on the production costs of new drugs, escaping participation in the astronomical cost of drug development.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, our trade laws which should protect us from this type of activity, are, in fact, asking our poorest individuals, our seniors without prescription drug coverage, to foot the cost of research and development of life savings pharmaceuticals for the rest of the world. And that is wrong. And that is what needs to change, not how we handle reimportation of drugs at the border.

Finally, I do want to, in the few minutes that are left, I want to address something else. We actually heard this this afternoon on the floor of the House from the individual on the other side of the aisle who was talking about health care, and was critical of the prescription drug plan passed by this Congress because of the cost of the prescription drug plan. $395 billion was the Congressional Budget Office estimate for 10 years. The White House Office of the Budget came back with a different figure that was some $500 billion over 10 years time. And that discrepancy has attracted a great deal of attention.

Mr. Speaker, the fact remains that it is almost impossible to precisely fix what the cost of this drug program is going to be over 10 years time. Chairman THOMAS, when he brought the conference report to us last fall, admitted that there was no attempt on the Congressional Budget Office to factor in any cost savings in the Medicare program by virtue of the fact that we were treating illnesses in a more timely fashion and that we were bringing disease management, we were going to be more aggressive about preventative care in the new Medicare with the new Medicare Modernization Act.

Mr. Speaker, in the few minutes, that are left I have to make this point. This House a year ago passed H.R. 5, which was the medical liability bill that would cap the medical liability awards for non-economic damages, pain and suffering at $250,000. We actually did this back in my home State of Texas. And medical liability rates have fallen dramatically. But, more importantly, more importantly, when you look at the cost of defensive medicine in this country, and, in fact, that was looked at in a study at Stanford University in 1996. And these are 1996 dollars, several years ago, the cost of defensive medicine for the Medicare program was estimated to be $50 billion a year.

Mr. Speaker, if we are concerned about the cost of the prescription drug program, we could pay for it by our savings in defensive medicine if we could simply pass that medical liability bill that is stuck on the other side of the capital that we got through this House a year ago. We need to get that bill passed and get it to conference and get on about the business of reducing this high tariff, this high cost of defensive medicine in this country.

Mr. Speaker, we have almost consumed a full hour of talk. And I just wanted to yield to my friend from New Mexico if he had any closing comments. I really appreciate his being here with me and staying in town late today so we could bring our good Republican message to the floor of this House, to the country at large. And I really appreciate him being here and helping me with this discussion this afternoon.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding one last time. Again, I want to talk in one sense if possible to say thanks to those people who work in our education establishment, those who are out there on the front lines of the education war, especially those success stories like Roswell High School in New Mexico. That is one of the 12 break-through high schools in the Nation. I think that this kind of outcome is exactly what we had hoped for when No Child Left Behind was passed.

If the administration in any school is dedicated to the changes that are allowed under No Child Left Behind, I believe that the program will be the success that each of our parents wants throughout the Nation.

So thanks again to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) for yielding time to me today.

□ 1815

HOUR OF MEETING ON FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2004

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2004, TO TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2004

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Friday, March 12, 2004, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 16, 2004, for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. PEARCE. 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 New Mexico?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following privileged Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 98) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 98

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, March 11, or Friday, March 12, or Saturday, March 13, or Sunday, March 14, 2004, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until Monday, March 22, 2004, at 12 noon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Senate concurrent resolution is concurred in.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCGOVERN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KUCINICH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FOLEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MURPHY, for 5 minutes, March 16.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on March 11, 2004 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 506. To provide for the protection of archaeological sites in the Galisteo Basin in New Mexico, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2059. To designate Fort Bayard Historic District in the State of New Mexico as