CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

August 2, 1999

Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 that the Congress adjourn sine die not later than July 31, 1999.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2488. An act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to sections 105 and 211 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2000.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2488). An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to sections 105 and 211 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2000,” and requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. NORTTH, MR. LOTT, and MR. MOYNIHAN, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

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

S. 1497. An act to extend the funding levels for aviation programs for 60 days.

S. 1498. An act to authorize the minting and issuance of Capitol Visitor Center Commemorative coins, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 100–458, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) to the Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development, for a term ending October 11, 2004.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Richard A. Gephardt, Democratic Leader:


Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.


The deferral affects programs of the Department of State.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE REAL COST OF TAXING MINING INTERESTS

(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, today I rise to address the claim of some of my colleagues that gold mines get a free ride because they do not pay their fair share of Federal royalties. Well, when considering a Federal tax increase on the mining industry, we must always remind my tax and spend colleagues to take into account the adverse effect of such a tax increase on state and local tax revenues as well.

There is a direct correlation between increasing mining royalties or taxes and the reduction in mining activities. Federal royalties are deductible from the income base on which many of these State taxes are levied. This results in an even less tax dollar amount for State and local governments. Even a modest increase in mining royalties or taxes would reduce the overall tax revenue that is used for the best economic interests of this country or the mining industry, we should avoid it.

Abraham Lincoln had the great foresight when he said, “Tell the miners for me that I shall promote their interests to the utmost of my ability, because their prosperity is the prosperity of the Nation, and we shall prove in a very few short years that we are indeed the treasury of the world.”

NORTH KOREA ACCUSED OF DRUG DEALING

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, needing cash to run their government, the government of North Korea has been accused of selling heroin and cocaine. I am not kidding you. Reports say that North Korean agents were arrested by international police possessing 80 pounds of cocaine and $100 million worth of methamphetamine that was sponsored for sale officially by their government.

Now, if that is not enough to trigger your concern, a recent analysis shows that an 8 percent gross royalty would cost State and local governments hundreds of millions in tax revenues every year. Mr. Speaker, it becomes very clear that when a Federal royalty is not in the best economic interests of this country or the mining industry, we should avoid it.

Unbelievable. North Korea is selling dope, and Uncle Sam is fronting the money. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. So help me.

I yield back further the fact that the budget surplus, a tax cut for the people, and we shall prove it, belongs to the taxpayers.

Many politicians in Washington have a hard time coming to grips with the fact that the budget surplus, a tax cut for the people, really, does not belong to them. That money, every penny of it, belongs to the taxpayers.

Washington is taking more than it needs out of the pockets of those who work all over this country and pay their taxes.

The bottom line is the American people are overtaxed, and the real issue is, who should decide how the money gets spent: The bureaucrats up here in Washington, or the taxpayers all over this country.

I will cast my lot with the people of this Nation. Let us cut the taxes on the American people, and let us do it now.

REPORT ON REVISED DEFERRAL OF BUDGET AUTHORITY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOCS. NO. 106–189)

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 Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report one revised deferral of budget authority, now totalizing $173 million.

The deferral affects programs of the Department of State.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.


ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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