

REPORT ON RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING JOINT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW HOUSE AND SENATE MATTERS ASSURING CONTINUING REPRESENTATION AND CONGRESSIONAL OPERATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-141) on the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 190) to establish a joint committee to review House and Senate rules, joint rules, and other matters assuring continuing representation and congressional operations for the American people, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 190, ESTABLISHING JOINT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW HOUSE AND SENATE MATTERS ASSURING CONTINUING REPRESENTATION AND CONGRESSIONAL OPERATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it shall be in order at any time without intervention of any point of order to consider House Concurrent Resolution 190;

The concurrent resolution shall be considered as read for amendment;

The concurrent resolution shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules; and

The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution to final adoption without intervening motion.

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, maybe a little explanation about what we are doing would help.

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

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

We have, I am very happy to say, in the Committee on Rules worked with the minority to put into place an agreement where, under unanimous consent, we will establish a joint committee that will be addressing the issue of the continuity of Congress. We are going to be tomorrow working on this with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), and this request will simply allow us to bring this measure up.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TANCREDO 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 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. WAXMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WAXMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TAX RELIEF FOR ALL AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday those opposed to tax relief came to the floor to wage an orchestrated campaign of disinformation against the Jobs and Growth Act. Having lost the battle to convince the voters that tax relief is fundamentally bad, and unable to win the legislative battle over passage of the tax cuts, Democrats are now engaged in damage control. That means that they will lie, twist and distort the truth about the benefits of the plan, benefits that extend to nearly every person who actually pays Federal income taxes.

They were on the wrong side of the issue then, and they are on the wrong side of the issue now. At least they are consistent.

Fortunately, Republicans have the truth on our side and we are also consistent. We are consistently supporting legislation that will give working families tax relief.

The facts are that the tax cuts Republicans passed will do these things:

First, it will take an additional 3 million low income families off the Federal tax rolls completely. Let me repeat this, because I know as soon as I am finished, an opponent of tax relief will say this bill does nothing for the working poor. This bill takes an additional 3 million low-income families off the Federal tax rolls completely.

Second, we have also expanded the 10 percent tax bracket and increased the standard deduction for married couples. Both of these provisions are targeted to low and middle-income families.

Third, the decision at the center of this maelstrom of misinformation, the child tax credit. Republicans raised the child tax credit from \$600 to \$1,000 effective immediately. All those families with children who pay Federal taxes will be able to take advantage of this credit.

Those who oppose the tax relief plan are claiming this provision ignores some families. Absolutely untrue. Families that pay zero Federal taxes will not get this tax credit because they are already exempt from paying any Federal taxes. This credit is for the millions of families that do pay Federal taxes, giving them tax relief.

The frantic attempts to discredit the jobs and growth plan are proof of just how great these tax cuts are for hard-working Americans. Those who oppose tax relief know that they have made a mistake and, instead of owning up to that mistake, they are trying to cover it up.

Mr. Speaker, taxpayers should immediately adjust the amount withheld from their paychecks for Federal income taxes so that they feel the tax relief as soon as possible. When Americans start to keep more of their paychecks, when they get that child tax credit, they are going to remember who stood here and told them they did not deserve tax relief, and it was not the Republicans.

WHERE IS THE JUSTIFICATION FOR WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to stand on the floor of the House to question whether those in power deliberately misled and deceived the American people and the community of nations. However, the events in Iraq leave me no other choice.

Our President, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense and Undersecretary of Defense told the men, women and children of this Nation and of the world that we must go to war in Iraq because the country had weapons of mass destruction. Time and time again, they told us that Iraq posed a clear and present danger to the health, well-being and life of our people.

Why? Because Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and was prepared to use them or give them to terrorists who would use them.

So where are the weapons that President Bush promised?

Saddam is gone. For several weeks, American troops have been free to search Iraq. They have been free to search Iraq, virtually at will. Today we find no weapons of mass destruction. No chemical weapons, no biological weapons, no nuclear weapons. Nothing.

Where are the weapons? Where is the threat?

Mr. President, where is your justification for war? The credibility of this administration is at stake.

Americans died in Iraq because President Bush told us that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. Children lost their mothers and fathers. Parents lost their sons and daughters. Women lost their husbands, and husbands lost their wives.