strike mankind.

It is terrific to see people, particularly those from the 16th Congressional District of Florida, participate in this very important day of public awareness, both for prevention of cancer and to, hopefully, find a cure for cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a moment to express my personal outrage at the comments recently provided by German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's justice minister, Herta Daeubler-Gmelin, who said, ''Bush wants to divert attention from his domestic problems. It's a classic tactic. It's one that Hitler used.''

To compare our President in any way in a reference to the satanical Adolf Hitler to me not only demeans the friendship of Germany to the United States, but also indicates to me that politics in its raw form has found its way insidiously into the debate in the reelection of Mr. Schroeder as the Chancellor of Germany.

□ 1600

I was in Europe just the other day and happened to catch a few of his impassioned speeches where he was using the United States and our fight against terrorism as a means in which to exploit his election chances. A few weeks ago he was behind in the polls and he decided a good game was to play ''them versus us,'' as if the United States and Germany were at war, as if the United States and Germany were not bound together by economic and other issues of importance to both our peoples. It seemed to me that there is a lot of thanks that should be given from Germany for the Marshall Plan. After the problems Europe faced in World War I and II, it was the United States economically that came together to aid that community and help dramatically restore economic opportunity to millions of Germans. It was Ronald Reagan in fact that spoke and urged Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down this wall. We helped, if you will, along with others in the U.N. and the United Nations communities to work on ending the separation of East and West Germany. That to me is a human outreach of kindness from one people to another. If you look at the number of Mercedes-Benzes and Volkswagens and BMWs and German products that are purchased and consumed by the United States, I can say definitely we have been on the side of economic prosperity for millions of Germans. But to have the Chancellor and have one of his top ministers comparing anyone in the United States to Hitler, particularly pointing that reference to the President, is honestly unspeakable. It is demeaning, it is derogatory, it is plain sick.

When Mr. Schroeder or his opponent wins the election, I am certain the dialogue will shift to, You know, it's just politics. Just kidding. We really do oppose terrorism. We weren't necessarily saying we sided with Iraq and Saddam Hussein. We merely were using you at an opportune time for our political expedience. Mr. Schroeder, if the election or reelection of your government is that important that you can side with Iraq and Saddam Hussein, you do so at your own peril. This Nation has been a long and steadfast friend of Germany and its people. We have worked together on so many issues, too many to mention. But to sit here at an eleventh hour opportunity to regain power for the sake of power and demean our President and our commitment to working together for the international safety of every person on this globe is reprehensible.

I hope he will refute and rebut the words of his justice minister. I hope he will at least find them to be offensive. I hope they will work on strengthening their determination to continue our united efforts against terrorism, that they will in fact join with France and Britain and others who have long recognized the threat terrorism poses to a free people. The President's passionate deliverance of the speech to the United Nations woke up a lot of people to the real threat that is facing all people, not just the United States. This is not for self-protection. This is for global peace. The President embarked on a very, very difficult campaign and he did so alone, with few supporters and few allies. After his speech, I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of what I considered important support for going into weapons inspections and reopening U.N. peacekeepers and weapons inspectors into Iraq. That was a breakthrough and one I hope is taken seriously.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JOE EARLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week my colleague, the gentleman from Worcester, Massachusetts, sponsored and the House passed and I voted for a resolution naming a post office in Worcester for a former colleague of many of us in the House, my colleague from Worcester's predecessor, former Representative Joseph D. Early.

I first met Joe Early in 1972 when I, along with two of my current Massachusetts colleagues (Mr. MARKEY and Mr. DELAHUNT), was elected to the Massachusetts House. Joe Early was by then an established leader in the Massachusetts House. Two years later, he came here. I was proud to support him in his campaign to come here in 1974, and 6 years later I became a member of the House and so worked with him for the ensuing 12 years.

I was very pleased to have a chance to join in naming that post office for him. I regretted the fact that I was not able to participate in the debate. I was tied up at a committee meeting. I thought I was going to be notified in time but to my error I came too late to make the debate so I am taking this special opportunity now because of my enormous respect for Joe Early and in particular for his extraordinarily strong understanding of what the role of government ought to be in our society.

Joe Early, during his time in the Massachusetts legislature, during his time here, showed that you could be compassionate, that you should be concerned about the needs of people who would otherwise be left behind without in any way being soft on waste, without in any way being tolerant of sloppiness or unnecessary expenditure. Joe Early was a tough fiscal watchdog. On the Ways and Means Committee in the Massachusetts House and here on the Appropriations Committee, he was a man who paid a lot of attention to the specifics and was very, very tough on those who would waste public money. But he also understood that there were important values for the quality of our life that had to be met with public money. Time and again when it would be unpopular, when demagogic amendments would be offered on the floor of this House to make cuts of various sorts, Joe Early would be one of the few courageous enough to point out how damaging they would be, how irresponsible it was to take that easy approach as opposed to doing the kind of tough, ongoing work that he did of familiarizing himself with the programs for which he had legislative responsibility and fighting hard to make sure that they took effect.

Those of us who knew Joe Early also were stimulated by his company. He was not, as people will remember who served with him, an unfailing dispenser of good cheer. If something was bothering you and you were looking for a smiley face, Joe was probably the last person on the continent that you wanted to encounter. But if you wanted serious conversation about our responsibility as an elected official, if you wanted to talk about both the strengths and the limitations of government, if you wanted to talk about

how you actually use the machinery of government and public funds to try and accomplish important goals, then Joe Early would be very, very high on your list of people to consult.

He was, in particular, interested in medical care. He was very proud of the first-rate complex at the University of Massachusetts Medical School that he represented, and the hospitals. He took on, to some extent, from Tip O'Neill, the great leader of the Massachusetts delegation, an interest in and an advocacy for the National Institutes of Health. Joe Early did as much as any man who served during that period to help America establish the position of leadership in health research, in providing the kind of resources that has done so much to improve the quality of human life.

So now that Joe is in retirement, I want to just take this opportunity to express my appreciation to my colleague from Worcester (Mr. MCGOVERN), Joe Early's successor, for taking the initiative in naming that post office after Joe Early because it is as much as we can do to pay tribute to a man who understood as well as anyone what the job of being a Member of the United States House of Representatives entailed and who used to the fullest the powers of this job to make life better for the people of this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DeFAZIO 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 California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN TRIBUTE TO ARMENIA'S 11TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Armenia Republic on the nation's 11th anniversary of independence. On Saturday, September 21, citizens of Armenia as well as people of Armenian descent here in the United States and around the world celebrate their independence from the former Soviet Union. I traveled to Armenia along with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), who is also in the House Chamber this evening, during the August recess, my fifth trip there since independence, and I witnessed firsthand the spirit and determination of the Armenian people. Their spirit has to be strong, Mr. Speaker, because they have suffered a dual, coordinated blockade by Armenia's two hostile neighbors, Azerbaijan and Turkey, for the preponderance of the young country's life. Despite this overwhelming burden, Armenia is currently poised to become a full-fledged member of the World Trade Organization and has identified joining the European Union to be its next priority.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has a fundamental national interest in bringing about stability in the strategically located Caucasus region and in supporting those emerging nations like Armenia that share our values. I was very pleased to see that Armenia was one of the first countries to pledge military and logistical assistance after September 11 and continue to hope that all parties that contribute in the war on terrorism can use that coordination as a catalyst for direct cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, it was the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 that allowed the Armenian people to reestablish a state and a nation, to create a society where their language, culture, religion and other institutions would prosper. The people of Armenia have endeavored to build a free and proud nation based on the principles of democracy and a market economy. The tiny, landlocked Republic of Armenia is surrounded by hostile neighbors. Even in the face of this enmity, Armenia continues to implement economic and democratic reforms. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have publicly noted Armenia's economic progress in recent years. Despite this progress under special and difficult circumstances, I saw firsthand that the economic reality of daily life for the people of the Republic of Armenia continues to be extremely hard.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Republics of Turkey and Azerbaijan will respond positively to Armenia's repeated offers to normalize relations. Specifically, I hope that Turkey will allow for the exchange of diplomats and allow the free flow of goods and people across the borders. And I hope that, with the active participation of the United States, we will resolve the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict in a manner that guarantees the security and self-determination of the people of Karabagh.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish the Armenia people well on the occasion of their independence day and, more importantly, in their ongoing effort to establish good relations with their neighbors and their effort to build a vibrant democracy so that their children may prosper in the homeland of their ancestors.

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 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 Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINOJOSA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE COSTS OF WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Members of Congress must thoughtfully reflect on their neighbors' concerns and not serve as a mere speed bump on a fast road to war. This Administration has failed to provide evidence to us here in the Congress, either secretly or publicly, that Saddam Hussein, a despicable dictator, represents an imminent threat to Americans, that he had a role in the tragedy of 9–11, or is in any way directly linked to the al Qaeda terrorist network, or that his danger to the world has significantly changed since 9–11. If such evidence exists, the President should come forward and ask for a declaration of war. Instead, the President has today submitted to the Congress the draft of a sweeping resolution that would, if approved and implemented fully by the Administration, commit thousands to death and extract billions from the pockets of American taxpayers.

It is interesting to contrast this resolution with that enacted in August of 1964 upon which the Vietnam War was fought, the Gulf of Tonkin resolution. At minimum, this Congress would do well to narrow the President's request today to the overly expansive language of the Gulf of Tonkin, which did at least limit the Commander in Chief ''to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression.'' The resolution also provided that we would react if a member state of a particular defense treaty of which we were a member was ''requesting assistance in defense of its own freedom.'' President Bush is seeking much, much greater authority than the Gulf of Tonkin resolution.

I believe that it is very important for Americans to realize that launching a war against Saddam Hussein, despot that he is, will entail costs far beyond the battlefield. In addition to questioning why young Americans will be almost alone to die in order to win this war, there will be extraordinary costs that will touch the lives of every family in America—costs that will certainly require reaching into the pocket of every taxpayer in this country.

□ 1615

This week on the front page of no less a publication than the Wall Street Journal, President Bush's top economic adviser, Lawrence Lindsey, estimated that the cost of waging this war in which this Nation is about to embark may rise as high as $200 billion. That is ''billion'' with a ''B''. That is billions that take away the hopes and dreams of so many of us for the opportunities that this country could afford. That is $200 billion with a ''B'' that could be available to ensure a life of dignity for many older Americans; and provide economic security, healthcare, prescription drugs, and strengthen Social Security for our baby boomers. That is billion with a ''B'' that will not be available to assure the educational hopes and opportunities of a generation of young Americans. It is billions with a ''B'' that will be spent on war in Iraq, instead of being spent to address our many other types of security needs here at home.

The $200 billion estimate, as high as it is, may be misleadingly low. We do not know whether this includes the prolonged occupation of Iraq and all of the associated costs, which Vice President CHENEY has admitted are an essential part of this war; the rebuilding of Iraq, installing a new regime, wherever that might come from, as well as, of course, the much higher prices all of us can expect to pay as a result of increases in the price of oil.

According to the same Wall Street Journal article, other Administration economists say their main fear is that an Iraq war could lead to a sustained spike in [oil] prices.

This estimate also does not include the cost of the war widening if, for example one of our few allies decides to become involved, and as a result other oil suppliers no longer supply that oil and there is additional regional conflict.

''Whatever the bottom line,'' the Wall Street Journal reports, ''the war's cost would be significant enough to make it harder'', much harder, ''for the Bush Administration to climb out of the budget deficit hole,'' which, I would add, grows deeper and deeper.

So I would urge our colleagues to review this resolution very closely, offer their ideas, informed by their constituencies, and seek to work with President Bush to bring us together in favor of effective international arms inspection, instead of leading us into a war that cannot be justified based on present evidence.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEED FOR WAR WITH IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), to place on the record this evening information important to the American people.

One of the questions I have on this resolution that President Bush has sent up to the Congress, the joint resolution to authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against Iraq, is the first question of why now, 7 weeks before an election?

Just about a week ago, the President properly appeared before the United Nations, and he talked about the grave and gathering danger of what was occurring inside Iraq relative to Iraq's development of nuclear weapons and biological and chemical weapons. But the President did not say an imminent danger. In other words, 7 weeks before an election in this country, why does a grave and gathering danger require us to take precipitous action against another nation state? I would ask the President if action is not imminent, why now? Why now are we faced with this resolution, 7 weeks before congressional elections? It is very, very curious timing.

One of the other questions I would ask the President is who is the enemy? Now, we know who caused the carnage over New York and Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon, and we know al Qaeda is a Middle Eastern-based terrorist network, but their base is not Iraq. So I would say, what is the connection between al Qaeda, where our attention should be focused, and Iraq?

I have gone to every single briefing here in the Capitol this week trying to get the evidence from the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency, former ambassadors from that region, weapons inspectors that have gone into Iraq in prior years. They have established no connection between al Qaeda and Iraq. So, who is the enemy? Who is the enemy, Mr. President, and why are you trying to pass this resolution at this point?

Our forces are engaged in many places on the globe, certainly keeping order in the Balkans. But now we have the Afghanistan situation facing us with terrible, terrible disruption inside that country, with terrorists coming back, the Taliban, the leftovers, creating difficulties in that region of the world. And I think it is very important to recognize that moving into Iraq will be a significant military undertaking.

Who is the enemy? Who is the enemy? We are not saying that Saddam Hussein and that despotic regime functions in a way that we consider acceptable on the face of the Earth. But what is the justification for now?

Let me mention also, is it just a coincidence that in Iraq, which holds the second largest supply of the world's oil reserves, is there any possibility that in the resolution the President has sent us where he talks about defending the national security interests of the United States and restoring international peace and security in the region, that it might have anything to do with the oil that sits underground in that particular country?

We know that about 2 years ago in October one of our destroyers, the U.S.S. Cole, was suicide-bombed in Yemen Harbor, and we know that we are extended in that part of the world to protect the oil lanes that are supplying this country every day.

I say to myself when I look at the President's plan for energy that he sent up here earlier this year, what a disappointment to me as an American, a 21st-century American, that he has us wed to oil as the future, a diminishing resource.

We should be moving to a carbohydrate future, not a hydrocarbon future in this country. We should be moving toward a hydrogen future, not a petroleum future. We should be moving to a photovoltaic future, to a fuel cell future, not a petroleum future. So both domestic policy and the flawed energy document released and our foreign policy are totally tied together in this wedding of oil and politics that has been the heritage of this country for the last 70 years.

It is time to change. America wants to move on. In fact, if we removed oil as a proxy for our foreign policy, what a different world this would be.

I think it is important to remind the American people that the current recession that we are in, causing significant damage across this country, including in districts like mine, was triggered by rising oil prices. Lots has happened since that occurred; but nonetheless, look at what you spend at the gas pump and watch international events and how they are tied to oil.

I would just say that it is time for America to change. I look forward to future debates on this resolution and the future direction for this country that is domestically independent and at peace in the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BERKLEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BROWN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ESTABLISHING THE TRUTH ABOUT IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the Congress of the United States has just received from the White House a proposed draft which would put this Congress on the path of approving a war with Iraq. The text of the resolution is very instructive, because the text of the resolution seems to ignore some basic facts, and facts are important. They are urgent at this moment in our Nation's history.

The first fact we must keep in mind: Iraq had nothing to do with 9–11, yet the text of the administration's resolution implies that Iraq is connected to 9–11.

Second: Iraq has not been connected to al Qaeda, but the text of the administration's resolution implies that somehow Saddam Hussein has something to do with the al Qaeda terrorist network. Even the United States' own intelligence agencies, which have considerable resources, have not been able to establish that.

We also know that Iraq was not connected to the anthrax attacks upon this Nation. Yet the resolution which the administration has presented to this Congress would ask this Congress to wage war against Iraq as a matter of self-defense.

Now, what is self-defense? Self-defense is when someone attacks you, you have a right to defend yourself. On September 11, the year 2001, the United States was attacked. We have a right to defend ourselves. On the vote that came before this Congress on September 14, I joined other Members of Congress in voting for America to defend itself and in voting for America to pursue the terrorists and to bring them to justice; a task, I might add, which is unfinished. Yet that is ignored in this resolution.

This resolution instead will urge the American people to finance to the tune of over $100 billion a war against a nation which has not waged war against us. For the first time in our country's history, we are going to be asked to approve a resolution to wage a war of aggression, not a war of defense.

This is an important moment in the history of our Republic. All credible intelligence says that Iraq does not have usable weapons of mass destruction. They were destroyed in the Gulf War. Those weapons capabilities, which Iraq got from, guess who, the Bush administration, the first Bush administration, capabilities for biological, chemical and nuclear weapons of mass destruction, they were all destroyed in the Gulf War. Yet the administration would have the people of this country believe that Iraq still possesses those capabilities.

They do not. We have the ability to tell if anyone in the world is making nuclear weapons. We have technology that can tell if gamma rays are being emitted, which are an essential telltale proof of this work of construction of nuclear weapons.

There are 17 nations in the world which either possess, are trying to get, or actually have nuclear weapons capability. Are we going to begin waging war against some of those nations? Because this resolution brought by the administration to this Congress would somehow enable the administration to pursue war wherever they wanted to in the region.

Think about this, America: Iraq does not have any usable weapons of mass destruction. They do not have the ability to deliver those weapons to the United States. No one can come before this House and say that Iraq can launch a missile, if they had one, from Baghdad and send it here.

We have to establish the truth. ''Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free,'' it says in the Scriptures. Let the truth guide America in this period. Let the truth create peace. Let the truth steer us away from war and find a path where America can protect the very soul of our Nation.

□ 1630

TRUTH FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Speaker HASTERT, today marked the 1,355th day that you have been Speaker of the House. During that time, in particular, in the past 1 year, while the Republicans have had a majority in the House, my colleagues will recall a year ago, they had a Republican majority in the Senate, and they passed their tax breaks, they passed their budget. They got their spending, they got their taxes. They increased spending by 16 percent and they cut taxes by 8 percent. So in one year, they have now added $440,605,894,921 to the national debt.

Those of us who have studied American history will be quick to note that from the day that George Washington became President almost until the beginning of World War II, our Nation did not acquire that much debt in well over 150 years. The Republican Congress, in one year, has increased the debt by that much.

One would think that their response to that would be some shame because, after all, all they are doing is sticking our kids with their bills. That is what they did today. They passed a bill to say that some kids can inherit unlimited amounts of money and not pay a penny's worth of tax on it. For those of us who are self-employed as a welder, a logger or a shrimper like some of my friends back home, they pay the employer's share of Social Security, they pay the employee's share of Social Security, so right off the bat they are paying about 18 percent of taxes. Plus they are paying income tax on that. But for the very wealthiest Americans, those who make the biggest campaign contributions, they can now, under the Republican plan, inherit unlimited amounts of money and not pay a dime on it; not pay a dime. Tell me it is fair to the self-employed person. Tell me it is fair to the lady who is going to clean up this building tonight who is going to pay at least 8 percent taxes just for Social Security and Medicare.

But what is really unfair is that in order to give the Bush kids and the Cheney kids this huge inheritance tax-free, they are sticking my kids, the Taylor kids, they are sticking the Jones kids, they are sticking the Jackson kids and everybody else's kids with the bill.

Mr. Speaker, this is real money, and when America borrows money, it is just like when a citizen back home uses their credit card. As long as you owe it, you have to pay interest on it. I bet not one person watching this realizes that the biggest expense of your Nation is not welfare, it is not food stamps, it is not transportation, it is not taking care of veterans, it is not defense; it is interest payments on the national debt. It is $1 billion a day. Almost every American can visualize $1,000. That is a big rent check, a house note and a car note for some people, but we can visualize a thousand bucks.

So what we are spending today on the interest is a thousand times a thousand times a thousand. It is squandered. It does not educate our kids, it does not help the military, it does not help old folks, it does not help kids, it does not help anybody. A third of that goes to Japanese and German lending institutions, the folks that lend us the money. So I am sure our World War II vets are particularly pleased to know that the folks we defeated in World War II now have the ability to crush our economy any time they call in the note.

So, Mr. Speaker, one would think that the prudent thing to do in response to running up that debt was come to this House Floor and say, okay, we have to cut spending, and maybe we ought to take a look at some of those gigantic tax breaks the Republicans gave their big contributors but, instead, no, they want to make them permanent, even though just last week, the head of the Office of Management and Budget, Mitch Daniels, told us that even with this huge increase in the debt, only 10 percent of the tax breaks have kicked in. So we are $440 billion broker than we were a year ago today. What do we think we are going to be when the big tax breaks really kick in?

Our Nation is now $6 trillion, that is a thousand times a thousand times a thousand times a thousand times 6 in debt. Why does it affect every one of you? Because you folks that I cannot talk to in the gallery under House rules, you pay Social Security taxes. You probably do not know that right now there is not a penny in the Social Security trust fund, and that if we could find the so-called Social Security lock box, all we would discover is an IOU for $1 trillion, 300 billion. That is a thousand times a thousand times a thousand times a thousand.

Every one of you who has ever worked paid Medicare taxes. The money is supposed to be set aside to help pay your health care bills when you get older. If you could find the so-called lock box, all you are going to find is an IOU for $263 billion, a thousand times a thousand times a thousand times 263. That is your money that they have taken and stolen, because it is borrowed if they have a plan to pay it back, but if you have no plan to pay it back, and there is no plan to pay it back, it is stolen.

Mr. Speaker, you have now been speaker for 1,355 days and you will not let this House vote to balance the budget. You will not allow a vote on a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution, and you do not deserve to be speaker, but the American people deserve to know the truth.

LONELY IN THE QUEST FOR PEACE

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, sometimes the well of the House is lonely in both appearance and the substance of which one comes to speak. Today I speak about a matter that has troubled me from the time that the first pronunciations came from the White House as we moved toward the summer recess and then went home to our respective districts to be with our constituents and to listen to their viewpoints and to do their bidding; from that moment in June, I stood on the floor of the House and asked for concern and reconciliation on issues dealing with Iraq. In February of 2001 I stood on the floor to ask that we not abandon the crisis in the Mideast and, to my dismay, for 9 months, there was no attention to the proliferation of suicide bombings and killings, and even in the last 24 hours tragedy occurred in the State of Israel, our friend, with the suicide bombing. The war of terrorism still wages in Afghanistan, and President Karzai is depending upon the United States remaining strong and fighting against terrorism, building the Nation, helping the men and women and children that want democracy in Afghanistan. Based on the resolution that I supported after the terrorist acts, the horrific acts, and my own personal visit to Afghanistan visiting with the people, walking the streets, seeing the landmines and the devastation, I remain committed to fighting terrorism.

But it costs $1 billion a month, and we realize that the horrific act, as we have just seen, that occurred on September 11 occurred because we needed to do some things better, intelligence-sharing and information, and I hope that the families will get the truth.

But now we come with a pronouncement that we are prepared to make a unilateral attack on Iraq. As I read the resolution that the President has now offered to us, there are some things that I agree with, that Iraq persists in violating resolutions of the United Nations Security Council by continuing to engage in brutal repression of the civilian population. I agree. Whereas members of al Qaeda as organizations being housed, or the responsibility for attacks in the United States may be known to Iraq, I agree. But they may be known as well to Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

We must realize that in this determination, we are better, as Americans, if we work through this process through reconciliations and the United Nations Security Council. What are we to do when nations around the world disturb us? Is it our responsibility to, on behalf of the American people, send our young men and women into harm on a unilateral basis? Are we to continue operating on a deficit where there is no money to wage war without substance?

I ask the President, as this resolution is sent forward, let us sit down at the table and really enunciate a policy that brings no shame to this Nation. For there are no wimps in this Nation; not a one of us would shy away from a fight to defend this land. I may not be in a position to go, but you could ask any one of us who would accept to go, but those young men and women are already on the frontline. I have seen them. I have seen the body bags in Afghanistan. Those of us who know history know how we left the marine troops in Lebanon where 200-plus died. Those of us who know history know about Vietnam and the body bags, 56,000 that came home.

Mr. Speaker, I have no intent to argue against an administration that wants to do what is right for America; I want to follow the Constitution that says this body must declare war.

This resolution in its language allows the President the opportunity to do unilateral attack on Iraq with no support from our multinational allies and to do a preemptive attack. I will go home this weekend to hold a citizens forum to listen to the constituents of the 18th congressional district. Whoever is hearing my voice, I ask you to join around kitchen tables, PTA meetings, churches and synagogues and mosques. Begin the discussion. Do not be acted upon. This is America.

Mr. Speaker, though this is a lonely place, I would much rather stand here today on September 19, 2002 and raise my voice, for I will never forget Secretary MacNamara's words post the Vietnam War: he wished he had said something. He wished he had stood up. He wished he was counted against a war that may not have been what we all thought it could have been; not against those heroes who died, Mr. Speaker, we will always respect the Vietnam vets, but I will come to this well lonely so that we can hear the truth and that peace will survive.

FREE SPEECH FOR AMERICA'S RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I will not take the full hour, but as we are talking about our men and women in uniform, and I want to join with the gentlewoman from Texas, that we are very fortunate to have the men and women who serve this Nation, and God bless them, and also the families of those who serve this Nation, the men that serve this Nation and the women, that we do appreciate them. That is really one of the reasons I am on the floor today, because I do appreciate and I cherish the First Amendment right of the Constitution of the United States of America, and I know that many men and women have died for that right and other rights that we enjoy based on our Constitution.

But the reason I am here, Mr. Speaker, is because our churches and synagogues are denied the First Amendment rights to talk about issues such as political issues. Well, some people might not know the history, and the history is this, that from day one of the beginning of this Nation, the preachers and priests have had the freedom to talk about political issues and actually had that freedom until 1954. If this was 1953, Mr. Speaker, I would not even be on the floor, because there would be no problem. The churches had freedom of speech until 1954.

In 1954, Lyndon Baines Johnson, United States Senator and majority leader, a very strong position that he held in the United States Senate, had the H.L. Hunt family back in Texas opposed to his reelection because they were saying that Johnson was soft on communism. So the H.L. Hunt family had established 2501(c)(3) think tanks, obviously not churches, but think tanks. So Johnson, being the man that he was, put an amendment on a revenue bill going through the Senate in 1954 that was never even debated; they never debated the amendment. Basically what he said was if you are a 501(c)(3), you may not have political speech.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I am one who believes sincerely that the strength of this Nation depends on our spiritual leaders having the right of free speech, whether it be a political issue that they think is important or whether it should be a moral issue that is somewhat political. What Mr. JOHNSON did was to give the authority to the Internal Revenue Service to be able to say what can be said and not said as it relates to political issues of the day.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that I believe sincerely that the moral future of this country depends on our religious leaders having the freedom to talk about issues, should they choose.

Let me give an example. A priest in my district, the third district of North Carolina, was asked by a parishioner who is a friend of mine, his name is Jerry Shield, Jerry Shield asked the priest in October of 2000 during the presidential election, he asked his priest, Father Rudy at St. Paul's in New Bern, North Carolina, he said, Father, please just make the statement at the end of the mass that George Bush is pro-life.

Mr. Speaker, that is not an endorsement. It is a statement, it is an educational statement for those parishioners that attended that church.

□ 1645

The priest said to Jerry Shield, I cannot do that, Jerry, because it will violate the 501(c)(3) status of this church.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced a bill, H.R. 2357, the Houses of Worship Free Speech Protection Act. I am pleased to tell the Members that the support that we have from leaders around this Nation is really quite humbling, to be honest; people like Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention; James Dobson, president of Focus on the Family; David Barton, director of the Wallbuilders; James Martin, the 60 Plus Association; Tim and Beverly LaHaye, and we all know their fine work; and Concerned Women for America; also, the Family Research Council; the Religious Freedom Coalition, they support this legislation; also, David Keene, who is chairman of the American Conservative Union.

Dr. D. James Kennedy, one of the finest men I have ever met, from the Coral Ridge Ministries, is a strong supporter of this legislation.

Another man that I have great respect for, along with all the others that I have named, is Ray Flynn. Ray Flynn is the former ambassador to the Vatican and former Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. Flynn supports this legislation; also, a man that I have really gotten to know by telephone who I have a tremendous respect for, Rabbi Daniel Lapin. He is a wonderful man of God, and he supports this legislation; and James Bopp, the constitutional lawyer for the James Madison Center for Free Speech. He is a strong supporter of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the reason I have this enlargement of a letter that I received, it is from a fine man who was a Member of Congress my first year, 1995. Floyd Flake was a Member of the Congress. He is an ordained minister, as well. I talked to him about 4 or 5 months ago. I told Dr. Flake what I was trying to do: I was just trying to get the support to return the freedom of speech to our churches and synagogues. We chatted for a while, and he said, Congressman, I would be glad to write a letter of support.

I just want to read two paragraphs from this letter:

''I praise God for the stand that you have taken to defend the first amendment right of houses of worship. It is unjust that churches and clergymen and women are unfairly targeted when they exercise their right as an American citizen. I am pleased to offer my wholehearted support with sincere prayer for passage of this important and liberating legislation.''

I am very honored and pleased to have Dr. Flake support this and certainly to have his letter of support for what we are trying to do.

Mr. Speaker, it so happened that on May 15, the oversight committee, chaired by the gentleman from New York (Chairman HOUGHTON), held a hearing on this issue, freedom of speech in our churches and synagogues. That day, D. James Kennedy came up from Florida, flew up from Florida to testify on behalf of this legislation.

In addition to Dr. Kennedy, also Pastor Walter Fauntroy came, who is a pastor here in Washington, D.C. at the New Bethel Baptist Church. I am pleased to tell the Members that actually he was a Member of Congress and also the vice mayor of Washington, D.C., at one time.

Let me share a couple of comments that they made when they testified before the oversight committee on May 14. I want to read these two paragraphs, Mr. Speaker. This is from Pastor Walter Fauntroy. I am just going to read his 5-minute presentation that he made before the oversight committee, just two paragraphs for the RECORD:

''What I have learned as a pastor, civil rights activist, and Member of Congress over these years has led me to appear before you today in support of H.R. 2357, the Houses of Worship Political Speech Protection Act. In the 5 minutes allowed me, I want to share with you two definitions of 'politics' upon which I have acted over these years as a pastor, as a civil rights activist and a politician that inform my decision to support this legislation,'' H.R. 2357.

In addition, he closed this way, Mr. Speaker. I cannot read the entire testimony. I will at a later time, not today, ask that I might be able to submit this for the RECORD.

He closed his testimony, and again, this is Pastor Walter Fauntroy, pastor of the New Bethel Baptist Church here in Washington, D.C. Many of my colleagues on both sides of the political aisle know him well, as they do Reverend Floyd Flake from New York. This is how Pastor Fauntroy closed:

''So, Mr. Chairman, I know that it is not in my interest or that of the people whom I serve that certain people who are self-centered hypocrites when it comes to the basic tenets of their religions exercise their right to be wrong. But like Voltaire, I may disagree with them vehemently, but I will defend to the death their right to be wrong and their right to participate in an orderly effort to 'translate what they believe into public policy and practice.' I must not be selfish and therefore sinful; I must not demand for myself what I would deny others.''

Mr. Speaker, he also closed with a Bible verse. Again, this is Pastor Walter Fauntroy, who is testifying on behalf of H.R. 2357 to return freedom of speech to our churches and synagogues, should those pastors decide that they want to talk about the issues of the day. Many times there are political issues of the day.

He closed this way by saying: ''. . . save his life, shall lose it, and he that loses his life for my sake shall find it.'' That is Matthew 10:39. I wish I could read the entire testimony of Pastor Fauntroy. Obviously, Members would better understand the last paragraph if I had had the time to do that.

In addition, I want to read just a couple of statements from the testimony of Dr. D. James Kennedy. He and Pastor Fauntroy, along with Kobe May, and Kobe May is an attorney for the American Center for Law and Justice, they testified that day on behalf of freedom of speech in our churches and synagogues.

This is one of the paragraphs that Dr. Kennedy said during his testimony that I want to read:

''This legislation is a vitally important step in reversing a long-standing injustice whereby free speech seems to be protected everywhere except in the pulpit of our churches and other houses of worship. It will restore to churches a freedom and role that dates to the American infancy.

Nineteenth century historian John Wingate Thornton said, ''In a very great degree, to the pulpit, the Puritan pulpit, we owe the moral forces which won our independence.''

Mr. Speaker, that is so true. If we think about the history of this Nation, there was never any restriction of speech in our churches and synagogues, none whatsoever. Only Lyndon Baines Johnson in 1954, with an amendment that was never debated, put the IRS in the churches and the synagogues and the mosques of America.

Mr. Speaker, let me continue for just a few more minutes. I would like to say that also at that hearing was the Internal Revenue Service, and I want to read just a couple of comments made by the agents that testified. This is what one agent said when he was asked the question by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), and this was the question from the Congressman: ''As a rule, do you monitor the activities of churches during the political season?'' Mr. Miller, who represented the Internal Revenue Services, his answer to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) was this: ''We do monitor churches. We are limited in how we do that by reason of section 7611 and because of the lack of information in the area because there is no annual filing.''

Mr. Speaker, this is the point I really want to make because this is Mr. Miller's answer: ''So our monitoring is mostly reciprocal of information from third parties who are looking in.'' Mr. Speaker, that kind of reminds me of what I think Nazi Germany might have

been in the late '30's where there are snitches that are willing to turn in somebody for what they said in a free nation. Mr. Speaker, America is better than that. America is greater than that. Our church leaders do not need to be muzzled by the Federal Government, and in this case the Federal Government is the Internal Revenue Service.

Let me give you another practical example that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) asked of Mr. Miller. The question is: ''Can the minister say the following from the pulpit and not be in violation of the tax status,'' and this is what the preacher would be saying, ''that candidate X is pro-life or candidate Y is pro-choice?''

The answer from the IRS is: ''That becomes more problematic, Congressman. The pastor, the minister, the rabbi can speak to the issues of the day, but to the extent that they start tying it into a particular candidate and to a particular election, it begins to look more and more like either opposition to a particular candidate or favoring a particular candidate.'' So because I have a bill in, H.R. 2357, and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE) has a bill in that speaks to the same issue, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) then asks Mr. Miller: ''And would the Crane and the Jones legislation clarify the law to allow for that type of statement?'' The answer from Mr. Miller is ''I believe so.''

Then let me go further. Really this in itself is another point I want to make. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) further asks: ''Just to follow up on that, say you have a candidate who was a guest speaker, was in a church speaking from the pulpit, concluding his or her remarks, and the minister walks up, puts his or her arm around that particular candidate and says, 'This is the right candidate, I urge you to support this candidate.' Is that allowable under law?''

Mr. Hawkins, another IRS person that attended and spoke at the hearing on May 14, responds, ''No, that would not be allowed under the law. That would clearly be political campaign activity. It would be protected, however, under the two bills that have been introduced by Mr. Crane and Mr. Jones.''

Mr. Speaker, that is the reason that I have for the last year and a half taken this on, because I sincerely believe that for America to remain morally strong, our preachers and our priests and our rabbis must not be politically handicapped by the speech patrol, in this case, the IRS, because, again, Mr. Speaker, this country is too great and too many people have given of their lives to protect the freedoms that we should be able to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, let me also say that something that came to my attention as I started researching this issue is that the IRS has what they call code words, code words that they think could be used to endorse a candidate, and let me tell you what these code words are. Liberal, prolife, prochoice, antichoice, Republican, or Democrat.

Let me give you a practical example, and this is the information that they give to the people of America about what they can and cannot do and what candidates can and cannot do, and this issue that I am talking about is on Page 315 of the information that is provided by the Internal Revenue Service. It is called the ''Election Year Issues.'' Let me read and give you the example of what they give in this documentation. This is not even a church, by the way. ''If a nonprofit in Vermont runs an ad regarding a local 'liberal' candidate, the Vermont voters would know which specific candidate the nonprofit was discussing,'' in this case, a liberal candidate. This is a code ''and in violation of Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c)(3) because oftentimes candidates are unofficially given labels that become commonly known.''

Mr. Speaker, the more I got into this issue, I can honestly say that it is absolutely ridiculous, and in my opinion it is unconstitutional that Mr. JOHNSON was able to get his amendment passed without any debate, and if there had been debate, quite frankly, I still think it is unconstitutional that this Federal Government through the Internal Revenue Service would try to stifle free speech in our churches and synagogues. So that is the reason I wanted to be on the floor today. I will make a few more comments and then I will close.

We have numerous letters from religious leaders throughout this country that believe that this legislation is right, that this legislation is needed. I will give the example again, Dr. Flake had Al Gore in his church in the year 2000, and Mr. Flake is a Democrat, he is a good man, and he blessed his party and I respect that and appreciate that. So when Mr. Gore finished speaking in his church, Dr. Flake walked up in front of approximately 10,000 people, a big church in New York and he is a great minister and draws big crowds, and he said, ''I believe that Al Gore is the right man for this Nation.'' That is all he said. He got a letter of reprimand from the Internal Revenue Service. If our preachers and ministers and priests and rabbis feel that they have a spiritual calling to help educate people in that congregation then please, please, let us not have the Federal Government determine what they can and cannot say because their role for this Nation's future is too important.

So again I have got the letter from Dr. Flake here that I read earlier, the two paragraphs, in support of this legislation. Mr. Speaker, we have 130 cosponsors on this legislation, and I am a Republican and I am reaching out across the aisle, and I am pleased to say that we have about six or seven Democrats that have joined us. I have got three appointments next week with three members of the Democratic Party to go to their offices and sit down and talk to them about joining us in this effort to return to freedom of speech.

□ 1700

What I have found, I do not know how many radio shows across this Nation that I have had the opportunity to be on. I was on a show today in Iowa, and I was on a show two days ago in Kentucky and I am finding people of faith that really just did not know what the law was. And when they hear the history of it, again, that Lyndon Johnson, just a man of arrogance, in my opinion, that just wanted to show an opponent that he could stifle his speech, and when I tell them the history of this thing and they know the history of America and the fact that we have such freedom that our ministers and priests have never been bridled in speech until this became the law in 1954.

They are joining me in this effort. I believe the leadership will give us a chance to debate this issue on the floor of the House sometime before we leave for the elections.

Mr. Speaker, I will always remember that this country has been blessed by God; and the freedoms that we enjoy, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, are blessed by God also; and I want to return that freedom. I want to make it clear that should they have this freedom in the churches, not every minister is going to make a decision that he wants to talk about this issue or that issue that might be of a political nature. But should he not have the freedom to do so, should he or she choose to do so? I think so. And I am pleased that 130 of my colleagues think so.

We receive faxes and e-mails just about every day from a minister from across this Nation. We got one yesterday from a minister in Missouri who said in the e-mail, ''Thank you for what you are trying to do. I am going to encourage the members from our State to join you in this effort.''

I was on the Jerry Falwell Show last Friday in Lynchburg, Virginia, and he is in 50 States, and we talked about this issue. Mr. Speaker, part of the problem is that the IRS says they cannot enforce this law, anyway. They acknowledged in the testimony on May 14 that they know there are some churches that do not abide by the law. And yet Barry Lynn, who is a man that is on the extreme left, and the reason I will say that is because he applauded the Ninth Circuit Court's decision when they said to remove ''under God'' from the Pledge of Allegiance, so to me he is an extreme liberal; and he is opposed to this legislation. In fact, in the year 2000 he sent to 285,000 churches a letter that coerced and intimidated the preachers to have any discussion of the politics of September and October of the year 2000.

So I am very hopeful that we can continue to garner support for this legislation so that the men and women who serve our Lord as preachers and priests and rabbis and clerics can have the freedom, should they choose to talk about these issues.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close if I can with a letter, and this will be towards

the end, from Richard Lynn. Richard Lynn again is the Southern Baptist Convention Ethics and Religion Commission. He is head of that commission for the Southern Baptists. And he says in his letter, ''Dear Congressman Jones: H.R. 2357 is consistent with the constitutional principle that the church should be separated from the State. The government should not have the power to define what the church believes or practices in principle or in effect. With the unbridled discretion given to the Internal Revenue Service to selectively target those it wishes to silence or threaten, this principle is not currently being protected.''

So, again, what Dr. Lynn is asking is that there not be any restriction of speech in the churches and synagogues throughout this great Nation that we all love and respect.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am now going to close the way I close every time I speak publicly. I was on the floor this week and will be a couple of times next week. This country appreciates the men and women in uniform. And as some of my colleagues from the other side were talking about the possibility of war in Iraq, which none of us know for sure what will happen, but I have three military bases in my district. I have Camp Lejeune Marine Base. I have Cherry Point Marine Air Station. I have Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. And I have gotten to know a lot of those men and women in uniform, from the privates up to the base commanders. And I tell you the truth, I love and respect all of them.

So I close my comments today, Mr. Speaker, by saying, most sincerely, God, please bless our men and women in uniform. God, please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I have asked God to please bless the President of the United States, that the President might make the best decisions and the right decisions for the future of America. I ask God to bless my colleagues here in the House and the Senators across the aisle so that they might do what is right in the eyes of our Lord and Savior.

Mr. Speaker, I close this way because I say it three times because I mean it from the bottom of my heart. Please, God, please, God, please, God, continue to bless America.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CARSON of Indiana (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of family 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. FRANK) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FRANK, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINOJOSA, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BERKLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DOGGETT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KUCINICH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1308. An act to provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Quinault Indian Nation under United States Claims Court Dockets 772–71, 773–71, 774–71, and 775–71, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4687. An act to provide for the establishment of investigative teams to assess building performance and emergency response and evacuation procedures in the wake of any building failure that has resulted in substantial loss of life or that posed significant potential of substantial loss of life.

H.R. 5157. An act to amend section 5307 of title 49, United States Code, to allow transit systems in urbanized areas that, for the first time, exceeded 200,000 in population according to the 2000 census to retain flexibility in the use of Federal transit formula grants in fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1834. An act for the relief of retired Sergeant First Class James D. Benoit and Wan Sook Benoit.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, September 23, 2002, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9240. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program — received September 17, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9241. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) Program — received September 12, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9242. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Revisions to Regulations for Control of Air Pollution by Permits for New Sources and Modifications [TX-104-1-7401a; FRL-7378-7] received September 12, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9243. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Carbon Monoxide Implementation Plan; State of Alaska; Anchorage [AK-02-001; FRL-7253-4] received September 12, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9244. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Utah; New Source Performance Standards [SIP NO. UT-001-0043a, UT-001-44a; FRL-7376-7] received September 12, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9245. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Denver PM 10 Redesignation to Attainment, Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes [CO-001-0067; FRL-7261-3] received September 12, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9246. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Utah; Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program; Utah County [UT-001-0021a, UT-001-0041a; FRL-7264-7] received September 12, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9247. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 27-02 which informs you of our intent to sign Amendment One to the Future Air Capabilities Memorandum of Understanding (FAC-MOU) between the United States, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Italy, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

9248. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 26-02 which informs you of our intent to sign a Project Agreement concerning Aegis Combat System Test and Evaluation on U.S. and Spanish Aegis Ships between the United States and Spain, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

9249. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 25-02 which informs you of our intent to sign the Second Amendment to the Arrow System Improvement Program (ASIP) between the United States and Israel, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

9250. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Licensing Jurisdiction for ''Space Qualified'' Items and Telecommunications Items for Use on Board Satellites [Docket No. 020726182-2182-01] (RIN: 0694-AC49) received September 17, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

9251. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the redesignation as ''foreign terrorist organizations'' pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, and amended by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996; to the Committee on International Relations.

9252. A letter from the Acting White House Liaison, Department of Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9253. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy, GSA, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Circular 2001-09; Introduction — received September 17, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9254. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Emergency Rule to Establish Seven Additional Manatee Protection Areas in Florida (RIN: 1018-AH80) received September 17, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

9255. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — 2002-2003 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations (RIN: 1018-AI34) received September 17, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

9256. A letter from the Army Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Environmental Analysis of Army Actions [Army Regulation 200-2] received September 17, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

9257. A letter from the Program Manager, ATF, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Transfer and Possession of Machineguns (ATF Rul. 2002-5) received September 12, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9258. A letter from the Program Manager, ATF, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Indoor Storage of Explosives in a Residence or Dwelling (ATF Rul. 2002-3) received September 10, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9259. A letter from the Program Manager, ATF, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Indoor Storage of Explosives in Business Premises Directly Adjacent to a Residence or Dwelling (ATF Rul. 2002-4) received September 10, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9260. A letter from the General Counsel, United States Access Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities; Recreation Facilities [Docket No. 98-5] (RIN: 3014-AA16) received September 17, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9261. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Regulatory Law, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Priorities for Outpatient Medical Services and Inpatient Hospital Care (RIN: 2900-AL39) received September 17, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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. KOLBE: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 5410. A bill making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes (Rept. 107–663). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. HANSEN: Committee on Resources. S. 691. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Nevada, to the Secretary of the Interior, in trust for the Washoe Indian Tribe of Nevada and California (Rept. 107–664). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. BONO, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. DOOLITTLE, and Mr. OSE):

H.R. 5409. A bill to provide an environmentally sound process for the expeditious consideration and approval of a high-voltage electricity transmission line right-of-way through the Trabuco Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest in the State of California and adjacent lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. KOLBE:

H.R. 5410. A bill making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, and Mr. BERRY):

H.R. 5411. A bill to extend for 3 additional years a temporary increase in payment for skilled nursing facility services under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy 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 Mrs. BONO (for herself, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island):

H.R. 5412. A bill to establish grants to provide health services for improved nutrition, increased physical activity, obesity prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Ways and Means, 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. BURR of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CANNON, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. AKIN, and Mr. PETRI):

H.R. 5413. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to give a deduction to corporations for dividends paid and to exclude dividends from gross income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FERGUSON (for himself and Mr. FORD):

H.R. 5414. A bill to facilitate check truncation by authorizing substitute checks, to foster innovation in the check collection system without mandating receipt of checks in electronic form, and to improve the overall efficiency of the Nation's payments system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GUTKNECHT (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. LUTHER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. RAMSTAD, and Mr. SABO):

H.R. 5415. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a pilot program to encourage the use of medical savings accounts by certain current and retired public employees of the State of Minnesota and political jurisdictions thereof; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. FROST):

H.R. 5416. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from income and employment taxes and wage withholding property tax rebates and other benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself, Mr. BERRY, Mr. SABO, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. LUTHER, Mr. KIND, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. FORD, Mr. SHOWS, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 5417. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route of the Mississippi River from its headwaters in the State of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico for study for potential addition to the National Trails System as a national scenic trail, national historic trail, or both, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. MCCRERY:

H.R. 5418. A bill to reform the administrative funding of the unemployment compensation and employment service programs; to improve State administration and flexibility with respect to such programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and

Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Government Reform, 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. MCNULTY (for himself and Mr. GILMAN):

H.R. 5419. A bill to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 747 Broadway in Albany, New York, as the ''United States Postal Service Henry Johnson Annex''; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 5420. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to require inspection of cargo destined for the United States; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. ROSS (for himself, Mr. BERRY, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. TURNER, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. GOODE, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. JOHN, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. PHELPS, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, and Mr. SNYDER):

H.R. 5421. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to support the Federal Excess Personal Property program of the Forest Service by making it a priority of the Department of Defense to transfer to the Forest Service excess personal property of the Department that is suitable to be loaned under the program to rural fire departments; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on 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. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. GEKAS):

H.R. 5422. A bill to prevent child abduction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Armed Services, and Education and the Workforce, 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. SHIMKUS (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, and Mr. HOSTETTLER):

H.R. 5423. A bill to provide for the annual audit of the White County Bridge Commission, for the New Harmony Bridge over the Wabash River, Indiana and Illinois, for the filling of vacancies in the membership thereof, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. HARMAN):

H.R. 5424. A bill to prevent the crime of identity theft, mitigate the harm to individuals victimized by identity theft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. TIAHRT:

H.R. 5425. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the construction and maintenance of facilities in Wichita, Kansas, to recharge the Equus Beds Aquifer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. WHITFIELD (for himself and Mr. TANNER):

H.R. 5426. A bill to expand the boundaries of the Fort Donelson National Battlefield to authorize the acquisition and interpretation of lands associated with the campaign that resulted in the capture of the fort in 1862, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico (for herself, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. WAMP, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. HUNTER, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. PENCE, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. HORN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. SABO, Mr. BUYER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. COMBEST, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. REGULA, Mr. GRUCCI, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. ARMEY, Mrs. MYRICK, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. CRANE, Mr. BAKER, Mr. HAYWORTH, Ms. DUNN, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. OSE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. POMBO, Mr. WOLF, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. OTTER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. ENGLISH, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. COX, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. CANNON, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. BASS, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. HANSEN, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. OBEY, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOSS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. MICA, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. KIRK, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. FLAKE, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. MOORE, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. EVANS, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. BENTSEN, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. BOEHLERT, Ms. PELOSI, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. DELAY, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. SAWYER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. LUTHER, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. HOLT, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. GANSKE, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. HYDE, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. INSLEE, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. OLVER, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. FORBES, Mr. KIND, Mrs. BONO, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. HOEFFEL, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. QUINN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. CLYBURN, and Ms. PRYCE of Ohio):

H.R. 5427. A bill to designate the Federal building located at Fifth and Richardson Avenues in Roswell, New Mexico, as the ''Joe Skeen Federal Building''; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia (for herself and Mr. SCOTT):

H. Con. Res. 472. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the 4-H Youth Development Program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Mrs. CLAYTON, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. OWENS, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. WATSON, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. CLAY, Mr. STARK, Mr. FARR of California, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. FILNER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SOLIS, and Mr. CONYERS):

H. Con. Res. 473. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the importance of the United States working through the United Nations to assure Iraq's compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions and advance peace and security in the Persian Gulf region; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri (for herself and Mr. RYUN of Kansas):

H. Con. Res. 474. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that private health insurance companies should take a proactive role in promoting healthy lifestyles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself and Mr. CHABOT):

H. Con. Res. 475. Concurrent resolution recognizing and celebrating the origin and purposes of Constitution Week; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. BOEHLERT, and Mr. HALL of Texas):

H. Con. Res. 476. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the goals and ideas of a day of tribute to all firefighters who have died in the line of duty and recognizing the important mission of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in assisting family members to overcome the loss of their fallen heroes; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. EHRLICH (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mrs. NORTHUP, and Mr. COYNE):

H. Res. 538. A resolution Honoring Johnny Unitas and extending condolences to his family on his passing; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. HAYES (for himself, Mr. FORBES, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. SHAW, Mr. PITTS, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. AKIN, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. BARR of Georgia, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. BONILLA, Mrs. BONO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr.

CAMP, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. DELAY, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DUNCAN, Ms. DUNN, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. FLETCHER, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. GRUCCI, Ms. HART, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. ISSA, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. MCINNIS, Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida, Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PHELPS, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. SCHAFFER, Mr. SCHROCK, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. TERRY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UPTON, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. WOLF):

H. Res. 539. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should complete action on H.R. 7, the Community Solutions Act of 2001; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. PICKERING (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. SHAW, Mr. PITTS, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. FORBES, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. BAKER, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. KINGSTON, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. FLETCHER, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. MCINNIS, Mr. CAMP, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. SIMMONS, Ms. DUNN, Mr. PENCE, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. OTTER, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. CUBIN, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. GRUCCI, Mr. WOLF, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. VITTER, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. SCHAFFER, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mrs. BONO, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. BARR of Georgia, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida, Mr. AKIN, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. ISSA, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. SCHROCK, Mr. PETRI, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. TERRY, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. UPTON, Ms. HART, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. HAYES, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida, Mr. DELAY, and Mr. GOODE):

H. Res. 540. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should complete action on H.R. 3762, the Pension Security Act of 2002; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Financial Services, 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. REYES:

H. Res. 541. A resolution recognizing the Reserve Forces Policy Board on its 50th anniversary; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. PICKERING, and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi):

H. Res. 542. A resolution congratulating the Bryan Packers American Legion baseball team from West Point, Mississippi, for their outstanding performance in winning the 2002 American Legion World Series; to the Committee on Government Reform.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 17: Ms. VELAZQUEZ.
H.R. 325: Mr. RAMSTAD.
H.R. 348: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 709: Mr. FROST and Mr. MCNULTY.
H.R. 832: Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 840: Mr. BOYD, MR. FORD, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. GRUCCI.
H.R. 848: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 853: Mr. FRANK.
H.R. 854: Mr. OWENS, Mr. NADLER, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. HILLIARD, and Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 898: Mr. INSLEE and Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 951: Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. DOOLITTLE, and Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 1080: Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin.
H.R. 1090: Mr. HOSTETTLER.
H.R. 1162: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 1322: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 1421: Mr. GRUCCI.
H.R. 1520: Ms. DUNN, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FLETCHER, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. POMBO, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. DICKS, and Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 1642: Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 1774: Mr. SCHROCK.
H.R. 1786: Mr. WALSH and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.
H.R. 1918: Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1987: Mr. JOHN.
H.R. 2125: Mr. MORAN of Kansas and Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 2163: Mr. FRANK, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. HOLDEN, and Ms. PELOSI.
H.R. 2220: Mr. ETHERIDGE.
H.R. 2265: Mr. TANCREDO.
H.R. 2349: Mr. HALL of Texas.
H.R. 2442: Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 2570: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 2573: Mr. SMITH of Michigan.
H.R. 2578: Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. DREIR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. COX, Mr. ISSA, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. THOMAS.
H.R. 2691: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 2735: Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. WELDON of Florida, and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia.
H.R. 2763: Mr. TIAHRT.
H.R. 2820: Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 2829: Mr. WICKER.
H.R. 2874: Mr. OLVER, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, and Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 3107: Mr. SHOWS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WAMP, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. ENGLISH.
H.R. 3193: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 3414: Mr. INSLEE and Ms. WATSON.
H.R. 3491: Mr. CANTOR.
H.R. 3567: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Mr. EHLERS.
H.R. 3585: Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 3710: Mr. GANSKE.
H.R. 3713: Mr. WICKER.
H.R. 3741: Mr. WAMP and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3794: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
H.R. 3831: Mr. HALL of Texas.
H.R. 3974: Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. FORD, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. CARDIN.
H.R. 4170: Mr. DEMINT.
H.R. 4216: Mr. DEMINT.
H.R. 4219: Mr. DEMINT.
H.R. 4220: Mr. DEMINT.
H.R. 4221: Mr. DEMINT.
H.R. 4235: Mr. PHELPS.
H.R. 4600: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN and Mr. BRADY OF TEXAS.
H.R. 4650: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 4653: Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. REGULA, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 4683: Mr. HOEFFEL.
H.R. 4691: Mr. DELAY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. KELLER, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 4693: Mr. GRUCCI.
H.R. 4715: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 4720: Mr. BERRY and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 4738: Mr. SCOTT, Mr. JOHN, and Mr. CANTOR.
H.R. 4777: Mr. FOSSELLA.
H.R. 4780: Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. OLVER, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 4799: Mr. ACKERMAN and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 4803: Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 4834: Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 4843: Mr. HYDE, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. LINDER, Mr. HILLIARD, and Mrs. CLAYTON.
H.R. 4904: Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 4937: Mr. CLYBURN and Mr. BENTSEN.
H.R. 4979: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. FROST, and Mr. ROHRABACHER.
H.R. 5035: Mr. TANNER.
H.R. 5079: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 5085: Mr. LEACH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BACHUS, and Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 5089: Mr. BONIOR.
H.R. 5119: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon and Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 5153: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 5159: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 5163: Mr. KOLBE.
H.R. 5174: Mr. FRANK and Mr. FROST.
H.R. 5187: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 5196: Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 5213: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5234: Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. BERRY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. FRANK, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GOODE, Mr. MCHUGH, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 5250: Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. SIMMONS, and Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 5257: Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 5268: Ms. BERKLEY and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 5280: Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. KANJORSKI.
H.R. 5293: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. STARK, Mr. SIMMONS, and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 5299: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina
H.R. 5310: Mr. EDWARDS and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 5311: Mr. BARCIA and Mr. STENHOLM.
H.R. 5316: Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 5317: Mr. SULLIVAN.
H.R. 5319: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 5326: Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. LEWIS of California, and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 5339: Ms. MYRICK and Mr. ROYCE.
H.R. 5340: Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. DREIER, Mr. COX, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. RADANOVICH.
H.R. 5358: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. HILLIARD.

H.R. 5359: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. FRANK, and Mr. BERRY.

H.R. 5376: Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. OTTER, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. BOEHNER, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. HERGER, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. POMBO, Mr. TURNER, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. CANNON, Mr. TANCREDO, and Mr. DUNCAN.

H.R. 5378: Mr. FARR of California.

H.R. 5383: Mr. REHBERG, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. SKELTON, and Mr. HALL of Texas.

H.R. 5387: Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 5397: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. SIMMONS, and Ms. PRYCE of Ohio.

H.J. Res. 108: Mr. SHADEGG and Mr. ARMEY.

H. Con. Res. 20: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H. Con. Res. 221: Mr. FRANK, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. MOORE, and Mr. ENGLISH.

H. Con. Res. 297: Mr. BECERRA, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. EHRLICH, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H. Con. Res. 351: Mr. KING, Mr. HOLT, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Con. Res. 359: Mr. PAUL.

H. Con. Res. 406: Mr. GUTKNECHT.

H. Con. Res. 458: Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. FROST.

H. Con. Res. 462: Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. FILNER, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. FROST, Mr. MATHESON, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H. Con. Res. 468: Mr. BISHOP, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. COYNE, and Mr. BONIOR.

H. Res. 429: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. LEACH, Mr. HORN, Mr. SCHROCK, Mr. FILNER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. POMBO, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. MCNULTY, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. COYNE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WALSH, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. PLATTS, and Ms. CARSON of Indiana.

H. Res. 485: Ms. BERKLEY.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

Petition 11. September 19, 2002, by Mrs. THURMAN of House Resolution 517, was signed by the following Members: Karen L. Thurman, Frank Pallone, Jr., Nita M. Lowey, Janice D. Schakowsky, Jim Turner, Nick Lampson, John Elias Baldacci, Jim McDermott, Carolyn McCarthy, Albert Russell Wynn, Diane E. Watson, Maurice D. Hinchey, Shelley Berkley, Joseph Crowley, Tom Udall, Paul E. Kanjorski, Jerrold Nadler, Danny K. Davis, Gene Green, Lois Capps, David E. Bonior, Major R. Owens, Karen McCarthy, John W. Olver, Louise McIntosh Slaughter, David D. Phelps, Sherrod Brown, Ciro D. Rodriguez, Hilda L. Solis, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Ruben Hinojosa, Jose E. Serrano, Martin T. Meehan, Eva M. Clayton, Juanita Millender-McDonald, Barney Frank, Mike Thompson, Barbara Lee, Thomas M. Barrett, Vic Snyder, Adam B. Schiff, William D. Delahunt, Lane Evans, Bennie G. Thompson, Patrick J. Kennedy, Steny H. Hoyer, Steve Israel, Peter A. DeFazio, James P. McGovern, Thomas H. Allen, John Lewis, James R. Langevin, Jane Harman, Robert T. Matsui, Edolphus Towns, Robert E. Andrews, Fortney Pete Stark, Lynn C. Woolsey, Robert Wexler, Lloyd Doggett, Sam Farr, John F. Tierney, Grace F. Napolitano, Bobby L. Rush, Charles B. Rangel, Donald M. Payne, Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Sander M. Levin, Carrie P. Meek, Alcee L. Hastings, Alan B. Mollohan, Max Sandlin, Gregory W. Meeks, Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, James P. Moran, Tim Holden, Tom Lantos, Brad Sherman, Dale E. Kildee, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Nancy Pelosi, Rosa L. DeLauro, Ronnie Shows, Robert E. (Bud) Cramer, Jr., Earl F. Hilliard, Elijah E. Cummings, Tom Sawyer, Edward J. Markey, Ted Strickland, Carolyn B. Maloney, Michael R. McNulty, James L. Oberstar, Betty McCollum, Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., Gerald D. Kleczka, Bart Gordon, Leonard L. Boswell, Jerry F. Costello, Charles A. Gonzalez, Ike Skelton, Bob Filner, Chet Edwards, Peter Deutsch, Diana DeGette, Gary L. Ackerman, Earl Blumenauer, Robert C. Scott, Marcy Kaptur, Tammy Baldwin, Brad Carson, Nick J. Rahall II, Mike Ross, Martin Olav Sabo, John M. Spratt, Jr., Martin Frost, Brian Baird, James E. Clyburn, Loretta Sanchez, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Luis V. Gutierrez, Marion Berry, John Conyers, Jr., Gene Taylor, Bernard Sanders, Ed Pastor, Maxine Waters, and Neil Abercrombie.