THE REPUBLICAN AGENDA IS THE BEST AGENDA
(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, what is the Republican agenda? The Republican agenda is the best agenda for all Americans. B is for bolstering our national security, E is for education excellence, S is for strengthening retirement security, and T is for tax relief for working Americans.

Republicans have the BEST agenda. It is a positive, forward-looking agenda that recognizes that our military needs must be given a higher priority in a dangerous world, that our schools need to be improved if our kids are going to enjoy a bright future, that our seniors need to be protected against a looming social security and Medicare crisis, and that Americans who pay the taxes should be given tax relief, not more rhetoric about why Washington needs more money.

Bolstering national security, education excellence, strengthening retirement security, tax relief for working Americans, Republicans have the BEST agenda.

THE PATIENTS’ BILL OF RIGHTS
(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am continually amazed by the misinformation spread about the Patients’ Bill of Rights. I know the businesses in my district believe this Patients’ Bill of Rights would allow enrollees to sue their employers for denied benefits, but nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the Patients’ Bill of Rights contains explicit provisions stating that employers cannot be sued for decisions made by health insurers.

I hope that the American people this time will see through the smokescreen being thrown up by too many groups who have too much interest in killing this legislation. The more time goes by, we risk losing this opportunity altogether. The powerful forces lined up against this legislation will accept another delay to give them the chance to marshall their forces.

We have plenty of time to pass an irresponsible tax cut, time to prevent the Department of Labor from protecting people against workplace injuries, time to name buildings and courthouses, but evidently we do not have the time to protect the very lives and limbs of our constituents.

After this Friday, this Chamber is out of session for 36 days. How many of those days will we fritter away on sound bites and legislation designed for special groups?

POLITICS AS USUAL WHEN IT COMES TO SPENDING THE MONEY OF THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA
(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, it is politics as usual when it comes to spending our money, the money of the people of America.

The Republican approach is three-fold. Number one, the Republican party wants to preserve 100 percent of the social security surplus as compared to 62 percent that the President wants to protect.

Now, we do this, we put aside $1.9 trillion for social security and Medicare, and the second thing we do is we pay down the debt, $2 trillion, as seen on this chart. The third thing we do, and only after social security, Medicare, and debt reduction, we return to American people their money for overpayment on taxes.

The President’s attitude is somewhat epitomized in this statement: “We could give the surplus all back to you and hope you spend it right.” Gee, whiz, people of America, Bill Clinton can spend your money better than you can spend it. Does that not make us feel good?

All I can say is, the people in America must not know how to spend money at all, judging by the responsibility exhibited over at the White House the past 2 years.

Let me say this, this is Americans’ money. It ought to go back to them.

UNDER THE REPUBLICAN TAX CUT, WORKING AMERICANS GET THE SHAFT
(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ran down to this floor when I heard my colleague, the gentleman from California, refer to the Republican tax cut as fair and balanced. I thought, how could such a huge tax cut, aimed almost exclusively at the super wealthy and the giant corporations, be called balanced? And then I understood what he must have meant.

See, under this tax cut, the top 1 percent wealthiest Americans get ten times the tax relief as 100 million Americans, constituting the lower 40 percent of income earners. At the same time, this tax cut provides more tax relief to job-exporting corporations than it provides to over 50 million Americans.

Madam Speaker, that is the balance. Compared to the super wealthy, working Americans get the shaft. Compared to giant corporations, working families get the shaft. That is the only sense in which the Republican tax cut is balanced.

CONGRESS MUST PASS THE PATIENTS’ BILL OF RIGHTS
(Mr. Hoefffel asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Hoefffel. Madam Speaker, we must pass the Patients’ Bill of Rights. Our system of HMOs has run amok.

As evidence, I offer a survey of doctors conducted by one of the newspapers in my district, the Reporter, in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. Most of the doctors responding were not against the original idea of HMOs, they have just said the rules have gone haywire.

Eighty-seven percent of the doctors responding have had conflicts with HMOs. Fifty-eight percent of those say the conflicts have been serious, and happen frequently. Seventy percent of the doctors say they do not have sufficient control over treatment.

A third doctor was afraid to sign his survey for fear of HMO retaliation. Something has gone wrong. “HMO” stands for How Much Outrage must the American people put up with? Pass the Patients’ Bill of Rights.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. Wilson). Pursuant to House Resolution 263 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2606.

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2606) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, with Mr. THORNBERY in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Monday,
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 145, noes 272, not voting 16, as follows:

(Roll No. 360)

AYES—145

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Acknowledgments

NOES—272

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 263, the Chair announces that he will redress to a minimum of 5 minutes the period of time within which a vote by electronic device will be taken on the additional amendment on which the Chair has postponed further proceedings.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. PAUL

The CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the names of Members voting.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. PAUL:

Page 116, after line 5, insert the following:

LIMITATION ON FUNDS FOR EXPORT-IMPORT BANK AND TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Sec. 1. None of the funds made available pursuant to this Act for the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, or the Trade and Development Agency, may be used to enter into any new obligation, guarantee, or commitment by the agency or any entity under its jurisdiction that would increase the extent of the agency’s obligations, guarantees, or commitments by more than $6 billion in aggregate. The amendment does not limit funds for the Export-Import Bank and Trade and Development Agency.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 58, noes 360, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 361]

AYES—58

Arne

Hayworth

Rada

Barr

Nedl

Bartlett

Hill

Bonilla

Bongino

Burton

Campa

Campbell

Hunt

Cannon

Dix

Coburn

Edwards

Collins

Shays

Chabot

Jones (NC)

Collins

Simmons

Chenoweth

Kasischke

Coble

Kingston

Collins (NY)

DeMint

Conyers

Cook

Coons

DeFazio

McKinney

Costello

Cox

Davids (FL)

Crongiger

Cromer

Crowley

Cuccinelli

Duckworth

Cumber

Duckworth

Cunningham

Curtis

Cushing

Custer

Dallin

Delaney

DeLauro

Dempsey

Desales

Deutch

Dobbs

Destin

Dixon

Diodorus

Dole

Domenici

Dole

Dumond

Dooley

Drew

Dunn

Dyson

Ebel

Eckstein

Edwards

Ehlers

Einhorn

Engel

English

Erastus

Erich

Erlich

Evans

Evans

Farr

Fattah

Fazio

Fenster

Fincher

Fiester

Fiorina

Fiorina

Finnor

Fleischmann

Fleming

Foley

Forbes

Ford

Fossella

Fowler

Franco (NJ)

Frehlinghuesen

Frost

Gallegly

Gangula

Gardner

Geist

Gibbons

Gillmore

Gilman

Gonzalez

Goodlatte

Gooding

Gosar

Goss

Graham

Grace

Gibbs

Gilon

Gilmore

Gill

Gonzalez

Crawford

Brown (NY)

Buck

Beggs

Belcher

Bedard

Berman

Berkley

Berkley

Berman

Baldacci

Baldwin

Ballenger

Barcia

Barrett (NJ)

Brown (OH)

Brown (PA)

Brown (RI)

Burr

Biller

Bishop

Bilirakis

Bristow

Bisterlin

Bissel

Bingham

Bisignano

Blain

Blair

Blalock

Ballenger

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Barrett (NJ)

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Bingham

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Barrett (NJ)
Ms. PELOSI. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, many people who follow this bill have said they prefer this over and over again, but I want to make the point another time. Every person in America is familiar with President Kennedy’s inaugural address when he said, “My fellow Americans, ask what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country.”

The very next line in that speech, Mr. Chairman, says, “To the citizens of the world, ask not what America can do for you but what you can do to work together for the freedom of mankind.”

That is a responsibility that we have in this bill. That is why we are disappointed the funding level is so low, but we want to move it forward in the hope that the funding level will be raised so that we can work together for the freedom of mankind.

Chairman, says, “To the citizens of the world, ask not what America can do for you but what you can do to work together for the freedom of mankind.”

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH evicted his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed an amendment in which the concurrent resolution of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2587. An act making appropriations for the Government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2587). An Act making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The Senate also announced that the bill passed the Senate by the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested: