of the people on the ground. They cannot regulate based on the safety of people on the craft. That is what this is all about.

We want to develop spacecraft that people can ride on. And if we have the bureaucrats being able to control that, it will put a stranglehold on those people trying to develop these craft. It is fundamentally different than what the FAA has now with airplanes.

And, also, we have heard a total misreading of the bill again and again that there is no right in here for there to be regulation unless there has already been a fatality. That is not the case.

I urge Members to vote for this legislation. Do not strangle this industry and drive these entrepreneurs offshore. Create the jobs here.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5382.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1078

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1078, the American History and Civics Education Act of 2003.

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

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1928

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 7 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken tomorrow.

EXTENSION OF MEDICARE COST-SHARING FOR THE MEDICARE PART B PREMIUM FOR QUALIFYING INDIVIDUALS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2005

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2618) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend medicare cost-sharing for the medicare part B premium for qualifying individuals through September 2005.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2618

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF MEDICARE COST-SHARING FOR THE MEDICARE PART B PREMIUM FOR QUALIFYING INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1902(a)(10)(E)(iv) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(E)(iv)) is amended by striking ''2004'' and inserting ''2005''.

(b) TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION.—Section 1933(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396u–3(g)) is amended to read as follows:

''(g) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each period described in paragraph (2), a State shall select qualifying individuals, subject to paragraph (3), and provide such individuals with assistance, in accordance with the provisions of this section as in effect with respect to calendar year 2003, except that for such purpose—

''(A) references in the preceding subsections of this section to a year, whether fiscal or calendar, shall be deemed to be references to such period; and

''(B) the total allocation amount under subsection (c) for such period shall be the amount described in paragraph (2) for that period.

''(2) PERIODS AND TOTAL ALLOCATION AMOUNTS DESCRIBED.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) for the period that begins on January 1, 2004, and ends on September 30, 2004, the total allocation amount is $300,000,000;

''(B) for the period that begins on October 1, 2004, and ends on December 31, 2004, the total allocation amount is $100,000,000; and

''(C) for the period that begins on January 1, 2005, and ends on September 30, 2005, the total allocation amount is $300,000,000.

''(3) RULES FOR PERIODS THAT BEGIN AFTER JANUARY 1.—For any specific period described in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2), the following applies:

''(A) The specific period shall be treated as a continuation of the immediately preceding period in that calendar year for purposes of applying subsection (b)(2) and qualifying individuals who received assistance in the last month of such immediately preceding period shall be deemed to be selected for the specific period (without the need to complete an application for assistance for such period).

''(B) The limit to be applied under subsection (b)(3) for the specific period shall be the same as the limit applied under such subsection for the immediately preceding period.

''(C) The ratio to be applied under subsection (c)(2) for the specific period shall be the same as the ratio applied under such subsection for the immediately preceding period.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) each will control 20 minutes.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARTON of Texas. 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 this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to, first of all, commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for helping to expedite this piece of legislation. They could not be on the floor, so we have the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts who is going to control their floor time, and I want to thank him for his help.

I am reluctantly doing this this evening, not because of the merits of the bill. I support the merits of the bill, but I do not support the procedure under which we are doing this and the reluctance of the other body to find a way to help pay for what we are about to do.

□ 1930

This Congress should be taking serious steps to address our budget problems and our growing Federal debt. The President who just won reelection, 52 percent of the vote, has told America that deficit reduction will be one of his highest priorities, and I would like to have the other body begin to join this body and the President of the United States in making that a reality.

Senate 2618 is a good bill. It will extend for one year additional funding for the Medicare Qualified Individual Program, better known as the QI program. This program will allow approximately 160,000 low-income beneficiaries enrolled in the program to continue to receive assistance to pay for their Medicare part B premium which is optional. That is fair and appropriate.

We began to help subsidize those premium payments back in 1997, so we have been doing it now for the last 7 years. I support that. I think it is appropriate to help our low-income seniors help pay for their Medicare option part B coverage, but I also think we ought to have a way to help pay for that subsidy. This bill does not do that.

I think we need to begin to address the problem of mandatory automatic